Greetings SECoPA Community!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season! I am honored to be serving as SECoPA Board President for this year, and am pleased to announce our other new officers: Kim Hoffman, President-elect; Sandy Ribando, Secretary; and Ines Beecher, Treasurer. We also have several new Board members: Shannon Vaughan, Kathleen Hale, Jerrell Coggburn, and in March Jared Llorens will join us as the newly elected ASPA National Council representative from District III. We will also be guided by our past President, Phin Xaypangna, who provided tremendous leadership this past year.

We are committed to moving forward on a number of issues important to keeping SECoPA vibrant, with, of course, the primary focus on the annual conference. We had a very successful conference in Charleston (thank you Kendra Stewart and Jo Ann Ewalt) and I encourage you to read about the highlights and enjoy the pictures in this newsletter. We have another exciting conference planned for Raleigh on October 13-16 under the direction of Jerrell Coggburn, Jim Svara, and Jim Brunet, so please mark your calendars and encourage other practitioners, faculty and students to attend. The Call for Papers will be coming out shortly.

Other initiatives for the coming year include the development of an MOU to strengthen the relationship between SECoPA and ASPA, the state of ASPA chapters in our region, revision of the conference guidelines, and a public policy advocacy role for SECoPA. Please contact any of the SECoPA Board if you have comments or want to be involved in these efforts.

The SECoPA Board wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2016!

Tom Barth, UNC Wilmington
Call for Nominations – 2016 Awards

Do you know a SECoPA member that deserves recognition? Nominate them for one of these prestigious awards!

Kline Award: Akhlaque Haque, Chair
The Kline Award encourages students to present papers by recognizing the most outstanding paper written by master's students in the SECoPA region.

Collins Award: Luke Fowler, Chair
The Collins Award encourages students to present papers by recognizing the most outstanding paper written by doctoral candidates in the SECoPA region.

Practitioner of the Year Award: Frank Fusco, Chair
The Distinguished Public Service Practitioner Award recognizes sustained, outstanding achievement in, and contributions to, public administration and public service through applied practice in the field. The recipient of this award must be, or have been, a practitioner with a significant and established record in public service. Service may be tied to any public service environment (local, state, federal, international, government or nonprofit).

Pugliese Award: Phin Xaypangna, Chair
The Donato J. Pugliese Award is given in honor of its namesake, the “Godfather” of SECoPA. Mr. Pugliese gave his time generously to ASPA and SECoPA throughout his lifetime. After his passing in 1985 at the age of 55, this award was created to honor his memory and service, and to honor the SECoPA member that best reflects Mr. Pugliese’s level of commitment to service and encouragement of their colleagues.

Boorsma Award: Rex Facer, Chair
The Senator Peter B. Boorsma Award is to honor the practitioner or academician for facilitating over a period of many years the international exchange of knowledge and administrative practices that foster better performance in the public sector. The award symbolizes SECoPA’s recognition of the implications of the global village on management and performance in the public sector as well as its commitment to the study and exchange of administrative practices between the USA and other countries.

The committees will receive and assess nominations, and will present the award at a scheduled luncheon or banquet event as part of the general SECoPA Conference. The award may be deferred if the committee determines that none of the submitted nominations meet the criteria or merit presentation of the award.

Committee Chairs

- Standing Committee Appointments for 2016-17
  - Finance: Glenn Joseph, Chair
  - Nominations: Will Hatcher, Chair
  - Site Selection: Suzanne Leland, Chair

- Other Committees
  - Endowment: Anne Osborne Kilpatrick, Chair
  - Communications/Marketing: Dan Lasserter, Chair
  - By-Laws/Procedures: Kim Hoffman

- Awards Committees
  - Kline: Akhlaque Haque, Chair
  - Collins: Luke Fowler, Chair
  - Practitioner: Frank Fusco, Chair
  - Pugliese: Phin Xaypangna, Chair
  - Boorsma: Rex Facer, Chair