



Lowcountry Graduate Center
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lowcountry Graduate Center to Host

New Executive Master of Public Administration Degree

The Master of Public Administration program at the College of Charleston is pleased to announce the addition of an Executive format (EMPA). This new weekend, hybrid format is structured to better meet the needs of the Lowcountry's mid-career public service professionals who are working full-time in the local community. The in-person weekend sessions will meet on intermittent Saturdays at the [Lowcountry Graduate Center \(LGC\)](#) in North Charleston, with ease of access for Tri-County commuters to free parking, conference-like facilities with high technology classrooms, and ample space for networking and study groups.

The College of Charleston MPA program mission is to prepare public service leaders. Students will further develop their ability to think critically and creatively about public issues; their dedication and capacity to serve a diverse community; and their administrative and policy-related skills so that they can better serve their organizations. The program provides the academic rigor and applied, practical skills necessary for upward mobility in the public sector.

The EMPA launch expands access to the same high quality curriculum to those professionals unable to take classes during the week. Course content in the EMPA program is therefore identical to that in the MPA program taught to full-time students on the main campus downtown. The program has already graduated some of the area's most respected public and nonprofit socially-motivated leaders. "As a nonprofit professional and a CEO of a growing community focused organization, I believe this program is well-conceived and a direct outgrowth of professional demand," says

Michelle A. Mapp, CEO of the South Carolina Community Loan Fund and a 2006 graduate of the College of Charleston's MPA program.

Cohorts of up to 25 aspiring individuals will enter the EMPA program each fall and graduate together in just two years. Admission criteria will honor work experience and trade the internship requirement for an elective course. "A defining component of the Executive format is the opportunity to grow a network of public service-minded professionals all with valued areas of expertise. By moving through the program together as a cohort, the peer-to-peer learning fosters a sense of community, encourages collaboration, and stimulates creativity and innovation," explains College of Charleston Program Director and Professor, Judith L. Millesen, PhD, MPA.

Data from the Charleston Regional Development Alliance reports that the top ten public employers (civil, non-military) in the Charleston Metro Area employ 62% more people than the top ten private sector employers. The SC Department of Employment & Workforce indicates that jobs in health and social assistance are estimated to grow by 23% over the current decade through 2024. "Such an offering here is truly needed," states Dr. Millesen, adding that the newly launched EMPA by the College of Charleston is today the only Executive MPA program south of Washington, DC and one of only 32 nationwide. It is the highest ranking MPA program in the state and accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPPA). For more details and admissions information, visit: <http://puba.cofc.edu/>

About the Lowcountry Graduate Center

Funded annually by the State, the Lowcountry Graduate Center was created in 2001 as a consortium of the College of Charleston, The Citadel, and the Medical University of South Carolina. These founding institutions, along with the University of South Carolina and South Carolina State University, now offer a variety of graduate degrees and certificates at the Lowcountry Graduate Center. It is also the regional headquarters for the SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP), offering advanced training in principles of quality manufacturing and management. Conveniently located in North Charleston, the mission of the Lowcountry Graduate Center is to increase access to higher education by professionals in the workforce, support the region's employers, and boost economic development in the Lowcountry. For more information, visit <https://www.lowcountrygradcenter.org>

About the University of Charleston, South Carolina

Founded in 1970, The University of Charleston, South Carolina (UCSC) is the graduate school at the College of Charleston. With a mission to promote excellence in graduate education by connecting the campus to the Lowcountry as well as worldwide communities, students collaborate with professional specialists in the region, gaining real world experience in addition to a quality education from nationally-recognized

scholars. UCSC features 22 master's programs and nearly 10 graduate certificates in art, science, education, business and public administration, all of which provide opportunities for students to engage in innovative research projects that capitalize on the unique characteristics of the city. For more information about the University of Charleston, SC, visit <http://gradschool.cofc.edu/>

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