

## First-Year Student's Perceptions



Reginald Parson

In my first semester in the Master of Public Administration Program at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, I have had a great opportunity to learn from peers who are currently in the field. In my MPA 752 Budgeting class, I have the opportunity to learn from the Assistant City Manager of Oshkosh, a student who works for the Department of Veteran Affairs, U.S Senator Ron Johnson and another student who has worked in the federal government. There are other students who work in the non-profit sector and healthcare organizations.

Was I anxious at first when I learned of my peers experiences? The answer is yes. I graduated from Marian University less than 20 miles down the road. I recently completed two internships in the Illinois Governor Pat Quinn's office and the Illinois State Police in the summer of 2013. My experiences compared to theirs made me feel like I could not speak at their level but those thoughts were all in my head and were not true. My peers were more than happy to speak with me and actually they were amazed

about my experiences in Illinois and how I tied it into our discussions. At the end of my first course when I asked the student who works for the VA how to understand the federal budget in her agency, she was more than happy to look over the federal budget in her agency with me.

For those who work five days a week, and have responsibilities at home, the MPA program will fit right into your busy lives. Classes are only held on selective Saturdays from 9am until 4pm which I found to be great because of my involvement on campus and work.

The faculty in the MPA department are experts in their respective fields (4 faculty); they want to know you as a student and a person and will not let you fail or feel lost about any topic related to class etc.

If you are on the fence about graduate school, I hope my experiences will inspire you to no longer have doubts about this great program. Regardless if you are 22 or 60 years old, this program is diverse in age and experience. Believe me, at 22 years old I am fortunate to be surrounded by a wealth of knowledge and experience. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [parsor20@uwosh.edu](mailto:parsor20@uwosh.edu) I look forward to hearing your thoughts and speaking with you.

Sincerely,

Reginald Parson, B.S.

MPA Graduate Assistant