

GREGORY K. PLAGENS, Ph.D.

Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies
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Professional Experience

The University of Akron (2006 to present)

- Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies

The University of South Carolina (2001-2006)

- Instructor, Department of Political Science
 - Introduction to Public Policy
 - Introduction to Public Administration
- 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; Minor in Psychology

Research and Teaching Interests

Public Policy ~ Public Administration ~ American Government ~ Social Capital ~ Education Policy
Public Sector Human Resource Management ~ Intergovernmental Relations ~ State and Local
Government ~ Leadership ~ Quantitative Analysis

Publications

Plagens, Gregory K. and Ken Stapleton. "Social Capital Theory and the Metropolitan University: Reframing Ideas about Neighborhood Interactions." *Metropolitan Universities*. (forthcoming)

Mark E. Tompkins, Gregory K. Plagens, J. Anthony Dukes, "Confronting the Commons: Using Fishbank to Understand the Tragedy of the Commons," in *Active Learning Techniques Across The Social Sciences*, Sharon Jones and Daniel. E. Smith, eds. (forthcoming)

Plagens, Gregory K. "Social Capital and Education: Theoretical Mechanisms and Their Implications for Performance." *Education and Culture*. (forthcoming)

Ortega, Ramona, Gregory K. Plagens, Peggy Stephens and RaJade M. Berry-James. "Mexican American Public Sector Professionals: Perceptions of Affirmative Action Policies and Workplace Discrimination." *Review of Public Personnel Administration*. (forthcoming June 2011)

Cox, Raymond W., Gregory K. Plagens and Keba Sylla. 2010. "The Leadership-followership Dynamic: Making the Choice to Follow." *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*. 5(8): 37-51.

Plagens, Gregory K. 2010. "Social Capital in Schools: Perceptions and Performance." *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*. 5(6): 17-30.

Plagens, Gregory K. 2009. "The Role of Formal Leaders in Growing and Maintaining Social Capital." *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences*. 3(12): 83-92.

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.

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.

Manuscripts In Progress

Plagens, Gregory K. and Peggy Stephens. 2010. "Variation in School Performance: Does Social Capital Make a Difference?" To be submitted to *Journal of Political Science*.

Mark E. Tompkins, Gregory K. Plagens, Kendra B. Stewart and J. Anthony Dukes. "What's Fair? An Active Learning Exercise." To be submitted to *Journal of Political Science Education*.

Plagens, Gregory K. and Steven W. Hays. "Dire Circumstances: The Metrics of Choice in Incredibly Poor Fiscal Times"

Plagens, Gregory K. "The Networks, Norms, and Relationships of Administrators: Why Social Capital Matters in the Context of Public Administration"

Funded Research

Plagens, Gregory K. and Peter J. Leahy, Co-Principal Investigators. \$186,720, five-year grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families to evaluate the *Relationship Matters* program (being implemented by the Stark County Pregnancy Support Center of Canton). Runs through September 2011.

Plagens, Gregory K., Principal Investigator. \$18,000, one-year grant from University Park Alliance, The University of Akron to conduct a community survey and focus groups. Completed August 2008.

Papers Presented at Professional Meetings

Plagens, Gregory K. 2010. "Social Capital in Schools: Perceptions and Performance." 5th International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, August 2nd to 5th.

Plagens, Gregory K. 2008. "The Role of Formal Leaders in Growing and Maintaining Social Capital." 3rd International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. Monash University Center, Prato, Italy. July 22nd to 25th.

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.

Manuscript Reviews

International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. August 2010.

International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. August 2008.

Journal of Political Science. July 2005.

Journal of Political Science. February 2004.

Courses Taught

Graduate Level

- PAUS 600: Basic Quantitative Analysis – Fall 2010, Spring 2010, Fall 2009, Fall 2008, Spring 2008, Fall 2007, Spring 2007, and Fall 2006
- PAUS 601: Advanced Quantitative Research – Fall 2008
- PAUS 617: Leadership and Decision-Making – Spring 2007
- PAUS 643: Introduction to Public Policy – Fall 2010, Fall 2009, Fall 2007 and Fall 2006
- PAUS 733: Theories of Public Sector Human Resource Management – Spring 2009
- PAUS 736: Leading Public Organizations – Spring 2011

Undergraduate Level

- POLI 370: Introduction to Public Administration – Spring 2004, Summer 2004, Fall 2005 (University of South Carolina)
- POLI 374: Introduction to 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 Delivered

Effective Public Speaking for Public Administrators. Delivered to the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers, 19 June 2009

Media Relations and Public Relations for Public Administrators. Delivered to the Master's in Municipal Clerk's program, 23 October 2008

Media Relations and Public Relations for Public Administrators. Delivered to the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers. 20 June 2008

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

Service and Memberships

University and Departmental Service

Technology Chair, Conference on Undergraduate and Graduate Student Research, 2008 and 2009

Web Editor, Public Administration and Urban Studies Department

Newsletter Editor, Public Administration and Urban Studies Department

Technology Coordinator, Public Administration and Urban Studies Department

Faculty Advisor, Public Administration and Urban Studies Student Association

Member, Master's Program Committee

Memberships

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

Personal and Professional Service

Member, Knights of Columbus Council 10936, 2010

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

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, 1998 to 2001

Additional Training/Certification

Proposal Planning and Writing, a one-day workshop on grants at The University of Akron, Fall 2006.

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

Last Updated: 1/21/11