



Hampton Roads Chapter of ASPA

Summer 2026

Newsletter



2026 Awardees: L-R: Kate Villafor, Meg Jones, Stephanie Morales, Sabrina Wooten, and Michelle San Anton



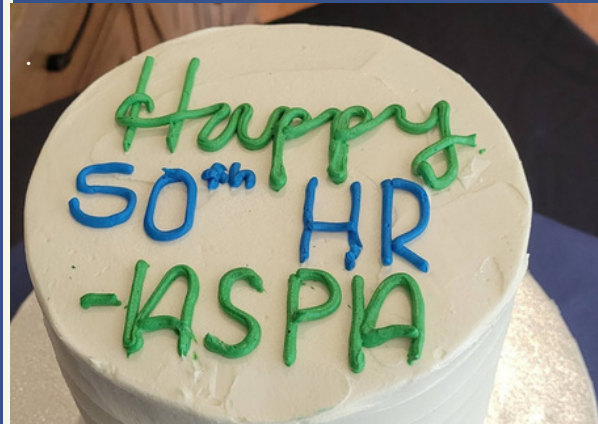
DANIELLE DOUGLAS
HR ASPA 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY
SENIOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings HR ASPA members! We have an exciting year planned for our members. Our first event will be the joint SECOPA-NECOPA conference hosted by Old Dominion University's School of Public Service, September 17th-19th at the Waterside Marriott. All members are encourage to attend this historic joint conference of the Southeast Conference on Public Administration and the Northeast Conference on Public Administration.

Our second fall event will be held in in November Hampton at Marker 20 as an evening professional engagement event. See the events section of the newsletter for other activities.

Continued on pg. 3



The Hampton Roads ASPA Chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Established in 1976, the HR ASPA Chapter has served the Hampton Roads area for 50 year years. The Chapter celebrated this momentous occasion at the May Awards Luncheon.



HR ASPA Research Symposium at Norfolk State University



NSU Political Science Professors Dr. Gabe Hudson (L) &
Dr. Kimberly Hutson (R)



NSU Political Science student, Mariama Kargbo (L)
& NSU Political Science Professor & HR ASPA
President Dr. Celeste Murphy-Greene (R)

Fall Speaker



South Hampton Roads YWCA
Director, Michelle Ellis Young, speaks
at the fall luncheon.

Mark Your Calendar! 2026-2027 HR ASPA Events

SECOPA-NECOPA Conference Sept. 17th-19th, Waterside Marriott. Register at www.aspanet.org

Professional Networking Evening with Speaker (TBA). Nov. 12th, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm, Water's Edge Winery, 6464 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508

Research Symposium, NSU Feb. 26th.

Annual Awards Event, Old Dominion University April 1st, 5:30-7:30 pm.

Internships

If your organization is interested in working with undergraduate Political Science interns, please e-mail Dr. Celeste Greene at cmgreene@nsu.edu.

Message from the President Continued...

This has been another active year for the HR ASPA Chapter. We kicked off the year with our fall luncheon at the Founder's Inn with the dynamic speaker, Michelle Ellis Young, Executive Director of the YWCA of South Hampton Roads. Ms. Ellis Young highlighted the important role the YWCA of South Hampton Roads has played for over 100 years in our community, assisting victims of domestic violence and many other areas.

In December we held a virtual panel discussion titled "Building Resilient Communities in Virginia. Our three engaging speakers were Lacy Shirey, Executive Director of the Elizabeth River Project, Karen Firehock, Executive Director of the Green Infrastructure Center, and Trang Le, Assistant Research Professor at the Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR).

In April the Annual Research Symposium was held at Norfolk State University (NSU), co-sponsored by NSU's Department of Political Science and College of Liberal Arts (COLA). Panelists presented their research on a variety of engaging topics. Presenters included faculty, Ph.D. and undergraduate students. Our keynote speaker was Mr. Chris Price, City Manager for the City of Chesapeake.

We closed out the year with our Annual Awards Luncheon in May at the Founder's Inn. Awardees included Kate Villafor and Meg Jones from Old Dominion University with the Julian Hirst Award for Distinguished Service for over 40 year olds. The George Robert House Award for distinguished service for under 40 year olds went to Phillip Jones, Mayor of Newport News. Stephanie Morales, Commonwealth Attorney for the City of Portsmouth was awarded the Christine Mann Darden Award for outstanding service to the Hampton Roads Community. Sabrina Wooten, former Virginia Beach City Councilmember was awarded the Wolfgang Pindur Award for outstanding service to Academia and the Public Sector. The John Dunning Award went to Michelle San Anton for her extended service to the Hampton Roads ASPA Chapter. Congratulations to all awardees! We also celebrated HR ASPA's 50 anniversary!

Our chapter had a full year. I hope to see you at an upcoming event this year!

Warmly,

Celeste Murphy-Greene, Ph.D., MPA

President, HR ASPA

Join Us on LinkedIn

The HR ASPA Chapter recently launched a LinkedIn page. In addition to Facebook, this additional social media presence allows our member to network and engage with fellow members professionally. Scan the QR code below to access the new site.



John Dunning Award



Dr. John Dunning and Dr. Celeste Murphy-Greene, presented the John Dunning Award for distinguished service to the HR ASPA Chapter to Michelle San Anton.



HR ASPA Public Service Awards: Nominations Needed!

Each year HR ASPA recognizes community leaders and public servants with several awards. The awards are the following:

Julian Hirst Award for Distinguished Public Service for over 40 year olds.

George Robert House Award for Distinguished Service for under 40 year olds.

Christine Mann Darden Award for Distinguished Service in Hampton Roads

Wolfgang Pindur Award for Excellence in Academia and Practice

John Dunning Award for Outstanding Service to the HR ASPA Chapter

All members are strongly encouraged to submit nominations for each award. The awards will be given out at the April 1st Awards Dinner at Old Dominion University. To access the nomination forms, please visit **www.aspahr.org** after September 17th. (The website is under construction). The deadline to submit a nomination is March 1st.

Join the ASPA Leadership Team

Introducing the HR ASPA 2026-2027 Executive Board! Thank you all board members for your service to the HR ASPA Chapter.

Meet the 2026-2027 Executive Board

President: Celeste Murphy-Greene, Ph.D., MPA

Vice President: Kimberly L. Hutson, JD, MA, MS

Treasurer: Michelle San Anton, MPA

Secretary: Janet G. Nicula, Ph.D., MA

Webmaster: David Chapman, Ph.D.

Board Members: Ron Carlee, DPA, Alan Kennedy, Ph.D., Kirk Leach, Ph.D.

Please consider submitting your name or nominating someone for a leadership role with the chapter. Our chapter welcomes new members to our board. Nominations can be submitted to **aspahrc@gmail.com** by March 1st.

HR ASPA Website Update

The HR ASPA website is currently being updated and will be completed by September 17th. To access the website, please visit www.aspahr.org