



New Fellow Spotlight: Dr. P. Edward French
Professor and Department Head
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
Mississippi State University

Dr. French has been Department Head of Political Science & Public Administration at Mississippi State University since fall of 2016. In his research and teaching, he specializes in human resource management; city and local government management; and comparative public administration. He served as the Executive Director of The Stennis Institute of Government; Director of the M.A., M.P.P.A., and Ph.D. programs in the department of Political Science & Public Administration; and Stennis Scholar prior to becoming Department Head. He is Associate Editor for Public Administration Review, and serves on the Editorial Boards of Review of Public Personnel Administration, Public Personnel Management, and Journal of Public Management and Social Policy. He is former Editor-in-Chief of Public Personnel Management, and former Associate Editor for Review of Public Personnel Administration. He is also a former Board member of State and Local Government Review and Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research.

He received his Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University, a Master's in Education Administration from The University of Virginia, a Master's in City Management from East Tennessee State University, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from The University of Tennessee. Dr. French has authored or co-authored numerous refereed journal articles, books, and book chapters focusing mainly on human resource management, local government administration, and public policy issues. This research has appeared in several notable academic journals including: American Review of Public Administration, Public Administration Review, Public Integrity, Public Performance and Management Review, Public Personnel Management, Review of Public Personnel Administration, State and Local Government Review, as well as others.

Dr. French is recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Scholarship Award from the American Society for Public Administration, Section on Personnel and Labor Relations, in recognition of outstanding scholarship in public human resource management throughout a career of research. He also has been honored with the Francis Liddell Award for leadership throughout a career from the Mississippi ASPA chapter, he has been awarded the MSU Dean's Eminent Scholar Award, MSU President's Faculty Diversity Award, the Arts and Sciences Researcher of the Year, the Arts and Sciences Researcher of the Month, and Political Science / Public Administration students have also voted him the outstanding graduate professor on four different occasions (2009, 2011, 2013, and 2016). He is former President for The Southeastern Conference for Public Administration, and former President of the Mississippi chapter of American Society for Public Administration. Dr. French has also made presentations and lectured on three different continents. Prior to entering academia, he was a local government manager in Virginia.

What are you most looking forward to as a NAPA Fellow?

Collaborating with other fellows on resolving the new and ongoing challenges that have emerged for all levels of government in this twenty-first century.

What inspires you during these challenging times?

C.S. Lewis noted "hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny". We can all find inspiration everyday if we watch what other people are doing and we commit to getting involved.

What is your favorite class you have ever taught and why?

Municipal Government. As a former local government manager, I thoroughly enjoy teaching students about the different forms of government and roles that elected and appointed officials have in administration. My personal background has provide me with multiple opportunities to relate these real life practical experiences (some of which were very unique) to theory.