

Introduction to the Indiana ASPA Symposium

We were pleased to serve as co-editors for this special issue of the *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs* sponsored by the Indiana Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and featuring research by Indiana scholars. The articles selected for this issue represent a variety of topics which are examined using both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Our goal was to compile an issue that will be of interest to both academics and practitioners in public and nonprofit affairs.

Included in this issue is Bruce McDonald's article on "dirty" forecasting, a strategy involving the inclusion of non-traditional indicators to increase the accuracy of government revenue forecasts. The article includes a demonstration of the utility of dirty forecasting using a case study of the city of Seattle, Washington. Using data on Facebook posts by youth development organizations, Julia Carboni and Sarah Maxwell examine how nonprofit organizations can more effectively use social media to engage stakeholders. Justin Ross and Gyeoreh Lee present an argument for land-only taxation as a way to encourage economic growth and help local governments grow their way out of budget shortfalls resulting from Indiana's newly imposed system of property tax caps. JoAnna Mitchell-Brown provides a detailed case study of Indiana's "Stellar Communities" program, a recently implemented program intended to revitalize selected rural communities and involving state and local governments and private partnerships. Finally, Aaron Dusso and Sheila Suess Kennedy's contribution delves into the question of how people form and change their political beliefs by examining concepts of motivated reasoning and political sophistication.

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