



Welcome to the 22nd Annual American Society of Public Administrators GA (ASPA GA) Chapter Statewide Conference 2021 hosted by Savannah State University. On behalf of the members and leadership of the ASPA GA Chapter, we would like to personally welcome each of you to the 2day Statewide Annual Academic Conference. The Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration has been in existence for forty-eight (48) years, chartered in 1965 and is dedicated to advancing the art, science, teaching and practice of public and non-profit administration.

students as we continue to grow our membership, exercise administrative responsibility, accountability, flexibility, and responsiveness to the needs of the public we serve. This year's conference theme is timely: "*A Salute to Public Service: People, Policies, and Programs Making a Difference*," a call to action for public service leaders to embody and exemplify the four core values espoused by ASPA; accountability and performance, professionalism, ethics, and social equity in our service to the profession and to the citizenry. The era of challenge and change creates an opportunity for innovation, collaboration, and the identification of best practices to address the most pressing issues in the field. Concomitantly, this is an exciting era in which to develop as a student in the field, grow as a professional, and study as a scholar in the field of public administration.

Finally, our ability to host a two-day statewide conference was no small feat. We would like to thank the ASPA GA Executive Board, Executive Council, and Savannah State University and Southern University and A & M College who helped to make this conference a success. Additionally, we would like to thank Clayton County for providing the virtual platform and sponsoring institutions who purchased ads in our Conference program booklet, volunteers and our panel and plenary speakers. Thank you! Lastly, we would like to thank all the members of ASPA GA and the conference presenters who are the foundation of this conference. We are privileged to serve you as President and Program Chair of ASPA GA and we look forward to our continued connections as we journey to reach new heights.

Best,

Kristie Roberts-Lewis, Ph.D.
President, ASPA GA

Otilia Iancu, Ph.D.
2021 ASPA GA Conference Chair