

# Federal Careers in Budget and Program Analysis

Thursday, July 7

The George Washington University Media and Public Affairs Building  
805 21 Street NW, Foggy Bottom Metro

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8:45 - 9:00

**REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN**

9:00

**WELCOME: JONATHAN STEHLE, PRESIDENT, AABPA**

9:05

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: FINDING THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU**

B07

**ERIKA KANEKO, PROGRAM MANAGER  
PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE**

Choosing a career in public service is about more than just finding the right job description that uses your current skills. Using the framework of their Best Places to Work in the Federal Government survey, Erika Kaneko from the Partnership for Public Service will talk about the other factors to consider including office atmosphere, flexible work schedules, communication strategies, support and guidance from supervisors, and innovative cultures.

9:45

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

B07

**PROGRAM ANALYST ROUNDTABLE**

So, you think you want to be a program analyst, but what exactly does that mean and what do they do? This session will answer those questions, describe the different types of analyst positions in the federal government (including program analyst, management analysts, and grant analysts), and provide career insight for future public servants. Seasoned professionals will discuss what their jobs entail, how their careers have evolved, provide insight into opportunities and career paths for program analysts, and share lessons they've learned along the way. This panel will end with a highly interactive session where you will be able to ask for career advice.

Moderator: Darreisha Bates, Analyst, Government Accountability Office

Panelists: Sarah Blasko, Management Analyst, USDA

Dan Birns, International Advisor, Department of Energy

Andrea Brandon, Deputy Administrator, USDA



A joint program hosted by the American Association for Budget and Program Analysis and the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University

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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
THE TRACHTENBERG SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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### **DEBT AND DEFICITS: WHAT IS THIS DEBATE ALL ABOUT?**

With the August deadline to increase the debt ceiling looming, the public “conversation” is tall on rhetoric but short on realities. Analysts from CBO and GAO will provide a solid foundation of how our federal debt system works and the implications of the current debate.

Melissa Wolf, Assistant Director, U.S. Government Accountability Office  
Jared Brewster, Analyst, Congressional Budget Office  
Joseph Cordes, Associate Director, The George Washington University  
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration

11:00  
B07

### **POSITIONING YOURSELF FOR SUCCESS: FINDING MENTORS AND CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **SALLYANNE HARPER, VICE-PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, AOC SOLUTIONS**

Sallyanne Harper will share her experiences and the lessons she’s learned from years of public service. Her presentation will include practical steps to navigating in federal government, tactics for best positioning yourself for promotion and tools for making connections with people to help you grow and be proactive about your career.

12:00

### **LUNCH ON THE QUAD**

1:00  
B07

### **MAKING YOURSELF SHINE WHEN APPLYING FOR FEDERAL WORK**

#### **PAUL BINKLEY, DIRECTOR OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY TRACHTENBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Interested in making government cool, but need a few tips to becoming a civil servant? This session will provide you with the knowledge of how to navigate through the complicated government hiring process. Dust off your resume and learn some great tips on how to catch a hiring supervisor’s eye!

2:15

### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

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#### **BUDGET ANALYST ROUNDTABLE**

You want to be a budget analyst, but what critical skills do you need and how can you cultivate them to be ahead of the curve? This session will answer those questions and provide career insight for future budget analysts. Seasoned professionals will discuss what their jobs entail, what critical budget competencies are essential, how their careers have evolved, provide insight into opportunities and career paths for budget and program analysts, and share lessons they’ve learned along the way. This panel will end with a highly interactive session where you will be able to ask for career advice.

Moderator: Lauren Bloom, Analyst, Department of Education

Panelists: Karin O’ Leary, Budget Officer, Department of Justice

Melissa Merrell, Analyst, Congressional Budget Office

Melissa Neuman, Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

B07

### **THE PERFORMANCE LEARNING CURVE**

This session will include a discussion of the evolution of data collection and reporting performance information for government programs, how evaluation tools can improve performance, and how that information can be used to get more bang for the government's buck.

Kathryn Newcomer, Director, The George Washington University  
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration  
Laura Miller Craig, Senior Analyst, U.S. Government Accountability Office

3:30

B07

### **NETWORKING 101: MAKING AND MAINTAINING CAREER CONNECTIONS**

#### **LAURENCE WILDGOOSE, SCHEDULER, SENATOR BEN NELSON**

Have you ever found yourself wondering, "Everyone tells me to network, but no one tells me how to network?" It is a word that everyone has heard, we use often and we even attend events that promise us the opportunity to do it— but what is it? And how can we network more effectively? Come and explore the meaning and practice of N-E-T-W-O-R-K-I-N-G. No, this is not computer programming but the art of building, maintaining, and utilizing an assortment of contacts to further and improve one's professional aspirations or to assist others in doing so. Experience an interactive presentation for novices, professionals, and those in between. We will explore the potential and pitfalls of networking with the expressed goal of improving your ability for this necessary and useful skill set.

4:30

### **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

Tonic at Quigley's Pharmacy, 2036 G Street Northwest



Looking for more budget and program news? Join AABPA groups on GovLoop, Facebook, and LinkedIn and check our website, [www.aabpa.org](http://www.aabpa.org).





# Join TODAY

## Member Benefits

- **Free monthly programs** on the latest developments in federal budgeting, management, program analysis and information processing
- A Free subscription to **Public Budgeting and Finance**, the quarterly journal for budget and program analysis professionals
- A Free subscription to **The Bottom Line**, AABPA's own newsletter
- Many opportunities to **Meet and Network** with key people in the field
- An open invitation to participate in all AABPA activities, including **social events** such as the annual reception on Capitol Hill and awards cocktail parties
- **Special Members-Only Discounts** for AABPA's very highly regarded twice-yearly symposia.

## DISCOUNTED STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS 1 YEAR FOR \$15

*The AABPA symposium was an excellent way for students to network with other students and professionals in the field. Learning about the different regional and international policy discussions taking place in other MPA programs was the most rewarding part for me!*

~ University of Delaware, MPA Candidate 2010

*"The symposium was a great chance network, while hearing some really interesting presentations. My mentor was a great guy from OMB with a wonderful sense of humor and a chatty personality. I certainly appreciated the opportunity to get his advice and hear his opinions on the jobs and agencies I've been considering in my job hunt."*

~ American University, MPP~

## Previous Monthly Programs

Bill Frenzel, Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institute and Former Member of the House of Representatives, on "The Presidential Deficit Commission"

Dr. Susan K. Urahn, Managing Director of Pew Center on the States, "The Fiscal State of States: Pew on Health Reform, Pension Obligations, and Budget Cuts"

Jerry Ellig, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, "Federal Performance Reporting: How Does It Measure Up?"

D. Andrew Austin, Analyst in Economic Policy in the Congressional Research Service, "A Visual Tour of the Budget: Using New Data Visualization Methods"

## Coming Soon!!

July 26: Budget and Baseball  
a social outing at  
Nationals Stadium

August 3: Research Roundtable

October: Fiscal New Year's Party

*"I was impressed. Budget and program analysts are (surprisingly) very passionate about what they do. Coming in, I had very little interest in budget and program analysis, but by the time I left, I had decided to look into both."*

School of Public and Environmental Affairs  
MPA '09