

THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

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Who?

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

What?

2017 Annual Conference

When?

Sunday, October 22 through
Tuesday, October 24

Where?

The Penn Stater Hotel and
Conference Center

Why?

Skills building, networking, top-notch education, new and improved products and services on display, new ideas, reconnecting with fellow planners, planning officials and students...and it's in State College

APA-PA 2017 *annual conference*



**Experience.
Adapt.
Innovate.**

Our 2017 Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work meeting, talking and planning to ensure that this year's **Annual Conference** will exceed everyone's expectations.

Plans include **four** exciting **mobile** workshops including:

- Rural Placemaking through the Arts
- The Slab Cabin Run Initiative: A Landscape Level Approach to Source Water Protection, Stream Restoration and Ag Land Preservation
- Converging Waters: Challenges of Migrating Towards an Integrated Water Resources Management Model
- Sustainability Tour of Penn State

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2017 Annual Conference October 22 – October 24 State College, PA



SPUD MARSHALL



The Planning Committee was very fortunate in that there was a plethora of submissions to the Call for Presentations. Currently there are more than 40 concurrent sessions plus three plenaries. As always CM credits will be available for most sessions.

You can expect to find sessions on current environmental and conservation issues, revitalization, transportation, community and economic development, local governance, changing demographics, hot topics, and more. Again this year is a session of fast, fun, fervent presentations.

Monday morning will kick-off with a presentation by **Spud Marshall**. Spud is an avid connector and social entrepreneur dedicated to cultivating changemaker communities and innovation ecosystems around the world. He is the CEO and Chief Catalyst for the co.space: residential intentional communities for young changemakers aged 18-30. Under his leadership, AshokaU has listed the co.space as one of the top disruptive innovations to emerge in higher education. Spud also founded New Leaf Initiative, a community innovation hub in State College, PA that catalyzes connections between the university, local government and community members.

In addition to his work at the co.space, Spud leads Barefoot Consulting where he provides strategic support to foundations, communities, universities, and organizations interested in building innovation economies and training emerging leaders and social entrepreneurs. Through this role, he serves as the Student Engagement Director for the Sullivan Foundation, where he designs and develops programs, retreats, and scholarship opportunities for students at 70+ universities around the American Southeast. He has served as a facilitator, coach and consultant for emerging social innovations and has advised groups such as Penn State University, Teach for America, Johnson & Johnson, and The Natural Step.

He has been listed by Mobilize.org as one of the top millennial civic leaders in the country, and has been featured as one of the top green entrepreneurs in the world by Peace Child International. Spud is known for launching various social change initiatives around the country; such as Educate 20/20, a cross-country road trip documentary

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to spotlight innovations in education. Spud holds an MS in Strategic Sustainability Leadership from Blekinge Institute of Technology, an Honors degree in Mechanical Engineering from Penn State University, and currently resides in State College, PA. To view his most recent projects and ventures, please visit www.iamspud.com.

Monday's Pitkin lecture features **Robert Kanigel**. After college, Robert held three engineering jobs before becoming a freelance writer. During late 1969, he lived in Paris and traveled in Europe, then came back to Baltimore early the following year. Robert was 23. One day, walking along 25th Street, he passed the offices of an underground newspaper named *Harry*. He went in and talked to the editor about some ideas he had about those tumultuous times. With the editor's encouragement, he wrote three essays, none of them good, but all were published. On the strength of this experience, Robert decided he wanted to be a writer.

Robert wrote magazine articles, essays, and reviews, hundreds of them. His articles appeared in magazines including the *John Hopkins Magazine*, *Baltimore Sun*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Wilson Quarterly*, *Change*, *American Health*, *Psychology Today*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Science 85*, *The Sciences*, *Mosaic*, *Longevity*, *National Observer*, and *Human Behavior*. But once he started writing books in the 1980s, he couldn't get enough of them. In Robert's words, they were "*big, meaty projects that took me into new intellectual, geographic, and human worlds and demanded my best energies for the three or four years it took to research and write them.*"

He has written many books, sometimes on quirky topics like leather and its inspired imitators. Other books have explored love and friendship, the French Riviera, mentor relationships among elite scientists, and people, such as Frederick Winslow Taylor, the first efficiency expert, and the Indian mathematician Ramanujan. **Robert's latest book, published in 2016, is a biography of Jane Jacobs, the fearless activist, author and champion of big-city life. It's entitled *EYES ON THE STREET: The Life of Jane Jacobs*.**

Also in the 1980s, Robert began teaching. He taught writing classes, first in the evening school of Johns Hopkins University, then in the University of Baltimore's Yale Gordon College of Liberal Arts. In 1999, he accepted a position as professor of science writing at MIT. There, he helped start its Graduate Program in Science Writing and served as director for seven years.

After twelve years as a professor at MIT, Robert retired from teaching. He returned in 2011 to Baltimore where he's spent most of his adult life and where he's back to writing full-time. ♦

Check out our website for information on becoming a sponsor, exhibitor or advertiser! Choose the marketing opportunity that best suits your needs. <https://planningpa.org/events-training/annual-conference/sponsors-exhibitors-advertisers/>

PHOTO CREDIT MICHAEL LIONSTAR



ROBERT KANIGEL



It wouldn't be an APA-PA Chapter event without time for networking and camaraderie! Join us at the **American Philatelic Center at the Historic Match Factory** for an evening through history as attendees learn about stamp collecting. Attendees can also check out the former Headsville, West Virginia post office and general store on loan from the Smithsonian Museum of American History. This historic treasure served as a post office for Headsville from 1860 to 1914 and a contract post office at the Smithsonian from 1971-2006.

Plans are also being made for Monday night. Following the reception with the exhibitors, stay tuned for more.



AMERICAN PHILATELIC CENTER



INSIDER

A Message from President **James Cowhey, AICP**

In early May I attended the APA Leadership Plenary Meeting and the Chapter Presidents Council meetings. These meetings were held on the two days preceding the start of the National Planning Conference which was convened in New York City this year. The leadership plenary includes the APA Board of Directors, senior staff, and the various leadership committees such as the Chapter Presidents Council and the AICP Commission. The presidents of the forty-seven APA chapters form the CPC which advises the board of directors and shares information and views on matters of common concern to the chapters.

APA Board of Directors and senior staff **have pledged to remain dedicated to the enhancement of membership services.** The **APA website** will continue to be improved as the main content delivery platform for the association. This includes the rollout later this year of a new **“learning management system” designed to expand delivery of content.** Jim Drinan, APA Executive Director, told the assembly that APA will continuously be on the lookout for ways to better member services while containing or lowering costs to members. APA is also piloting a chapter website development service which will assist chapters in improving their delivery of information to members and the general public.

In my opinion the APA website really has continued to improve as the primary communication outlet for members of the association. If you haven't already done so, please click around at www.planning.org. In particular, **I recommend viewing Peter Leyden's opening address at this year's conference titled *The Reinvention of America*.** It was a refreshingly optimistic outlook about our future.

Please enjoy this issue of *Vantage Point* for more chapter news. Have a great summer! ♦



It's a boy! Congratulations to **Leah Eppinger, AICP, PA** of APA Secretary and Central Section member, and husband Kerry on their new baby boy, **Owen James**. Leah reported that stork brought Owen a bit earlier than planned on April 10, 2017, at 1:17 a.m. Owen weighed in at 6lbs 9oz and 18 inches long.



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Contact information is available at www.planningpa.org under "About Us"

Governor Wolf Recognizes Recipients of 2017 Governor's Awards for Local Government *Excellence*



On April 12, Governor Tom Wolf recognized municipalities and local government officials for their dedication and commitment to strengthen their communities and better serve their residents.

“It is my privilege to recognize these awardees who contribute to Government that Works,” Governor Wolf stated. “These individuals and groups provide opportunities to collaborate by sharing best practices and thereby improving communities across the state.”

Ten government officials and eleven communities from across the commonwealth received awards as part of the 21st Annual Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence.

The following local government officials were recognized for their dedication to public service and their communities:

- Mr. John “Jay” Wilkes, Jr., Supervisor, Jackson Township, Luzerne County (*PA State Association of Township Supervisors*)

- Mr. Jack Lawver, Immediate Past President, Brownsville Borough, Fayette County (*PA State Association of Boroughs*)
- The Honorable John Dindak, Mayor, West Homestead Borough, Allegheny County (*PA State Association of Boroughs*)
- Mr. Anthony Taliani, President Commissioner, East Deer Township, Allegheny County (*PA State Association of Township Commissioners*)
- The Honorable William Peduto, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County (*PA Municipal League*)
- Mr. Richard Marcinkevage, City Manager, City of Lock Haven, Clinton County (*PA Municipal League*)
- Mr. Joe Kantz, Commissioner, Snyder County (*County Commissioners Association of PA*)
- Ms. Mary Louise Trunzo, Past President, Loyalhanna Township, Westmoreland County (*PA Association of Councils of Governments*)
- **Mr. Brian N. O’Leary**, Executive Director, Chester County Planning Commission, Chester County (*PA Chapter of American Planning Association*)
- Ms. Anna Miller, Vice Chair, Horsham Water & Sewer Authority, Horsham Township, Montgomery County (*PA Municipal Authorities Association*)

The following municipalities, organizations, and counties were recognized:

Building Community Partnerships:
Demonstrating success in fostering

partnerships between both public and private stakeholders within the community.

Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County

Upper Allen Township completed a project with a private developer, resolving a serious storm water flooding issue that impacted both Mechanicsburg Borough and the Mechanicsburg Area School District. A new storm water system was designed and built to carry storm water away from several flood prone areas, which, as a result, no longer flood during heavy storm events.

Kennett Township/Chester County

Kennett Township purchased a 45-acre property in the township to create the first-ever 46-acre passive recreation park and two dog parks with mowed perimeter and internal trails, community gardens, a children’s play area, a variety of meadows, and an orchard. The creation of this park addressed the community’s desire for dog parks, trails, community garden plots, and meadows for all to enjoy.

Promoting Community/Economic Revitalization:

Direct involvement in efforts that revitalize a designated residential, commercial, and/or industrial area or property, and/or alleviates blight and deterioration and returns properties to their most productive use.

Geistown Borough, Cambria County

Geistown Borough leadership created a volunteer committee to collect, organize, and electronically present municipal/county/state regulations/ordinances/laws, municipal points of contact, and county assets in a “one-stop shopping” opportunity for business professionals. This volunteer project met the number one grievance expressed by local businesspeople on how to deal with the complexity of developing businesses within and across a multi-level tier of governments, and

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was recognized as a success by both local governments and the business community.

**Castle Shannon Borough/
Allegheny County**

The Borough of Castle Shannon developed and acted upon a defined community development/revitalization strategy designed to capitalize on existing community strengths while simultaneously promoting new development initiatives. Castle Shannon has re-emerged as a destination point in the South Hills and continues to focus its revitalization initiatives developed through a strong and engaged public/private partnership.

**Innovative Community/
Governmental Initiatives:** *Instituted an innovative approach to carry out community/governmental functions that resulted in cost savings, increased productivity, improved risk management, and/or overall service delivery efficiencies/economies of scale.*

Dauphin County

The Dauphin County infrastructure project combined several sources of funding, each of which would have been inadequate to meet the infrastructure need alone. The project accomplished so much more for the county's residents than the funding sources could have done individually, and simplified the complex task of project delivery by managing the design and construction of infrastructure for local governments lacking the necessary experience. Other Pennsylvania counties are looking to replicate what Dauphin County has done due to its success.

Fiscal Accountability and Best Management Practices: *Instituted a process, policy, and/or procedure that*

enhanced its fiscal accountability and utilization of resources and assets, and which can serve as a model for other local governments to use as a best management practice.

**Worcester Township/
Montgomery County**

The Township of Worcester created an initiative that employs more words than numbers when it comes to their budget. Every budget category includes an easy-to-understand narrative explaining key receipts and expenditures and is easily understandable by residents. The budget is fiscally responsible, and a best management practice that would be beneficial for every municipality in the commonwealth to use.

Intergovernmental Cooperation: *Engaged in an intergovernmental cooperative agreement/arrangement in which the service, function, and/or activity involves two or more governmental units.*

**Sykesville Borough/
Jefferson County**

The Borough of Sykesville has elevated the overall quality of the water in the borough to the highest level. The borough is a water customer and a water provider within the surrounding portion of neighboring townships (Winslow Township/Jefferson County and Brady and Sandy townships/Clearfield County). The community is the beneficiary of the commonwealth's leadership in water quality through PENNVEST. The entire area has grown and prospered given the stable and safe addition of unlimited quantities of potable water.

**Middletown Township/
Bucks County**

Middletown Township brought together 37 municipalities (across Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and

Delaware counties) to perform a large-scale streetlight upgrade. Based on the guaranteed scope and savings of each, these 37 municipalities working together will achieve annual reductions of over 10,000 megawatt hours, 5,400 metric tons of CO2 emissions, and \$900,000 in energy and operational costs.

Danville Borough/Montour County

Danville Borough, working closely with the Town of Bloomsburg, established an intergovernmental agreement for recycling services. The proposal for recycling services provided to Danville by Bloomsburg allowed the borough to continue to provide uninterrupted recycling services with no lag time to rebid and no increase in cost since its inception in 2015.

Health and Wellness Initiatives: Direct involvement in efforts to provide health and wellness benefits to a community.

**East Goshen Township/
Chester County**

East Goshen Township created the Fit and Fun in the Park initiative, a partnership of like-minded individuals, community organizations, elected officials, and municipal staff with the goal of improving the health and wellness of township residents. It was driven by a strong social media presence and is a sustainable endeavor that will continue to grow over the years as the entire East Goshen community moves towards increased health and wellness.

DCED's Center for Local Government Services sponsors Local Government Day annually to honor local governments and officials who serve their communities and improve their quality of life. ♦

PDO *corner*

by Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer

The AICP Candidate Pilot Program is a new initiative from APA that offers **qualified APA members the opportunity to start on the path to AICP certification earlier than the existing requirements.** The Candidate Program requires certain commitments (such as adhering to the Code of Ethics and obtaining CM credits) and standards (must be a student or graduate of a Planning Accreditation Board accredited program), while offering an earlier AICP testing option and, upon passing, use of the “AICP Candidate” designation on resumes and similar professional profiles. **The program will kick off in November 2017**, and APA will be adding information on its website as kick-off approaches, www.planning.org.

If you are searching for **CM credits**, our **website’s calendar of events is a great source** to check for upcoming events, **both in-person and online.** A reminder that a relatively **new source of CM credits is pro-bono work**, effective April 1, 2016. Credit for pro bono planning service is a component of the self-report option, which allows members to claim up to eight credits per reporting period. One credit can be claimed for each hour of eligible pro bono planning service. In order to claim credits for pro bono service, members must watch a web-based tutorial and complete a self-reporting form to document what they learned. Serving on APA/AICP boards, committees and divisions at the national, chapter, and section level, including service to advance members’ professional development, are some examples of qualified pro bono planning service. More information is available on the APA website.

Many thanks to the presenters at this year’s **AICP exam prep session**, which was held earlier this year and focused on the changes that APA has made to the content outline. **Alexis Williams, Rebecca Ross, Dave McFarland, and Lou Hufnagle** all took time from their weekend to help aspiring AICPs learn some of the information required to pass the exam. We offer a **shorter**

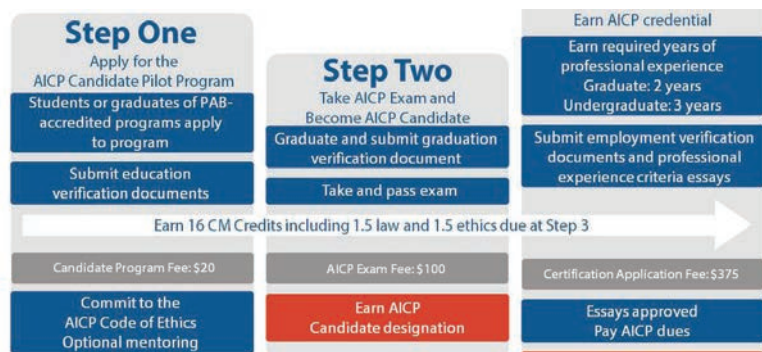
session at the fall conference, so if you plan to be in State College and are considering taking the AICP exam in the future, please join us for that session. We can discuss the takeaways from the first cycle of testing

on the revised content outline, and celebrate those who were successful in passing the exam during the May testing window – results to come in the near future! ♦

AICP Candidate Pilot Program

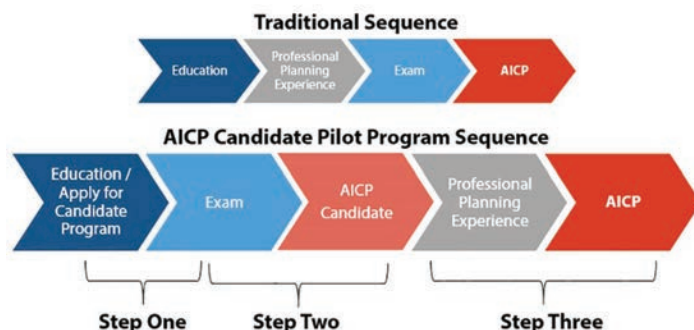
The AICP Candidate Pilot Program offers qualified APA members the opportunity to start on the path to certification by taking the AICP Certification Exam prior to earning professional planning experience. The Pilot Program maintains certification requirements, but changes their sequence. Direct questions to aicp@planning.org.

AICP Candidate Pilot Program Steps



Eligibility and Timeline

Beginning in November 2017, qualified students and graduates of PAB-accredited programs may apply to participate in the program. Once accepted, participants who have earned their degree may register for the next AICP exam. Beginning in December 2017, graduates of PAB-accredited programs may register to sit for the May 2018 AICP Certification Exam.



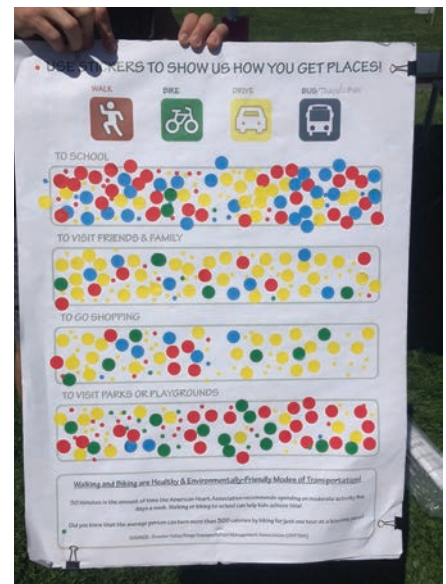
EarthFest 2017 – *Youth Engagement and Planning*



A warm, sunny, and windy day was the setting for **EarthFest 2017** on April 28 at Temple University’s Ambler Campus. EarthFest is an annual event promoting environmental awareness to elementary and middle school students from across the region. This year, **the Southeast Section (APA PA SE) partnered with Temple’s Student Planning Organization (TSPO) to host a combined booth focused on sustainability and planning.** Our volunteers engaged students in two planning activities – one related to **transportation** and the other **land use** – to give them a basic idea of what many planners do on a regular basis. The booth also had informational materials, including an APA brochure explaining “What Planners Do.”

The transportation-related activity had students placing stickers to indicate whether they walk, bike, drive, or take the bus to get to school, visit friends/family, visit park/playgrounds, and go shopping. The informal survey had over 150 responses, which we tallied to develop a table of trips by mode (see chart below). We compared the distribution to last year’s results and found the overall tally for each mode was within 3-5% of last year’s values, which provides some legitimacy to the exercise. However, we also heard from kids that they would have liked options for trains, subways, and carpooling – an item we will address for next year.

The second activity focused on land use and development. Using an enlarged aerial map of the Ambler



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



How do you travel.....	Walk	Bike	Drive	Bus
To School	35%	4%	34%	27%
To visit Friends/Family	18%	12%	60%	10%
To go Shopping	12%	10%	66%	12%
To visit Parks/Playgrounds	47%	22%	26%	5%



What would I plan for this lot and why?

Campus, students were shown where on the map they would be standing. Our volunteers then asked what kind of land uses they would consider adding to the immediate area. The most common uses kids identified were park space, sports fields, basketball courts, and a pool. Other less common

responses included a water park, grocery store, hospital, food shelters, homeless shelters, (free) ice cream places, and even a hotel.

Each year, Temple's Earthfest gives planners an opportunity to engage local students in a light-hearted,

yet meaningful dialogue about the important work we do every day. Thanks to the efforts of **Ashley Nuckles, Tim O'Leary, Kyle Hearing, Ted Mullen, and John Federico, APA PA SE** was able to stay involved with this great event.

Penn State Extension **LAND USE** *Webinar Series*

By Peter Wulfhorst, AICP

PENN STATE EXTENSION will be conducting their sixth Land Use Webinar series starting in July 2017 and continuing until November 2017. The webinars will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12 noon – 1:15 pm. Recordings of the webinars will also be made available to registrants.

The cost of the webinar series is \$40 for all 5 webinars, \$45 for CE credits for all 5 webinars for Registered Landscape Architects and \$75 for all 5 webinars for those who want to get CM credits for AICP as well as PDH for Professional Engineers.

Registration information can be found at <http://agsci.psu.edu/land-use-webinar> including complete topic descriptions.

Topics include:

- **Placemaking as an Economic Development Tool** – July 19, 2017
- **PennDOT Connects Aligning Transportation Planning** – August 16, 2017
- **Renewable Energy for Municipal Authorities** – September 20, 2017
- **Public Private Partnerships for municipal recreation** – October 18, 2017
- **TBD** – November 15, 2017

For registration information, please contact Extension Educator Peter Wulfhorst at 570-296-3400 or e-mail at ptw3@psu.edu



APA-PA Board *Elections*

The Executive Committee is pleased to present the slate for positions on the APA PA Board. Elections will take place in the fall, with the Board members taking office on January 1, 2018.

President – James Cowhey, AICP
Vice President – Amy McKinney
Secretary – Leah Eppinger, AICP
Treasurer – Justin Dula, AICP

Elections this year will be conducted by APA in the fall using this slate.

Our bylaws also give members that opportunity to petition for nomination. Should you wish to submit other candidates, please submit a petition of nomination for one or more positions signed by at least twenty-five Chapter members

and submitted to the Nominating Committee (petitions will be forwarded on your behalf by the Chapter office info@planningpa.org) not later than July 20. The names submitted on a petition of nomination shall be included on the official ballot, which will be sent by APA. ♦

The Bachelor of Science in Regional Planning at IUP receives reaccreditation

The Bachelor of Science in Regional Planning program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) was recently **reaccredited by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB)**, a national organization responsible for professional educational protocols at 77 North American universities comprising 72 master's programs and 16 bachelor's programs. The decision to reaccredit the B.S. in regional planning program was voted by PAB at its meeting which coincided with the 2016 Annual Conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning in Portland, Oregon. **Representing the IUP program were Program Director, Dr. Calvin Masilela and Dr. Sudeshna Ghosh.** The program is the only accredited undergraduate program in Pennsylvania, and was first accredited by PAB in 2012, and offers two concentrations – **Environmental planner and Land Use/Geographic Information Systems (GIS).**

The accreditation process is a comprehensive review that involves a program Self-Study and a Site Visit Team assigned by PAB to assess the program's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for growth and improvement. During its 2016 site review, the team noted that "the Regional Planning program fills an important niche within the region." The review also noted that "the

program has an exceptionally strong planning student organization (winners of the 2016 APA Outstanding PSO Awards at the national level), and the faculty appears good at bringing in outside funding while having strong relationships with neighboring agencies and organizations, allowing students to intern and work on projects within the region."

In addition, the site visit team review states that "the program has strong support from alumni, employers and Chapter APA members." According to Dr. Calvin Masilela, this strong endorsement "reflects the hard work and dedication of our faculty, the university and the support of our professional practicing planning community that has afforded us the opportunity to build a program that strives to be the best undergraduate program in the mid-Atlantic, as reflected in our draft strategic plan".

The Site Visit Team also made recommendations the program has embraced including the timely completion of the program Strategic Plan and some curriculum modifications designed to strengthen the content of concentrations. "Significant progress has already been made to address these issues," noted Dr. John Benhart Jr., Department Chair.

Located in the Department of Geography & Regional Planning in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, the Bachelor of Science in Regional Planning degree has been in existence since 1972. The program's mission is to provide opportunities for our students, planning professionals, and citizens of a diverse regional community to master fundamental and innovative planning principles.

The program trains students to become professional planners through a process that emphasizes conceptual knowledge, experiential learning, applied planning skills, and civic engagement. Planning students are also trained to take a comprehensive view, hear and speak for all citizens, reconcile controversy, and propose alternatives that can guide community decision making in allocating scarce resources to create better places to live.

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