

THE ADMINISTRATOR

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MANESS HONORED FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Mayor Roy Maness of Troy was awarded the Honorary Alumnus Award from Appalachian State University's Chancellor Sheri Everts on Friday, September 30 at the Chancellor's Residence in Boone.

Maness was nominated by the Appalachian State University Local Government Alumni Association and many of its individual members. Members of the Association, MPA faculty, and many of the mayor's family was present for the award.

Maness "has selflessly provided many outstanding contributions to the Appalachian Community as an advisor and mentor to Appalachian State University students and as a fundraiser for university scholarships," according to comments read at the presentation.

For 37 straight years Maness has served as mayor of Troy. And while doing so, he has advised dozens of student interns and graduates of Appalachian State University. Over two decades ago, a program began that has led more than 50 students to the town of Troy for local



L-R: Michael Peoples, Ron Niland, Mayor Maness, Dr. Mark Bradbury, Megan Powell, and Greg Zephir.

government internships. Through a partnership with the University's Public Administration program, Maness has and continues to offer sage wisdom and extensive knowledge to enhance the hands-on experience these students receive.

"His interest went well beyond exposing interns to municipal government," said Grant Goings, Wilson

city manager. "He helped instill the values of public service and took a genuine interest in the lives of the young men and women who were fortunate enough to serve in Troy."

As a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Maness has been recognized as a person of exemplary service to this

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 NCCCMA Winter Seminar
Sheraton Research Triangle Park,
Durham
February 1-3, 2017

2017 NCCCMA Summer Seminar
Embassy Suites Concord Golf
Resort & Spa, Concord
June 21-24, 2017

ONE WAY TO FIND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR PUBLIC CHALLENGES

Let's say your jurisdiction wants to improve engagement with a more diverse group of residents—something you've never had to think about before. How would you figure out what to do?

The Arlington, Virginia, public library system was faced with just that challenge not long ago. During a county-sponsored leadership development program, they generated more than 50 ideas, resulting in the creation of a brand new program that targets millennials, and the library achieved its goal.

How did they do it? They used **design thinking**, a method that helped staff think outside the box. Design thinking is **solution focused** and **action oriented**. It draws on logic, imagination, and intuition to explore possibilities of what could be and to create desired outcomes.

Design thinking is the topic of the School of Government's first *Local Government Managers Innovation Lab*, to be held

at the UNC Friday Center in Chapel Hill on November 18. The day-long event will provide hands-on training in this new method that can be used to improve organizational effectiveness and get to the solutions needed.

Guest presenters will be Diane Kresch, director of the Arlington Public Library in Virginia and Chris Mumford, co-founder of Joe Startup Technologies, who also teaches innovation, design thinking, and entrepreneurship at the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. The lead School of Government faculty member is Associate Professor Kimberly Nelson.

For more information or to register for this event, visit www.sog.unc.edu/courses/local-government-managers-innovation-lab.

ASULGAA EARNS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

In April of this year, a special group of alumni working in local government was recognized with the Outstanding Alumni Award by the College of Arts and Sciences at Appalachian State University this year. On behalf of the ASU Local Government Alumni Association, Michael Peoples, then President of the Association, accepted this prestigious award.

The ASU Local Government Alumni Association was founded in 1991 so that alumni serving in local government management positions across the state could maintain personal and professional connections, and also as a means for alumni to give back to their alma mater and current students in a coordinated and consistent manner.

Most members of the Association serve in executive-level positions in local government in North Carolina, particularly as town, city, or county managers. Members of the ASULGAA are sometimes even referred to as the "App State

Mafia" - and these alumni are proud of it.

Celebrating its 25 year anniversary in 2016, these alumni have raised over \$750,000 for scholarships and other academic programs in support of students. Notably, the ASULGAA has raised enough funds to permanently endow nine (9) scholarships for students, with payouts that currently range from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year for each scholarship. The Association funds one additional \$1,000 scholarship for a student in the Department of Geography and Planning. All told, the Association has funded more than 150 scholarships for App State students.

The Association also pays the full registration for any student who wants to attend the winter conference of the NC City and County Management Association. In a typical year, 20 students are able to attend courtesy of the Association - this amounts to more than \$1,500 of direct support each year. As a result of this generosity, the

University has a notable amount of MPA students attending the conference.

In addition to the NCCCMA conference, the Association organizes its own conference each fall in Boone. Students are invited to attend free-of-charge, and thus participate in the same professional development sessions, panel discussions, and informal networking opportunities as do the alumni. This conference affords students an incomparable opportunity to interact with experienced professionals in both casual and more formal settings.

Association members also have a long history with hosting student interns at their organizations. Each year, a dozen or so undergraduate and graduate students gain significant professional experience while shadowing and working with one of these local government professionals. A conservative estimate

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would be that ASULGAA members have hosted more than 300 student interns since the organization's founding, and a sizable proportion of these internships have led directly to job offers for recent graduates.

For these reasons and more, the ASULGAA was a most worthy recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award.



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state, and service beyond the call of duty. The knowledge gained from his public service has been key to his ability to mentor student interns and recent graduates. Many of them now work in various governmental agencies across this state--some have even remained in the Town of Troy, working with Mayor Maness.

In 2006, the Mayor Roy Maness Local Government Endowed Scholarship was established by his friends and members of the Appalachian State University Local Government Alumni Association. The scholarship, created to honor Maness, has already supported nine

Appalachian students pursuing careers in Town Administration and City and County Management.

Amanda Reid, scholarship recipient and Appalachian alumna recalled being an intern under his guidance.

"During my time in the MPA program at Appalachian State, I not only was able to learn and grow from Mayor Maness but received the first scholarship awarded in his name. The scholarship continues to grow with contributions and donations coming from those fortunate enough to have our professional and personal lives enriched by Mayor

Maness."

The Honorable Wayne Goodwin, North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance, praised Maness as a man "who cares deeply about the students at Appalachian State and believes fully in the school's mission to educate and prepare its graduates to become the leaders of tomorrow.

"I also recognize him to be a wise and steady leader, able to work for the greater good through consensus and cooperation. His legacy will surely be found in the footprints of enlightened and determined leaders who will follow behind him."