

May 2018

Welcome New Students!

Congratulations on your admission to the Public Policy Program at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy! I am the director of the Program, and I am very much looking forward to meeting each of you in September. I am sure we will have many chances to interact over the next couple of years, and I am looking forward to all of them.

I recently attended a University event for faculty marking decades of service to Rutgers. This year completes one decade of employment for me at Rutgers, and I have fully enjoyed being a part of the academic and professional community here. I am sure you will as well! The passion and excitement about public service engagement in so many critical public issues are inspiring and motivating. With nationwide challenges regarding trust in public institutions and the political process, it is a particularly important time for you to be active in this field. I have no doubt that you will make significant contributions to public policy and over the next two years we will help you prepare for that goal.

I write both to welcome you to the Bloustein School community and to provide you with some information to help facilitate your transition. Elsewhere in this packet, you will find material on orientation (**September 4, 2018**) and your academic advisers. Please feel free to contact your advisers by email and plan on meeting with them during orientation day. We will soon set up a Facebook group for all incoming students. It will be called "Bloustein School Public Policy Program 2018 Admitted Students" and you should feel free to join. This will give you the chance to interact with each other and give us the chance to get you more information as September approaches.

It is an exciting time for the Bloustein School Public Policy Program. On the School level, we will be welcoming a new dean on October 1. On the Program level, we recently added concentrations in "Social Justice and Advocacy" and "Public Informatics" and revised our methods course sequence to increase rigor and create synergy with the planning program. I am most proud to announce the establishment of the Bloustein chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society for public affairs, administration, and policy. Our graduates are finding policy positions in various types of agencies. Recent graduates are working for non-profit employers such as New Jersey Community Capital, public ones including the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services and Board of Public Utilities, and private organizations like the Applied Energy Group. Current students are doing internships at global organizations including the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, federal agencies like the US General Accounting Office and AARP, and local ones through the Housing and Community Scholars Program.

We are thrilled that you will be joining our diverse and vibrant community soon and look forward to bragging about your accomplishments in the years ahead.

Once again, welcome to the Bloustein School and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. My email is ahetling@rutgers.edu.

Sincerely,



Andrea Hetling