Meg Mellen has been working as an asset of PDP since the Department of Community, Health, and Human Services was created in 1997. As a former Social Worker, she has applied her experience to her work with PDP.

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From “Can-Do” to “Candor” Public Administration: The 1960s and What About the Future

Richard Nathan, Co-Director, Rockefeller Institute of Government
State University of New York

Richard Nathan, Co-Director of the Rockefeller Institute of Government, presents a unique and balanced perspective on public administration and its historical development. Nathan begins by discussing the concept of “Can-Do” and how it influenced the political climate of the 1960s. He then explores the transition to “Candor” and the challenges that arose during this period.

The full text of the nation’s Public Administration can be viewed at www.rockinst.org

Did You Know?

The unemployment rate rose to 7.2% last month (December 2011). This is the highest rate since November 2009. Since fiscal year 2009 budgets were enacted, budget deficits have been put in place, and deficit in the current budget cycle continues. The shortfalls equaled 9 percent of the national income and 2011 (at the earliest) before state and local governments will see a turnaround to their finances.

In addition, public employees have shed 1.9 million jobs, and the number of unemployed people has increased by nearly 2 million since 2007. State and local governments are in a sea of red ink and are looking to state and local governments to find ways to solve their fiscal problems. Not a easy time!

In providing a mechanism for shared problem solving, the PDP allows stakeholders to identify economies and alternatives to service delivery. It is often said that managing in hard economic times is easy. But, these three basic principles point to some important considerations when trying to reform the organization.

The principle in the public administration community, could be an appropriate vehicle for targeting the program to those who need the services.

The program also focuses on the problem of changing the organization and its culture. This simple example is why I believe public administration is a public service.

leaders who seek to be change agents is that they hamper efforts to find ways to improve the organization. What is the most outstanding achievement of your organization?

“Can-Do” approach. Add on the letter “D” to “Candor,” and you get “Can-Do.” It is an approach to public administration that is appropriate for making sense at the level of a presidential campaign and to make the difference between the two. When you change the “D” to a “C,” you get “Can-Do.”

For example, the state of New York and the state of California have both seen budget cuts and will sell state and local governments the same thing. These changes will be welcomed by the public and will end up being the right thing. The leadership process is a big challenge.

For others who want to pursue careers in public administration, I believe that a career in public administration is a career in public service.

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Did You Know?

The unemployment rate rose to 6.3% last month (December) from 6.7% in November— its highest rate since 1974. The unemployment rate rose to 7.2% last month (December) from 6.9% in November— its highest rate since 1974. Did You Know?

Thinking Positive While Playing the Fiscal Blues

Jeffrey D. Straussman, Dean
Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany

The bleak economic situation the country, indeed the world, finds itself in has had a profound impact on public employees. Most state and local governments are in a sea of red ink and are currently freezing, laying off, and cutting back on essential services. I need not belabor the point that the economic climate, which has been extraordinarily challenging times. If we are to move from a public administration of fixing motorcycles— it's about quality and what is good. It must be an appropriate vehicle for targeting the program to those who need the service the most. Programs that choose to implement changes, stimulate and develop the relationships between organizations,亦刺激和促进机构之间的联系。And we must avoid the doom and gloom/Pollyanna mindset. This mindset is that solutions to problems often require enduring systemic issues of duplication and inefficiency. As a result, there is a shortage of human resources. We have to develop a workgroup process that is also raising deeply embedded systemic issues of duplication, what promises to be a productive endeavor. The process that solutions to problems often require...
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Thinking Positive While Playing the Fiscal Blues

The bleak economic situation the country, including New York State, finds itself in, with the layoffs of public employees, MUST make leaders of our state and local governments face the reality of reduced revenues. The ‘Can-Do’ spirit, the ‘Can’ of getting things done, will have to work. Since the start of the last and most recent December recession, the state has lost 235,000 jobs, and the number of unemployed people increased by 1.9 million since mid-2007. Local governments will see a turnaround in their budget balance. Not a clear thought!

I was recently indicted into the National Academy of Public Administration, and one of my fellow inductees, the administration of a large county in the state of New York, mentioned the economic climate, need to have more market-based solutions, and the need for finding solutions in public problems. The need for more market-based solutions, cooperation across the public, private, and non-profit sector is key to the following simple illustration.

The county had problems with dogs and cats in the past. A poor organization sought to eliminate these individuals in an attempt to change a basic societal value. The county government, the animal control agency, and the animal shelter were given funds to create separate facilities for stray dogs and cats. The result? Data about the program show that there were no changes in the number of animals in the facility, but there was a noticeable improvement in the county’s budget and budget shortfalls. The new president’s desk will be piled high with insistent demands and urgent matters. The new president’s desk will be piled high with insistent demands and urgent matters.

Besides health care, there are hard problems to be faced. These problems will involve institutional reform, delivery of domestic public services. These problems will play a role in reforming the organization and delivery of democratic public services.

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Finding Staying Power in a Down Economy

Eugene J. Monaco, Executive Director and Public Service Professor, Professional Development Program

We have all witnessed a dramatic turn in the economy over the past year which saw oil prices collapse and the sector officially labelled as a recession. We have been watching the pendulum swing up and down in the past few months and have felt the impact of what is known as a “double dip recession.”

A Pew poll conducted in September 2008 found that 63% of Americans believe training is essential to economic recovery. Programs have been slashed and in some instances outright cancelled. Providing or offering training programs at universities and government agencies is proving to be tough.

In November 2008, mortgage defaults are soaring, up over 25% from last year, and job losses are at record highs with unemployment increasing to 7.2 per cent at the end of last year. Overall, the concern is how do we move forward?

The impact of this economic climate has been throughout the private and public sectors in every state and across the nation. The fact that the economic climate has not changed since the private sector has a long lasting impact to the public sector’s economic forecast. Reform through education has been in our 2008 Right Track, but New York, New York has been operating against a system that has failed many states to create meaningful and sustainable solutions, and that may be the reason why, in this next fiscal year, we are looking at a sure fire plan for this economic downturn.

Training organizations such as PDP have not seen a dip in their funding. The private sector as well as the public sector is seeing a dramatic increase in training dollars. Programs have been slashed and in some instances outright cancelled. Providing or offering training programs at universities and government agencies is proving to be tough.

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Meg Meehan received PDP’s Director’s Award in 2008 for her outstanding contributions to professional development. Meg is a true professional, hard worker, and professional role model who brings to the job all of her professional education as well as the skills and characteristics of a family child. The contributions she has made to the Adolescent Services Resource Center have been significant. We continue to be impressed with Meg’s energy and passion for helping others, especially in times of need. As a result of the work she has done, the resource center has become a much more important focus for the Adolescent Services Resource Center. Furthermore, she has been an outstanding leader for our team, and we have been pleased to work with her. Meg’s work at the Adolescent Services Resource Center has been recognized on many occasions, and she has been an important asset to the Adolescent Services Resource Center. Meg consistently places achieving professional standards she brings to the work as a priority in her professional development. Her interest and knowledge in areas relevant to family child continues to grow in New York State and in New York City. Meg has been very helpful in her work on many projects, especially in the area of professional education. The Adolescent Services Resource Center is fortunate to have had Meg as an integral part of our team. Meg has been a wonderful addition to our team, and we are excited to work with her in the future.

Semester in Washington D.C. for Intern Cindy Mullen

Cindy Mullen has been working at an office of the PDP in New York State for over 10 years. She is a junior level student studying political science at the University at Albany and has been accepted into the Washington Semester Program for the spring 2009 semester. This highly competitive program gives students the opportunity to spend the spring semester working in Washington D.C. as an intern for a member of Congress or for an organization. Cindy has been a valuable asset to our team, and we are excited to see her work in Washington D.C.

Finding Staying Power in a Down Economy

Eugene J. Monaco, Executive Director and Public Service Professor, Professional Development Program

We have all witnessed a dramatic down turn in the economy over the past year which is now officially labeled as a recession. We have seen the unemployment rates rise, the housing market collapse, and the stock market lose value. These are just a few of the many negative effects that the economic downturn has had on our society. However, it is important to remember that there are still positive things that can be done to help individuals and organizations through these difficult times.

The reality with a down economy is that it is all about the attitude one has towards turning. When you start to think about the job as something that you have to do, rather than as something that you enjoy, it can be very difficult to stay motivated and productive. On the other hand, if you approach the job with a positive attitude, it can be much easier to find ways to make the job more enjoyable and rewarding.

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