

# SECoPA POST



## President Corner

This will be my last newsletter as President of the SECoPA. The Board of Directors have accomplished the following items in this year:

- Invested % of endowment funds into Treasury Bills,
- Reformatted SECoPA website to enhance user experience,
- Continued financial support to the Founder Fellows program at the ASPA National Conference,
- Updated Finance/Endowment procedures to reflect current needs,
- Approved an internal audit committee to review treasury procedures and records,
- Issued a welcome letter and three newsletters to advance communication with SECoPA members, and
- Assisted, as requested, the Memphis conference planners on this year's event.

It has been my honor to serve as your SECoPA President this year; I hope we have kept you informed on Board's activities and conference information. Looking forward to seeing all of you in Memphis!

Ines Beecher  
nesibeecher@hotmail.com

## SECoPA Conference

The 2024 SECoPA Conference will take place in six weeks, September 18-21, in Memphis, Tennessee. The conference theme -"Transforming Public and Nonprofit Governance: Shaping Sustainable Communities for Tomorrow," highlights the need for innovative approaches in designing, implementing and evaluating public and nonprofit programs to address the complex challenges of our changing world.



## Milestone

Congratulations to Dr. Aneisha Daniel on her promotion to Department Director, Solid Waste Department, Miami-Dade County and on receiving her Ph. D in Business from Florida Atlantic University. Her thesis was *Equitable Decision-Making: Integrating Environmental Risk and Social Vulnerability in Flood Mitigation Project Selection*.



## Board Action

A vacancy occurred last month on the SECoPA Board of Directors. Under SECoPA Bylaws, Board of Directors, Section 3.6 Succession, it states "In the event of a vacancy on the Board, a majority of the remaining Board members will select an individual to fill the remaining portion of the term." The SECoPA Board met, via Zoom, on July 10, 2024, and appointed Dr Aaron Rollins Jr. to serve the term through September 2025.

## New Board Member

Dr. Aaron Rollins Jr. is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban and Public Affairs, directing both the Master of Public Administration program and the Peace, Justice, and Conflict Transformation program at the University of Louisville. In addition to his administrative and teaching duties, he is also a trained mediator and a sports enthusiast. Dr. Rollins Jr. was a recipient of the Public Administration Quarterly Best Paper Award for 2022, with co-author Barbara Patrick, titled *Delivering Culturally Competent and Equitable Police Services Via Social Media: Accessing Two Way Dialogue between Police Agencies and Vulnerable Citizens*

We welcome Aaron to the SECoPA Board of Directors!

## Remembrance

Merrett Stierheim, former Miami-Dade County Manager, died July 7, 2024, at the age of 91.

Most of us who worked in South Florida governmental entities admired his accomplishments. He served as City Manager for Clearwater, Miami, and Doral and was the Interim City Manager of Miami Lakes. In addition, he was the County Manager of Pinellas County and Miami-Dade County (twice). He was the Miami-Dade County Superintendent of Schools. He also served as the Women's Tennis Association CEO and Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau CEO. It is no wonder he received the ASPA National Public Service Award in 2003.

I first met Merrett in 1981 when I was a Miami-Dade County Manager intern. One of my cherished memories is a great picture of the interns and Merrett; every time I knew we would be at an event together, I brought it, and he would sign the back of the photograph. It became a great joke between us as to how often I could catch him to sign the photo. I will be happy to share this picture with anyone interested in seeing it.

I will miss him and his leadership; our thoughts are with his family.

## SECoPA History

On the SECoPA website, you will find all sorts of interesting facts about the organization. Here are a few tidbits:

**Did you know:** the first SECoPA conference, 1969, was in Tampa. According to the documents, "initial funding for conference support was provided by the South Florida Chapter." To this day, the South Florida Chapter continues as one of our strongest chapters in the region.

**Did you know:** SECoPA was the first regional conference in ASPA. Over the decades, many other regions have undertaken annual conferences. Currently, there is the Northeastern Conference for Public Administration (NECoPA) and the Midwest Public Affairs Conference (MPAC).

**Did you know:** SECoPA currently has over 1,800 members with Miami-Dade County representing 1,000 of the 1,800 members.



## SECoPA Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund objective is to support SECoPA's purpose stated in the By-Laws, Section 1.1, listed below:

- Scholarly and practice-based exchanges
- Professional development and networking
- Nurturing students, new practitioners and academics
- Developing leaders in the profession

Keeping this purpose in mind, the Board of Directors has approved a spending policy for the fund and further support scholarly and practice-based work.

Endowment fund spending examples are award stipends, plaques, registration waivers, and fellowships.

Please consider a contribution to the Endowment to help SECoPA in its purpose. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

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