25th Anniversary of the Distinguished Public Service Award

Challenges are a part of life. Panelists — each of whom is the recipient of the LBJ School’s Distinguished Public Service Award (DPSA) — will discuss the most important lesson they learned while tackling the most significant challenges during their professional career.

Panelists

Anne Dunkelberg (MPAff 1988, DPSA 2008)
Associate Director, Health and Wellness Program Director, Center for Public Policy Priorities

Anne Dunkelberg joined the center in 1994. She is one of the state’s leading experts in policy and budget issues relating to health care access. In 2007, she was named Consumer Advocate of the Year by Families USA in Washington, D.C. Before coming to the center, she served as program director for acute care in the Texas Medicaid Director’s Office and spent six years with the Texas Research League, where she authored numerous reports on Texas health and human services issues and tracked state health and human services budget issues. She earned dual degrees from The University of Texas at Austin—a bachelor of arts (Plan II), magna cum laude, in 1979 and a master of public affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs in 1988.

Craig Pedersen (MPAff 1981, DPSA 1999)
Director, Executive Master of Public Leadership Program, LBJ School of Public Affairs

Craig Pedersen has extensive experience in both the political and policymaking arenas. He has worked with a wide array of leading state political figures, including former Lieutenant Governors Bob Bullock and William P. Hobby.

Pedersen, who moved to Texas in 1979 to attend the LBJ School, has dedicated his career to public service in Texas. Prior to returning to the LBJ School in 2014 to oversee the new executive master of public leadership degree program, Craig was executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board (from 1991-2002) and a vice president for URS Corporation, at the time the largest engineering and environmental consulting company in the U.S., where he built the companies regional water business.

Previously he worked for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor (for then Lt. Governor Bill Hobby), the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts (for then Comptroller, Bob Bullock), and the Railroad Commission of Texas (for Commissioner Jim Nugent). He also served as the Texas General Land Office’s assistant deputy commissioner under Garry Mauro.
Moderator

Michael M. Reyna (MPAff 1982, DPSA 2003)
President, LBJ School Alumni Board

Following a 30-year career in both the public and private sector which took him from Texas to California and Washington, D. C., and back, Michael M. Reyna retired and relocated to the Austin area in late 2011.

Most recently, Mr. Reyna served as the project executive of the FI$Cal Project, a multi-year effort currently underway by the State of California to integrate its disparate financial management systems; and, he served as the CEO of the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC), a statewide professional association representing 3,000 trial lawyers statewide. Among a number of other prior positions, he also served as the chairman and CEO of the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) following his nomination by President Clinton and confirmation by the United States Senate.

Mr. Reyna is a graduate of The University of Texas McCombs School of Business and the LBJ School of Public Affairs. He has received numerous commendations and awards, including the LBJ School of Public Affairs' Distinguished Public Service Award. He and his wife, Karen, have been married for 34 years and have two married sons Sean and Ryan (also graduates of the LBJ School) and three granddaughters.