

Susannah Laleh Washburn

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Key Strengths

Teaching | Mentoring Students | Subject Matter Expert in Social Innovation, Leadership, National Service, and Youth Development Programs | Designing and Launching New Initiatives and Programs | Leading Teams | Navigating Complex Organizational Systems | Board Management | Project Management | Financial and Programmatic Oversight | Grant Review, Selection, and Management | Fundraising

Career Summary

Susannah is currently the Director of the College Park Scholars Public Leadership Program at the University of Maryland. Washburn currently teaches four undergraduate courses and has taught graduate courses at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. She enjoys helping her students gain greater self-awareness, learn to work in teams, develop their writing abilities, and use their talents for social change. Washburn speaks on national service, social entrepreneurship, and the nonprofit sector at conferences and events. Susannah is affiliated faculty and Senior Advisor with the new Do Good Institute at the School of Public Policy, leading key university partnerships and building strategic relationships. Prior to her current role, Susannah directed iGIVE, a living-learning program at the University of Maryland, teaching philanthropy, innovation, and social change.

Prior to teaching, Susannah spent 20 years helping social service organizations meet community needs through her work in nonprofits and state and federal government positions. After working for California Governor Pete Wilson, Susannah served in political appointments under both the Bush and Obama Administrations at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS, the \$1 billion+ federal agency that runs AmeriCorps). In 2010, she was appointed to be the Executive Director of the White House Council for Community Solutions. In this role, she helped create and launch a new presidential council focused on finding and scaling innovative approaches to youth workforce development. As a Senior Advisor at CNCS, Susannah promoted the Obama Administration's social innovation agenda which included evidence-based grant making and supporting community-led solutions to social problems. In this role, she worked with the White House and CNCS colleagues to design legislation, met with members of Congress to promote passage of the Serve America Act, and helped launch the new Social Innovation Fund, a grant program (\$50 million annually) designed to grow programs with demonstrated evidence of impact.

In the Bush Administration, Susannah was Chief of Staff at CNCS, helping shape the agency's agenda, including an increased emphasis on performance reporting and supporting community and faith-based organizations. In this role, Washburn led a board committee review of the agency's grant selection and management process and produced a report recommending major changes that were implemented. Susannah also led an ambitious rulemaking process culminating in new agency regulations on program evaluation, performance reporting, and grantee match requirements.

Professional Experience

University of Maryland, School of Public Policy, College Park, Maryland

Faculty Director, Minor in Nonprofit Leadership and Social Innovation, 2018 - present

Director, College Park Scholars Public Leadership Program and Clinical Associate Professor, 2017-present

Senior Advisor, Strategic Partnerships, Do Good Institute, 2016-present

Director, iGIVE, and Lecturer for graduate and undergraduate students, 2014-2017

American University, School of Public Affairs, Leadership Program, Washington, DC
Adjunct Professorial Lecturer, 2013–2014

The Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, DC
Senior Advisor, 2003–2010, 2011-2013
Chief of Staff, 2001-2003
Special Assistant to the CEO, 1999–2001
Program Officer, 1998–1999

The White House Council for Community Solutions, Washington, DC
Executive Director, 2010–2011

Academy for Educational Development, Washington, DC
Research Associate, 1997

Youth Service America, Washington, DC
Field Specialist, 1995-1996

California Executive Fellowship Program, Sacramento, CA
Sponsored by the Office of the Governor and the Center for California Studies
Placed at California Conservation Corps, Sacramento, CA
Executive Fellow, 1994-1995

APM Inc., New York, NY (management consulting firm)
Research Associate, 1993-1994

Teaching Experience:

University of Maryland, PLCY 309: *Internship in Political Institutions*
University of Maryland, PLCY 201: *Leadership for the Common Good*
University of Maryland, CPPL 101: *Public Leadership First-Year Colloquium II*
University of Maryland, CPPL 200: *Public Leadership - Applied Leadership Capstone I*
University of Maryland, CPPL 201: *Public Leadership - Applied Leadership Capstone II*
University of Maryland, PUAF 214: *Redefining and Experimenting with Philanthropy*
University of Maryland, PUAF 215: *Innovation and Social Change: Do Good Now*
University of Maryland, PUAF 790: *Project Course*
University of Maryland, PUAF 689Y: *Nonprofit Fundraising*
American University, GOVT/JLS 361: *Leadership Development Lab I (Co-taught)*
American University, GOVT/JLS 361: *Leadership Development Lab II (Co-taught)*
American University, GOVT 391: *Leadership Internship and Organizational Development*

Courses repeatedly earn high scores in confidential student evaluations; on the question “overall, the instructor was an effective teacher” and using a four point scale, aggregate scores for courses recently taught at UMD are: 3.8, 3.7, 3.6, 3.9, 3.6.

Select Public Presentations and Publications

Speaker, “Investments through Strategic Giving: Educational, Disciplinary and Institutional Outcomes.”
Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), Washington, DC,
November, 2016.

Speaker, "Leaders at Maryland, Pace, Penn, Texas A&M and Arizona State Discuss Innovations and High Impact Models of Nonprofit and Social Impact Education." Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA), Chicago, Illinois, November 2015.

Speaker, "Learning Through Impact: Lessons Across Sectors." NASPAA Conference, Brooklyn, New York, October 2015.

Speaker, "Concepts for Experiential Learning: Bringing the Inside Out and the Outside In." Ashoka U Exchange, University of Maryland, February 2015.

Speaker, "Public Policy Education and Social Innovation: Growing the Next Generation of Civic Entrepreneurs." Ashoka U Exchange, University of Maryland, February 2015.

Speaker, "The Kennedy Banquet, Celebrating a Legacy of Social Justice." American University, Washington, DC, April 2014.

Speaker, "Measuring the Social Innovation Fund Portfolio." Social Innovation Fund Grantee Conference, Washington DC, May, 2013.

Executive Director and Designated Federal Officer, Inaugural Meeting, White House Council for Community Solutions, Washington, DC, February, 2011.

Speaker, "The New Volunteer Workforce." Stanford University's Nonprofit Management Institute, Palo Alto, California, October 2009.

Speaker, "The New Volunteer Workforce." National Service Conference, San Francisco, California, June 2009.

Co-author, Stanford Social Innovation Review cover story, "The New Volunteer Workforce," Winter 2009

Speaker, "Understanding the Social Innovation Fund." George Mason's Accelerating Social Entrepreneurship Conference, Washington, DC, 2009.

Speaker, "Closing Plenary." George Mason's Accelerating Social Entrepreneurship Conference, Washington DC, 2009.

Speaker, "Understanding AmeriCorps." Meeting of the White House Council for Arts and Humanities. New York, New York, 2008.

Highlights of University Service

Representing the School of Public Policy at conferences and events

- Speaker at Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, 2016
- Speaker at Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, 2015
- Speaker at TIAA meetings for Texas philanthropists, 2015
- Speaker at NASPAA, 2015
- Moderator at NASPAA, 2015
- Speaker at ASHOKA, 2015

Representing the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland

- Professional Track Faculty Senator, 2016-present
- University Academic Procedures and Standards Committee, 2016-2017

Resource Development

- One of several designers and authors of the successful \$30 million proposal to create the Do Good Institute
- Developed partnerships with individual donors that led to \$125,000 in private gifts to support the Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership and Do Good Institute
- Developed a partnership with TIAA that led to:
 - an initial \$384,292 gift to create a new Nonprofit Fellowship Program – gift likely to be recurring
 - a paid summer associate position for School of Public Policy students in TIAA's Corporate Social Responsibility office
- Regularly meet with potential partners, stakeholders, and funders to build the network of support for School of Public Policy and the Do Good Institute
- Actively cultivate current and potential donors

Curriculum Development

- Faculty Director, Minor in Nonprofit Leadership and Social Innovation
- Chaired committee to develop a minor in Nonprofit Leadership and Social Innovation
- Working with faculty colleagues to develop the curriculum for the Nonprofit Specialization for the MPP program and the Nonprofit Leadership Focus for the new public policy major

Hiring

- Currently serving on faculty hiring committee for professional track faculty
- Chaired the committee to hire a new Lecturer/iGIVE Director
- Served on faculty hiring committee for Associate Professor
- Served on hiring committees for various staff positions for SPP
- Chaired hiring committee for Program Coordinator for Center for Philanthropy (now Do Good Institute)

Supporting Students

- Actively coach and mentor undergraduate and graduate students in career development
- Use professional network to connect students to excellent internships and jobs including positions at the White House, two congressional committees, several federal agencies, the Baltimore Budget Office, TIAA, area foundations, consulting firms, and nonprofits

Awards

Most Engaging in Classroom, College Park Scholars, 2018

Chief Executive Officer's Award, Corporation for National and Community Service, 2010

Merit Scholarship, Georgetown University, 1997-1998

Graduate Fellowship, Georgetown University, 1997-1998

Director's Award of Excellence, California Conservation Corps, 1994-1995

Certificate in International Relations, Wesleyan University's award for highest achievement in an interdisciplinary program of history, language, government, and economics, 1993

Select Examples of Sustained Community Service

Board Member, **George Mason Center for Social Entrepreneurship**, Arlington, VA 2011–2016
Teacher, Junior Achievement, **Stratford Landing Elementary**, Alexandria, VA, 2012
Math Tutor, **Bancroft Elementary**, Washington DC, 2009–2011
Board Member, **Social Services Advisory Board**, Alexandria, VA, 2001-2003
Tutor, **DC Reads**, Washington, DC, 1999–2008
Mentor, **Hine Junior High School**, Washington, DC, 1996-1998
College Counselor, **Washington College Information Center**, Washington, DC, 1996-1998
Team Leader and Site Coordinator, **Hands On DC**, Washington, DC, 1995-1997
Project Coordinator, **Livingston Manor Playground Project**, Washington, DC, fall 1995
Tutor, **SMART Kids Literacy Program**, Sacramento, CA, 1994-1995
Tutor, **Cross Street Tutorial**, Wesleyan University, 1992-1993
Project Coordinator, **Shepherd Home**, Middletown, CT, 1990-1991
Volunteer, **St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen**, Middletown, CT, 1990-1991

Education

Georgetown University, Public Policy Institute, Washington, DC

Master's in Public Policy, 1998
Editor, Book Review, *Georgetown Public Policy Review*
Graduate Fellow, Government Department
Teaching Assistant, Government Department

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Bachelor of Arts in Government, *magna cum laude*, 1993
Teaching Assistant, International Relations

Council for International Educational Exchange, Malang, Indonesia

Sponsored by Georgetown University, Cornell University, and the University of Illinois

Studied Indonesia's language, history, society, economy, and political structure, 1991
Analyzed Indonesia's national family planning program

Additional Information

Born in Tehran, Iran, United States citizen
Lived for three years (1982-1985) in Jakarta, Indonesia
Avid volunteer
Outdoor enthusiast