Message from the Director

Greetings!

It’s an exciting time within the Key programs. With your support, we have continued to grow.

On April 2nd, we held another successful Leadership Forum, which yielded a 25% increase in attendance over last year. We had two dynamic speakers, Ken T. Venuto and Vicki A. Barber, who shared their knowledge and experience on the topic “How to Motivate a Sequestered Workforce”. If you were unable to attend, please visit the website, american.edu/spa/key, to review a summary and a few PowerPoint slides.

In addition to the Leadership Forum, we have several upcoming events—the Fourth Annual Key Executive Leadership Conference on May 15, 2013 and the Key Executive Leadership Speaker Series continuing throughout the year. The title of this year’s conference is “Positive Leadership for Extraordinary Performance,” which is based on the groundbreaking research in the fields of positive psychology and neuroscience. Hopefully you have secured a conference registration – similar to last year we’ve sold out the conference in record time. If you are unable to attend the conference, I encourage you to attend a speaker series session. Designed to further thought and discussion on matters relevant to leadership in the public sector, the Speaker Series provides an opportunity for students and alumni to hear from senior government leaders in an interactive and dynamic environment. These sessions will also soon be available on our website as well.

Similar to previous years, the Key Executive Leadership MPA Program is again headed to Brussels in July. During this exciting study abroad course students examine and compare the governance systems and structures of the United States and European Union. If you are interested in participating, we still have a few spaces available for Key MPA alumni. Fore more information, please contact Corrine Thompson-Melissari at corrinet@american.edu by May 31.

While we’ve accomplished a lot in the first few months of 2013, we have much more work ahead of us. Over the next few months, we will start approximately 10 new agency-sponsored cohorts and at least one international program. As always, I encourage you to send us students who desire to begin the path of extraordinary leadership. I also encourage you to get involved and remain engaged through the many alumni-related activities—serving as an Ambassador at information sessions, on the Alumni Advisory Board, on panel discussions, and as a guest speaker. Together we can become forces for personal and organizational change. Send an e-mail to key@american.edu to get engaged today!
Congratulations Key 43!
After two challenging and fun-filled years, Key 43 students will graduate on May 11, 2013.
From the entire Key Family... Congratulations!

The Key Programs Go Global

The vision of Key is expanding to become the global public sector leadership program of choice.

Towards this end, during the summer of 2012, Key conducted a certificate program for Vietnamese senior executives. The program was received to great success, and we are now exploring global opportunities primarily with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Nigeria, Israel, and South Africa.

To grow international efforts, Ruth Zaplin was appointed Director of International Programs. September 30-October 11, Key will host the “2013 GCC Annual Roundtable on e-Government Initiatives: Leading Strategic Change and Transition”.

The Roger W. Jones Award
The Award honors the contributions of career executives who carry out the work of government and improve the quality of life among the public at large. Nominations are now being accepted through April 26, 2013.

Alumni Spotlight: Barry Brown
Key 1/’77)

Key 1 alum Barry Brown may be retired from the Federal government, but he is still keeping busy. Currently Barry is the President and CEO of RACE Corporation, providing expertise in all matters relating to acquisitions and contracting. Prior to becoming a consultant, he held an SES-level position with the US Postal Service for nine years.

Since his retirement from Federal service, he has been able to spend more time on his favorite past times: karate and sport cars. After training for many years, and becoming a Master, Barry decided to open his own karate school, Browns Karate, in 2006 in northern Virginia. As a Master instructor, he enjoys working with students and teaching them Korean Tang Soo Do, a Korean style of karate.

When not teaching karate, he can be found racing sport cars with the Sports Car Club of America, Washington, DC region.

Do you have a recent update you would like to share with your fellow Key alumni? Or do you have an interesting or unique story to tell? Let us know by emailing key@american.edu, and you could be featured in our next newsletter and/or on our website.

LEADERSHIP FORUM

On April 2nd, the Key Executive Leadership Programs sponsored the Leadership Forum “How to Motivate a Sequestered Workforce” with Ken T. Venuto, Director, Office of Capital Management with the U.S. Department of Energy and Vicki A. Barber, Human Resource Director with the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

During the forum, over 50 attendees learned skills and techniques to address cutbacks and the rekindling of passion for public service.

If you missed this outstanding forum, please visit the website for a copy of the summary, http://bit.ly/1zjL0a. Also, stay tuned for our next Leadership Forum in October.
Fourth Annual Key Executive Leadership Conference

The Key Executive Leadership Programs proudly presents the Fourth Annual Key Executive Leadership Conference: “Positive Leadership for Extraordinary Performance” on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 from 8:00am-4:30pm.

This year's theme is based on the groundbreaking research in the fields of positive psychology and neuroscience. We know that if people are happy and excited about their work, perceive the work they do as meaningful, and perceive themselves as having high value, their motivation will be high.

2013 Key Executive Leadership Speaker Series

Created to extend thought and discussion on matters relevant to leadership in the public sector; the Key Executive Leadership Speaker Series provides an opportunity for Key Executive Leadership students and alumni to hear from senior government leaders in an interactive and dynamic environment.

MAY 18, 2013
Speaker: Clyde Horton
Topic: Diversity and Leadership

JULY 20, 2013
Speaker: Don Zauderer
Topic: Work Place Incivility

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013
Speaker: Carmine Medina
Topic: Innovation in the Public Sector

NOVEMBER 16, 2013
Speaker: Naomi Leventhal
Topic: Leading Effective Employee Performance

Key 36 Alum Selected as Chief of Police in Greenville, NC

On November 26, 2012 Greenville, North Carolina (NC) City Manager Barbara Lipscomb named Key MPA alumnus Hassan M. Aden (SPA/MPA ’09) as Greenville’s new Chief of Police.

“Deputy Chief Aden is a seasoned law enforcement professional who has experience handling all aspects of police operations,” said Ms. Lipscomb. “The entire interview panel and I were highly impressed with him. He is experienced in community-oriented, evidence-based policing which resulted in a tremendous turnaround in crime in his community."

“I am honored to have been appointed to serve the City of Greenville as its new Police Chief,” said Mr. Aden. “I am attracted to Greenville because of its innovative spirit and the priority it has placed on public safety and crime reduction.”

His appointment is the result of a nationwide recruitment process led by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). City Manager Lipscomb reviewed the IACP’s top 16 candidates and selected six to interview. The interview process consisted of an assessment center of several components including an interview with a panel consisting of police recruitment experts from the IACP, an interview with a local panel of Joe Bartlett, who recently retired as Greenville’s Interim Police Chief, ECU Police Chief Scott Shelton, District Attorney Clark Everett, and Ms. Leah Futrell, Interim Human Resources Director. The candidates also interviewed with City Manager Lipscomb. Mr. Aden was unanimously recommended by both panels and was Ms. Lipscomb’s top choice.

Hassan is a seasoned administrator with more than 25 years of experience with the Alexandria, VA Police Department, rising through the ranks to his current position of Deputy Chief of Police – Patrol Division. During his career he has also served as Police Captain over the largest police district in Alexandria, helping bring crime rates to a 43-year low, and Special Assistant to the Chief of Police, providing leadership on special police policy matters and strategic planning. He has extensive experience in internal investigations and police communications. In his current role over the Patrol Operation Bureau, he oversees more than 200 sworn and civilian employees for the city’s 148,000 residents and manages a budget of $22 million.

He earned his Key Executive Leadership Masters of Public Administration from American University in 2009, graduating with cohort Key 36, and is also a graduate of the Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program hosted by the Fairfax County, VA Police Department. Hassan was the first person to take advantage of the credit transfer option open to all Key Executive Leadership Certificate participants, transferring credits from his certificate program into the Key Executive Leadership MPA. Hassan also currently serves on the Key Alumni Advisory Board.

Outside of AU, he has completed studies through the Police Executive Research Forum’s Senior Management Institute for Police and the University of Richmond's Professional Executive Leadership School. He also has served as a Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Team Leader in assisting public safety agencies in achieving national and international accreditation status.

When asked about his time with Key, he said, “Every cohort member in my Certificate and MPA programs brought many years of valuable executive experience to the classroom-this is an incredible and often overlooked source of learning. Much of what I learned was immediately applicable and relevant to my work and made a positive impact in my leadership skills, performance and efficiency. The high caliber of people in the MPA Program was the best part of my experience.”
Key 37 Alum Appointed Director of Air Traffic Control Facilities with the FAA

Jodi S. McCarthy has been appointed the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Director of Air Traffic Control Facilities as part of the Air Traffic Organization’s (ATO) Technical Operations Unit. She had been acting director since 2010, and has been with FAA for 25 years.

Vice President of Technical Operations, Vaughn Turner, commented that “[Ms. McCarthy] has had a long career with the FAA, including multiple managerial positions, and did a great job as Acting Director.”

At FAA Headquarters, Ms. McCarthy first joined the ATO Headquarters team by managing air traffic controller hiring requirements for Terminal Services. In the field, she has served as an Air Traffic Manager at Montgomery Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT), an Assistant Air Traffic Manager and Operations Manager at Southern California Terminal Radar Approach Control Facility (TRACON), a Hub Manager at the Tucson TRACON, and an Air Traffic Controller at Chino ATCT, Ontario TRACON and Southern California TRACON.

Before joining the FAA in 1987, Ms. McCarthy was an Air Traffic Controller for the U.S. Air Force. She holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from American University’s Key Executive Leadership Program (SPA/MPA ’10), a Bachelor of Science Degree in Professional Aeronautics and Aviation Safety from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and is a graduate of the Office of Personnel Management Federal Executive Institute. Ms. McCarthy is an alumnus of Key 37, and her husband, Joseph McCarthy, is a recent graduate as well, graduating in December 2012 with Key 42.

Alumni Updates

Graduates of the Key Programs are doing exceptional things within the public sector. We are proud to share the following achievements:

We recently welcomed Alex Griffin (Key 36’09), and welcomed back Gina Nightengale (OPM 3’05) to the Key Alumni Advisory Board.

Lt. Col. Edwin C. Roessler Jr., a 2007 graduate of the Key Executive Leadership Program with Fairfax County Police Department, was recently named as Acting Chief of Police for Fairfax County, Virginia.

Doris J. Bautch (Key 17’93) was elected Alderperson, Ward 2 for the city of Whitehall, Wisconsin. She was appointed by the Mayor to Chair the City Council’s Property Committee and to serve on the Public Works and Parks & Recreation Committee.

Daniel Renz, a 2012 graduate of the AU/OPM Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program, was appointed to the Personnel Review Board of the City of Fayetteville by the Mayor and City Council of Fayetteville, North Carolina on March 25, 2013. This is a volunteer board that hears post-termination appeals of full-time city employees.

Maria Barra, Administrative Assistant
Upon graduating from SUNY Binghamton in 2007 with a BA in Political Science, Maria lived in Germany prior to relocating to Washington, DC. She started her career interning for various international nonprofit organizations. Maria joined the Key Family early March. Welcome Maria!

Chris Bavolack, Associate Director
Prior to moving to the DC metro area Chris spent the first 25 years of his career at universities—specifically in the field of alumni relations—and has since added local gigs in nonprofit marketing and management. He holds a BS in Journalism from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and an MBA from the University of Iowa. Chris joined the Key Family mid-December. Welcome Chris!

KeShonda Morris, Communications and Marketing Coordinator
KeShonda holds a BS in Business Marketing from Virginia State University. Prior to AU, she worked within higher education and the nonprofit sector. KeShonda joined the Key Family early January. Welcome KeShonda!