

# **GREGORY K. PLAGENS, Ph.D.**

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## **Professional Experience**

### **University of Akron (2006 to Present)**

- Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies

### **University of South Carolina (2001-2006)**

- Instructor, Department of Political Science
- Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science

### **Richland School District One, Columbia, South Carolina (1998-2001)**

- Director of Communications – Served in a cabinet-level position of this 4,500-employee organization. Responsibilities included, but were not limited to, advising the superintendent and school board on matters of policy, serving as district spokesman, coordinating media relations, coordinating internal and external communications, coordinating the organization's strategic planning effort, and managing a staff of eleven.

### **Lexington School District Two, West Columbia, South Carolina (1994 to 1997)**

### **Sumter School District Two, Sumter, South Carolina (1991 to 1994)**

- Public Information Specialist – Served in cabinet-level positions of these 1,500-employee organizations. Responsibilities included, but were not limited to, advising the superintendent and school board on matters of policy, serving as district spokesman, coordinating media relations, and coordinating internal and external communications.

### **Sumter Daily Item/South Florida Newspaper Network (1990 to 1991)**

- Staff Writer – General assignment and education reporting for these two companies.

## **Education**

### **Doctor of Philosophy (2006)**

University of South Carolina

Department of Political Science

Areas of Study: Public Administration and Policy; American Government

### **Master of Public Administration (1999)**

University of South Carolina

Department of Political Science

Area of Study: Local Government

### **Bachelor of Science (1989)**

Bowling Green State University

Department of Journalism

Areas of Study: Magazine Journalism; Psychology

### **Research and Teaching Interests**

Public Administration ~ Public Policy ~ American Government ~ Social Capital ~ Education Policy  
Human Resources /Personnel Management ~ Intergovernmental Relations ~ Institutions State  
Government ~ Local Government ~ Leadership

### **Publications**

Hays, Steven W. and Gregory K. Plagens. 2002. "Human Resource Management Best Practices and Globalization: The Universality of Common Sense." *Public Organization Review*. 2(4): 327-348

### **Works Under Review**

Communities, Local Government, and a Federal Mandate for Performance: Social Capital and Success in the Era of the No Child Left Behind Act. Sent to *State and Local Government Review* in November 2007.

### **Papers Presented at Professional Meetings**

Accepted: Plagens, Gregory K. and Mark E. Tompkins. 2008. "The Role of Formal Leaders in Growing and Maintaining Social Capital." 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. Monash University Center, Tuscany, Italy. 22 to 25 July.

Pending Acceptance: Plagens, Gregory K. and Zili Sloboda, Margaret Tonkin, and Richard Stephens. 2008. "Substance Abuse, Social Capital, and Students: Does Community Connectedness Matter in the Fight against Alcohol and Tobacco Use among Minors." 16th Annual Meeting of the Society for Prevention Research. San Francisco, California. 28 to 30 May.

Plagens, Gregory K. 2006. "Social Capital and Perceptions: How What We Do Influences What We See." Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Jan. 5-7, 2006. Atlanta, Ga.

Plagens, Gregory K. 2005. "Social Capital in North Carolina: An Examination of School Performance at the Local Level." Southeast Conference of Public Administration, Oct. 5-9, 2005. Little Rock, Ark.

Plagens, Gregory K. 2004. "Polarization in Process or Outcome: An Examination of U.S. Supreme Court Change Over Time." Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Jan. 8-10, 2004. New Orleans, La.

Plagens, Gregory K. 2003. "Social Capital and School Performance: A Local-Level Test." American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Aug. 28-31, 2003. Philadelphia, Penn.

### **Book Reviews**

Review of *Why We Vote: How Schools and Communities Shape Our Civic Life* by David E. Campbell, appearing in the *Journal of Public Management & Social Policy*. 2007. Vol. 13, Issue 1: 69-71.

### **Research in Progress**

Plagens, Gregory K. "Social Capital and K-12 Education: Why Relationships Matter in the Context of School Reform Efforts." – Proposed as a Book Manuscript

Plagens, Gregory K. and Mark E. Tompkins. "The Role of Formal Leaders in Growing and Maintaining Social Capital."

Plagens, Gregory K. and Zili Sloboda, Margaret Tonkin, and Richard Stephens. "Substance Abuse, Social Capital, and Students: Does Community Connectedness Matter in the Fight against Alcohol and Tobacco Use among Minors."

Plagens, Gregory K. "Education Policy Reform: Predicting State-Level Decisions"

Hays, Steven W. and Gregory K. Plagens "The Confluence of Public and Private HRM Practices"

### **Funded Research**

University Park Alliance., The University of Akron. 2007. Community Survey and Focus Groups

### **Courses Taught**

#### **Graduate Level**

- Introduction to Public Policy – Fall 2007 and Fall 2006
- Basic Quantitative Analysis – Fall 2007, Spring 2007, and Fall 2006
- Leadership and Decision-Making – Spring 2007

#### **Undergraduate Level**

- Introduction to Public Administration – Spring and Summer 2004, Fall 2005 – University of South Carolina
- Public Policy – Fall 2004 and Summer 2005 – University of South Carolina

### **Honors and Awards**

2005 Collins Award for best doctoral student paper – Southeastern Conference of Public Administration. "Social Capital in North Carolina: An Examination of School Performance at the Local Level"

First Place: Social Issues Category – 2004 Graduate Student Day, University of South Carolina. "Social Capital and School Performance: A Local-Level Test"

“The Chair's Award for Excellence in Graduate Study 2004-2005.” University of South Carolina, Political Science Department.

### **Workshops**

Effective Public Speaking for Public Administrators. Delivered to the Office of County Council, Summit County, Ohio. 8 June 2007.

Neighborhood Leadership and Social Capital. Delivered to residents of University Park at the request of University Park Alliance. 26 April 2007.

### **Memberships and Service**

#### **Departmental**

*President*, Graduate Student Association, 2002-2003

*Member*, search committee, Public Administration position, 2003

*Member (Ex-Officio)*, graduate curriculum revision committee, 2003

#### **Professional**

*Member*, American Society of Public Administration, 2002 to Present

*Member*, American Political Science Association, 2002 to present

*Member*, Southern Political Science Association, 2002 to 2006

*Member*, National School Public Relations Association, 1991 to 2001

*Member*, South Carolina Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association, 1991 to 2001

*Member*, Committee on the Flag of Learning and Liberty, National School Public Relations Association, 2001

*President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary*, South Carolina Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association, 1994 to 1998

*Chairman*, Rewards for Excellence Committee, South Carolina Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association, 1999

*Board of Directors*, City Year of Columbia

#### **Personal**

*Volunteer*, Religious education program, St. Peter's Church, 1999 to 2004

*Mentor*, Claude A. Taylor Elementary School, 1995 to 1997

*Coach*, Sumter Area Youth Soccer League, 1991 and 1992

### **Additional Training/Certification**

*Institute for Scholarly Writing*, a one-day workshop at the University of South Carolina, Spring 2002

*University Classroom Teaching*, a two-day course offered by The Graduate School at the University of South Carolina, Fall 2001

*The Cambridge Model of Strategic Planning*, a one-week course for facilitators in the process and discipline of strategic planning, Spring 2000

**Manuscript Reviews**

*Journal of Political Science*. February 2004.

*Journal of Political Science*. July 2005.

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