

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY



CLASS OF 2020

A Note of Congratulations

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on your well-deserved success. It was a long journey, but you have made it through! We know it took a lot of hard work and effort to get where you are. Take time and celebrate this amazing achievement. We are so incredibly proud of you! We have been inspired watching you take classes, overcome barriers, accept feedback, toil through capstone projects, network, and take your skills into the community. We know you have so much to offer to the society and community at large. You are a diligent, ambitious and brilliant group of public policy professionals, and we cannot wait to see what accomplishments you achieve next. With this additional badge to your collection, may you continue testing the limits and achieve all you want in life. Keep learning and growing, and please stay in touch as you go through your careers. Never hesitate to let us know if we can help you in anyway as you move forward in your career!

(Virtual) hats off to you!



All the best,
Beth and Sharon



Annalisa Purser

MPP



Annalisa decided to return to school to study organ transplant policy after experiencing firsthand the geographic inequity in access to transplantation. In 2014, she moved with her husband Forrest to Indianapolis in hopes of better access to a transplant. After waiting in Utah for nearly eight years, Forrest received a liver transplant one day after being listed in Indiana. Her capstone project is titled, "An introductory examination of state organ donor registries in the United States: Considerations for establishing a coordinated, consolidated national registry." She recently started working as the director of administration for the U's Department of Public Safety after seven years in the U's Communications Office.

Andrea Thomas Brandley

MPP



Andrea is graduating with her MPP with an emphasis on education policy. During her MPP program, she enjoyed serving as the President and VP of Community Engagement of PAGE Student Association, assisting in research on homelessness and child welfare, interning with Salt Lake City School District during the legislative session, working as a graduate assistant at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, and teaching elementary school drama. She looks forward to entering the policy world and continuing to engage in meaningful work aimed at improving the quality of life for all people.

Britnee Johnson

MPP



For her capstone project, Britnee studied low-income Utahns who participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and determined that higher education made a difference in their upward mobility. After graduation, Britnee plans to stay in Salt Lake City with her husband, Mark, and her dog, Billie, and work as the new Communications Director for Draper City. She is excited to dive into city government and conduct independent research projects on the side.

Chris Ogren

MPP



Chris is graduating with his Master of Public Policy.

Joshua Makamae Meyers

MPP/MPH



After graduation, Joshua will continue employment at his current position through Utah Department Health. With this experience, Joshua hopes to one day lead his own health bureau, advocating for essential health policy among state legislators. For the time being, Joshua plans to utilize his newly found free time to get outside more, learn how to play the ukulele, and read more.

Kathryn Macdonald-Poelman

MPP



Kathryn completed her degree with an emphasis in statistics and was a Graduate Assistant at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute in economics and public policy and a Policy Research Assistant at the Utah State Legislature over the course of the program. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in policy analysis and spend more time outdoors with family and her black lab.

Krisana Finlay

MPP/MPH



Krisana Finlay is an Associate at Leavitt Partners. Krisana navigates health care strategy and intelligence with clients through a lens of public policy and public health. Prior to joining Leavitt Partners, Krisana was a research coordinator at the Health System Innovation and Research Program at the University of Utah, a public policy fellow at the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, and the deputy director of development at the National Center on Sexual Exploitation in Washington, D.C. Krisana is committed to elevating Utah's health and well-being by addressing systemic inefficiencies in private-public partnerships and social determinants of health. After graduation, Krisana is looking forward to living a more normal life by enjoying the outdoors and building a business in her newly-acquired free time.

Liesl Limburg

MPP



Liesl is a Utah native and proud to have earned both her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master of Public Policy from the University of Utah. She currently works for Salt Lake City's Department of Economic Development. During her time with Salt Lake City, Liesl created the Business Development Resource Finder – a survey that connects Salt Lake City-based businesses to federal, state, county, and local resources. Under the supervision of Lori Kowaleski-Jones, Liesl was able to use her work as an applied capstone project for graduation. The project was nominated for an International Economic Development Council Award for innovation.

Meredith King

MPP



Meredith King is a research associate at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute where she assists in project management and quality assurance and conducts statewide economic and policy research. Prior to joining the Institute, King worked as a research analyst at TargetPoint Consulting, a data consulting firm located in Washington, D.C. While there, she conducted data analysis and survey research for presidential and ballot initiative campaigns, and performed pre- and post- analysis for dozens of focus groups for national energy research projects. She also led the marketing campaign and performed significant post-analysis for the Utah Colleges Exit Poll during the 2014 election cycle. She earned her B.A. in Political Science with an emphasis in public policy and quantitative analysis from Brigham Young University.

Rebecca Mabe
MPP



Prior to the MPP program, Ms. Mabe earned a BS in Sociology and MSW with Graduate Certification in Gerontology from the U. She taught Mental Health Public Policy at the U of U as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the College of Social Work. She has coordinated the SLC VA Social Work Service Field Education, served on the University of Utah College of Social Work Practicum Advisory & Community Advisory Boards, and coordinated and developed the Hartford Partnership Program on Aging Education curricula at the SLC VA. She is currently the SLC VA Associate Chief of Mental Health for Community Programs, and her work includes clinical care and consultation, program development and implementation, and managerial expertise. She is a VA & Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care Fellow Mentor, and a 2015-16 American Political Science Association Health & Aging Policy (HAP) Fellow with the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, the RAND Corporation, and SAMHSA.

Theophilus Worjloh Jlateh
MPP/MPH



Theo plans on completing my Doctorate in Population Health. For his capstone project, he worked on the problems that uninsured children face in the United States, specifically Utah. His dream is that every child in Utah or anywhere in the United States no matter their immigrant status, parent income, or location has health insurance needed for proper development and for them to reach their full human potential.

Zoe Heins
MPP/MPH



During her graduate career, Zoe supported research related to trauma surgery, maternal health, and water sanitation and hygiene practices. She was awarded the James C. Reading Scholarship for performance in Biostatistics and Epidemiology, and the Garth Jones and Dalmas Nelson Writing Award. After graduation, she will continue on in her role as an Associate at Leavitt Partners, working to advance the transition to value in health care.

Daniel Chapman, MPP
Lauren Peterson, MPP
Page Checketts, MPP/MPH
Sadaf Baghbani, MPP

Congratulations!