Call for Proposals

In October, 2017, the 47th Vice President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, joined us in Washington, D.C., at the NASPAA Annual Conference. As the founding chair of the Biden Institute, housed within the School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware, Vice President Biden addressed the conference attendees and reflected on many of the societal challenges that he had witnessed during his long, distinguished, and active career as a public servant.

Of the numerous challenges that our country currently faces, Vice President Biden identified the lack of stability in the middle class as the one that could yield the most dramatic consequences for our nation, if not effectively addressed. He felt that improving the circumstances for the American middle class was imperative to improving the economy and preserving social stability; he called the issue “the great challenge of our time.”

The Biden Challenge

Vice President Biden issued a clear and urgent challenge to NASPAA to address over the coming year, calling upon the network to develop policy solutions that foster a growing and thriving middle class that can maintain its role as both an economic engine and a source of aspiration in the United States.

The revitalization of the middle class encompasses a wide range of policy areas, including:

- The future of jobs/employment
- Budget priorities
- Education
- Infrastructure investments
- The role of innovation

Idea Exchange Details

On September 27 and 28, 2018, scholars are invited to the University of Delaware campus for an idea exchange to present our responses to the Vice President’s challenge regarding revitalizing the middle class. This will be a non-partisan conference that welcomes all points of view committed to examining the current stresses on—and the future of—the middle class.

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In addition to plenary sessions, the Idea Exchange will coincide with three consecutive panels:

Panel I:
- Budget Priorities
  - Education
  - Employment

Panel II:
- Infrastructure Investment: Urban and Rural Participation on the new economy
  - Economic Growth
  - Social Inclusion

Panel III:
- The role of Innovation
  - From Policy to Practice
  - Community examples

**Program Information**
If you are interested in participating in the idea exchange on these topics or ones you would like to propose under each one of the major headings, please submit an abstract of your proposals to Pablo McConnie-Saad (pmcconni@udel.edu) by May 15, 2018.

Questions about program substance of proposals for papers should be addressed to the Program Committee Co-Chairs Maria P. Aristigueta and Dan Smith.

**Abstract Proposals: Due May 15, 2018**
- A brief description of the subject and its relationship to the conference theme, not to exceed one page.
- Please include title, participant’s name, organizational affiliations, and email address.
- If selected, we would like for you to submit a policy paper (not to exceed 5-10 pages with an executive summary) due by September 15, 2018.
- Papers should be submitted in PDF format.
- Authors are encouraged to make their papers available for potential publication by the Biden Institute.