



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION[®]

1600 K Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

Phone:(202) 347-3190 Fax:(202)821-4728
www.napawash.org

For Immediate Release

October 4, 2017

Contact: Betsy Holahan bholahan@greatpointstrategies.com

**National Academy of Public Administration and
Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Host Forum on Future of Citizenship and Public Service
*Christine Todd Whitman Delivers Keynote Address
At "Governing Across the Divide" Event***

SYRACUSE, NY – The National Academy of Public Administration and Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs today hosted a one-day interactive forum to examine the future of citizenship and public service, highlighting views from the public, private, non-profit and academic sectors.

“Public service is critical to what makes our country so successful, but recent trends indicate that its future is increasingly uncertain,” said Terry Gerton, President and CEO of the National Academy of Public Administration. “Declining public trust in government, increased political polarization, and recruitment and retention challenges present significant hurdles. Today’s forum was a unique opportunity to hear innovative ideas on meeting these challenges, in order to build the next generation of public servants.”

The event in Syracuse is the third of four regional *Governing Across the Divide* forums initiated by the Academy in order to bring together government officials, academics and thought leaders from across the public, private and nonprofit sectors to examine the governance challenges facing leaders at all levels of government. The *Governing Across the Divide* series seeks to propose a national agenda for improving the government’s effectiveness in delivering services to its citizens.

“Today’s event was a testament to the idea that service can happen anywhere—across sectors and industries, regardless of role or stature,” says David M. Van Slyke, Dean of the Maxwell School. “In bringing together a diverse mix of expertise and disciplines at Maxwell today, we set the stage for an urgently-needed dialogue on innovative ways to inspire future service-oriented professionals and to engage across differences toward mutually beneficial solutions.”

At the beginning of today’s event, former EPA Administrator and New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman delivered keynote remarks as part of the Maxwell School’s Tanner Lecture on Ethics, Citizenship, and Public Responsibility.

Two panel discussions during the day, *A Public Service Workforce for the Future* and *Threats to Citizenship in a Changing World*, featured government officials, university faculty and private and non-profit sector leaders. Over lunch, a conversation on governance challenges and the future of a new public service included Christine Todd Whitman, Terry Gerton, David Van Slyke, OMB Deputy Assistant Director for Management Dustin Brown, and Maxwell School Professor Sean O’Keefe. Max Stier, President and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service, delivered closing remarks.

Previous *Governing Across the Divide* events took place at the University of Southern California in Sacramento and at the University of Texas in Austin. A final forum will take place on October 30th at George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia.

Beginning at 10:15 am ET, video of the morning, lunch and afternoon panels and the closing remarks is available at <https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/tanner/>

About the National Academy of Public Administration

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at www.napawash.org

The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs is Syracuse University’s home for innovative, interdisciplinary teaching and research in the social sciences, public policy, public administration, and international relations. It is the nation’s #1 ranked school for graduate education in public affairs (U.S. News and World Report), and is home also to undergraduate social science degrees and nine interdisciplinary research centers. Please visit maxwell.syr.edu to learn more.

###