

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual UCF Public Administration Research Conference

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The Department of Public Administration and the Center for Public and Nonprofit Management co-hosted this year's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual UCF Public Administration Research Conference on April 30, 2010 at the UCF *FAIRWINDS* Alumni Center. 100 attendees from 16 cities and counties, including faculty members, public service professionals and students, participated in the Fourth Annual UCF Public Administration Research Conference on **"Local Governance in 2020: Challenges, Opportunities and Policies for Sustainability"**.

The conference addressed many issues regarding governance, sustainability and civic engagement. The keynote address was presented by Daniel Clark who is an Associate in *AmericaSpeaks*. His address focused on the labor intensiveness of democracy and the tools that can be used to involve citizens in productive decision making. He also talked about changing service boundaries and multicultural value systems and keeping up with the changes in local governance. Clark asked the audience to participate by using interactive audience response keypads to answer questions pertaining to the citizen engagement process. He engaged with and energized the audience as they experienced the new methods employed by *AmericaSpeaks* to engage citizens and the general public.

An innovative format for the discussion panels was used, whereby an academic presents a paper on creative strategies for sustainability in local government and a practitioner responds addressing the issues facing the implementation of those strategies. The panels focused on themes related to future challenges and opportunities in governance, including: civic engagement, regional governance, environmental policy, and financial and economic issues. Practitioners included: Randy Reid, Manager Alachua County, Florida, R. Mac Burdette, Administrator, Town of Mount Pleasant from South Carolina, Barbara Lipscomb, City Manager Casselberry, Florida and Mariana Lianso, J.D., General Manager Hillsborough County Florida Public Works.

The luncheon keynote address was presented by Dr. Penelope Canan from the Department of Sociology at UCF. Her address focused on themes related to technology, innovation and networks. She talked about how integral responsible collaboration and networking is for sustainability, "Networks are created, fostered, cared for, nurtured, peopled...they just don't happen".

The conference, including student scholarships and awards, was sponsored by Government Services Group, Inc., the Central Florida Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, the City of Casselberry, CPH Engineers, Inc., and the UCF Doctoral Program in Public Affairs.

Information regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual UCF Public Administration Research Conference, to be held on March 18, 2011, at the *FAIRWINDS* Alumni Center, is published at [www.cpnm.ucf.edu](http://www.cpnm.ucf.edu).