The Cornell MPA Offers You a World of Professional Experience and Networking Opportunities

- 1492 Consulting Group, Ithaca, NY
- AFL-CIO, Washington, DC
- Alternatives Federal Credit Union, Ithaca, NY
- American Red Cross, Ithaca, NY
- California Coalition for Clean Air, Sacramento, CA
- Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Ithaca, NY
- City of Ithaca Department of Planning and Urban Renewal, Ithaca, NY
- City of Ithaca Downtown Partnership, Ithaca, NY
- CityScience Outdoor Exploration & Learning, NYC
- Community Foundation of Tompkins County, Ithaca, NY
- Cornell Prison Education Program, Ithaca, NY
- Cornell University International Students and Scholars Office, Ithaca, NY
- Economic Development Administration, NYC
- Education Fund, NYC and Washington, DC
- Educate the Children, Inc., Kathmandu, Nepal
- Finger Lakes ReUse, Ithaca, NY
- Green Empowerment, Port Au Prince, Haiti
- Green House Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), Washington DC
- Health and Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County, Ithaca, NY
- Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia & Nizhny Novgorod, Russia
- Inter-American Development Bank/ Salud Mesoamerica Initiative 2015, Panama
- Ithaca Boy’s School District, Ithaca, NY
- Ithaca Department of Public Works, Ithaca, NY
- Ithaca Public Education Initiative, Ithaca, NY
- Ithaca Youth Bureau, Ithaca, NY
- INOMA Educational Products, Mexico
- Lake Placid—North Elba Community Development Board, NY
- Madison County Agriculture Economic Development, NY
- Mental Health Association of Tompkins County, Ithaca, NY
- Namaste Montessori School, Ithaca, NY
- Namgyal Monastery, Ithaca, NY
- Nature Iraq, Tigris River, Iraq
- New Orleans Recovery Project for the 9th Ward, New Orleans, LA
- New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), NYC
- Pader Girls Academy, Northern Uganda
- Pipeline 4 Progress, Corning, NY
- Save the Children, La Paz, Bolivia
- Stop the Silence, Glen Dale, MD
- St. Paul Catholic University Development Studies Center, Peru
- Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), Mysore, Karnataka State, India
- Tompkins County Administration, Ithaca, NY
- Tompkins County, Ithaca, NY
- Tompkins County Office for the Aging, Ithaca, NY
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC
- Village at Ithaca, Ithaca, NY
- YMCA, Ithaca, NY

CIPA Capstone and Public Service Exchange Clients (Partial List)
Professional Development & Real-World Good

Some of the world’s brightest minds are drawn to Cornell’s MPA program because of the emphasis placed on experiential learning. When asked, graduates regularly list their involvement with CIPA’s Capstone and Public Service Exchange (PSE) as key in helping them develop the skill-set they need to be successful in their future careers. Both the Capstone and PSE provide students with real-world project management and consulting experience.

The CIPA Capstone is an in-depth, semester-long program designed for second-year students. As participants in this program, students engage in rigorous consultancy projects for domestic and international clients. For each Capstone project, students form consulting teams that propose relevant and actionable solutions to well-defined policy or management problems posed by their client. The Capstone projects are multidisciplinary and experiential in nature, and students have the opportunity to learn from each other and from resources across the University, as well as from CIPA’s contacts in the field. During the program, students learn about managing projects and undertaking policy analysis within the constraints of various political environments and organizations. They also gain professional and public service experience and learn how to manage a team project. The Capstone course fulfills the professional writing/analysis requirement of the MPA degree at Cornell.

The CIPA Public Service Exchange is designed as a service-learning partnership. Students engage with a wide variety of government and nonprofit client-organizations to work on pro bono consulting projects. As with the Capstone projects, Public Service Exchange clients may be locally, nationally, or internationally-based. Students gain valuable, hands-on experience while partnering with these real-world clients to mitigate or solve agreed-upon public policy or management problems. Many of these partner agencies and non-profit organizations offer internships or ongoing consulting opportunities to students growing out of the coursework, and a number of students volunteer for work with these organizations after the coursework ends. This program is open to both first and second-year students.

Both of these courses are energetic, challenging, and transformative, offering students the opportunity to grow personally and professionally while making a real-world difference.

“The Public Service Exchange course was fantastic. It greatly expanded my understanding and expertise in the field of consulting. I was given an immense amount of responsibility and freedom to handle real-world problems with actual clients, and was provided with the resources I needed to be successful. As a result, my interpersonal and leadership skills grew stronger, as did my creativity.”

— Jonathan Saltman, student consultant for Cornell United Way

“Capstone did exactly what its name suggests. It allowed me to draw upon many of the skills and much of the knowledge I had gathered elsewhere in my graduate experience and turn it into a single professional product. The ‘real-world’ nature of the class can also provide valuable insight into your professional interests. Capstone gave me a specific career direction to pursue that guided my job search efforts.”

— Henry McCaslin, student consultant for Ithaca City Planning Department

Laurie Miller, CIPA, MPA, Service Learning Coordinator and CIPA Instructor, can answer your questions and talk with you about the MPA program. Potential clients who wish to propose a project can reach her directly:

E-mail: ljm44@cornell.edu
Phone: 607-255-4858

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Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

In spring 2012, the EPA asked CIPA Fellows to conduct research on its Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) program. The TRI program maintains a database with information on the disposal and releases of over 650 toxic chemicals by thousands of U.S. facilities. One of the primary purposes of the TRI program is to inform communities about toxic releases to the environment.

CIPA Fellows examined the uses of TRI data by the EPA and potential stakeholders, including how the information is being used by communities in Ithaca, Syracuse, and Binghamton, as well as its effectiveness. Fellows presented recommendations on ways to increase community awareness and use of environmental information through education and outreach in a workshop at the EPA's National TRI Training Conference in Washington DC, April 12, 2012.

Higher School of Economics
Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

In the fall of 2012 and spring of 2013, student teams carried out research and made recommendations for this highly ranked Russian university.

In 2012, consulting work focused on program development addressing barriers to accessing higher education; student philanthropy and organizations; service learning and courses similar to CIPA’s consulting courses; internationalization of higher education; and ranking, branding and marketing. In 2013, student consultants assisted faculty and administrators with the continued development of student organizations and their philanthropic and service learning orientations. Consultants also collaborated with students and faculty on an economic development project for Vyksa, a mono-city near the School’s campus in Nizhny Novgorod.
In the spring of 2012, Fellows in the CIPA Capstone course worked with the Pader Girls Academy (PGA) in post-conflict northern Uganda. PGA was founded in 2002 by the Christian Counseling Fellowship as a reception center for girls who had escaped from or were rescued from captivity by the Lord’s Resistance Army. Under the leadership of its director, Alice Achan, and with funding from international donors, PGA was later transformed into a secondary boarding school that fills a major void in service to girls affected by conflict. It is currently the only school in northern Uganda where girls who are pregnant or have children can be educated. CIPA Capstone students worked on strategic planning and grant writing in targeted program areas in support of the client’s sustainability and expansion goals. The focus for the semester included the following areas:

- Strategic planning—including sustainability, staffing, fundraising and budget modeling
- Developing programs like reproductive health education, agricultural development and education; library development and computer studies; and early childhood education
- Grant writing in each of the program areas
- Developing an annual report

The Public Service Exchange (PSE) assists with a wide variety of domestic and international non-profit and government organizations with timely research and recommendations. The projects on the following pages highlight work by CIPA student consultants in the PSE course in Spring 2013.

**Tompkins County Administration**

Students assisted with the establishment of an organization-wide performance measurement system to enhance communication between managers, supervisors, government officials, and elected representatives about the impact of County programs and services.

**City Science Outdoor Exploration & Learning**

Student consultants assisted with the proposal of actionable solutions to help capture, maintain, and communicate program evaluation data.

**Tompkins County Community Foundation**

A two-person student team assisted with project development and fundraising recommendations to improve socio-economics in the county through strengthened networks and trust among community members, i.e. "social capital."

**Cornell United Way**

Student consultants worked on the analysis of current giving trends among University faculty and staff and created marketing and communication strategies to help improve participation (accounting for 40% of the total Tompkins County United Way campaign).
A student consulting team worked with IADB to carry out in-depth analysis of country-level survey data to inform the Bank, SM2015 donors, and governments for decision making and policy change around healthcare in Latin America.

Inoma Educational Products of Coyoacán, Mexico

Student consultants assisted with the development of business strategy recommendations for increasing and improving outreach, marketing, and funding sustainably for this NGO that identifies and develops tools and mechanisms to improve basic education in Mexico and abroad.

Lake Placid – North Elba Community Development Board, NY

Student consultants worked on GIS mapping and a set of recommendations for the Community’s Comprehensive Plan that will promote and enhance the quality of life of the town of North Elba and community of Lake Placid.

Madison County Agricultural Economic Development, NY

Student consultants assisted with the development of a 5-year Strategic Direction Plan, Comprehensive Development Plan, and compilation of external resources and models for improved marketing and communication.

St. Paul Catholic University Development Studies Center Arequipa, Peru

A small CIPA student consulting team helped plan for a future Development Studies Center to be housed at the University by researching and recommending funding, administrative, research, and programming models.

YMCA Wilderness Area Project Ithaca, NY

An energetic four-person student consulting team assisted with planning and creation of an outdoor adventure area and programming to help teach youth about environmental sustainability and health issues through outdoor activities.

“Working with CIPA adds great energy, integrity, skill, and excitement to projects which we could not do otherwise. The students are resourceful, self-directed, positive, entrepreneurial, and always exceed my expectations….CIPA students help us reach greater levels of achievement in our work.” — George Ferrari, Executive Director, Community Foundation of Tompkins County

“In a time of limited resources for local governments, students in the CIPA consulting course have offered Tompkins County a unique opportunity to acquire quality consulting and analysis at no cost. They’ve met with department directors and managers to discuss programs, develop measures, collect and analyze data, and create reporting tools. Without their help, the Performance Measurement Program would not be where it is today.” — Kevin Sutherland, Executive Assistant, Tompkins County Administration
EXPERIENCE YOUR MPA AT CORNELL

For more on CIPA’s Public Engagement, visit: www.cipa.cornell.edu/engagement
For more on Cornell’s Engaged Learning+Research, visit: www.elr.cornell.edu
For more on individual consulting projects, visit: www.cornellglobalsolutions.com

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