

Thank You

The NIU Operating Staff Council would like to thank all the staff council and senate members who attended this conference.

Special thanks to the following

NIU President Lisa Freeman

Dr. Kurt Thurmaier

Molly Holmes

Katie Davison

Kristen Houch (SURS)

Linda Brookhart (SUAA)

NIU Steelpan Studio

Liam Teague

Reggie Thomas

Campus Dining Services

Holmes Student Center

NIU Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center.

Council of Councils Planning Committee

Angie Gutierrez-Vargas

John Hulseberg

Natasha Johnson

Cindy Kozumplik - co-chair

Jay Monteiro

Kathy Mosher - co-chair

Holly Nicholson

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Council of Councils

October 20, 2023

Advocating
for the
Collective Good



Northern Illinois University

History and Purpose

Welcome to the 23rd Council of Councils! We are so glad to have you with us today.

Council of Councils is an opportunity for civil service employee councils across the state to come together for important state legislation updates, professional development, and networking.

The idea originated from a 1996 meeting between representatives from NIU and Chicago State University (CSU) at Governors State University (GSU) at the invitation of GSU's civil service senate president LouElla Rozier. The group discussed the state of affairs in Illinois, working conditions at their universities, benefits offered to current and retired employees, and other important issues. The meeting was so beneficial they decided it should be extended to all senate and council members from the 12 state universities, which culminated in the first Council of Councils hosted by the NIU Operating Staff Council under the leadership of Andy Small.

Council of Councils Hosting Institutions

2022	State Universities Civil Service Advisory Committee
2020	Southern Illinois University Springfield School of Medicine
2019	University of Illinois at Chicago
2018	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2017	Northern Illinois University
2015	Illinois State University
2014	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
2013	Chicago State University
2012	Northeastern Illinois University
2011	University of Illinois at Chicago
2010	Governors State University
2009	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
2007	Chicago State University
2006	Southern Illinois University Springfield School of Medicine
2005	Eastern Illinois University
2004	Northern Illinois University
2003	Northeastern Illinois University
2002	University of Illinois at Chicago
2001	Western Illinois University
2000	Governors State University
1999	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
1997	Northern Illinois University

Schedule of Events - Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome Dr. Lisa Freeman President Northern Illinois University
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Speaker Dr. Kurt Thurmaier Presidential Engagement Professor Department of Public Administration Northern Illinois University
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Speaker Molly Holmes Director of Gender and Sexuality Resource Center Northern Illinois University
11:30 - 11:45 a.m.	State Universities Retirement System Presentation Kristen Houch Director of Legislative and Stakeholder Relations State Universities Retirement System
11:45 - 12:00 p.m.	State Universities Annuitants Association Presentation Linda Brookhart Executive Director State Universities Annuitants Association
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Music by the NIU Steelpan Studio
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Speaker Katie Davison Director of State Relations Northern Illinois University
2:00 - 2:15 p.m.	Break
2:15 - 3:00 p.m.	Campus Updates



Kurt M. Thurmaier is Distinguished Engagement Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Administration. He was elected a National Academy of Public Administration Fellow in 2018 and is a member of the Standing Panel on Intergovernmental Systems and the Africa Working Group.

He received his B.A. and M.P.P.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his Ph.D. from the Maxwell School, Syracuse University. He joined the NIU Public Administration faculty in 2006. His previous positions include assistant and associate professor positions at the University of Kansas (1990-2002) before becoming MPA director at Iowa State University (2002-2006). He has served as chair of the Department of Public Administration at NIU since 2009.

His research and teaching interests include budgetary decision making at the local and state levels in the U.S. and other countries, comparative public administration (especially fiscal decentralization) and intergovernmental relations (especially interlocal collaboration). His current research studies citizen participation in county budgeting in Kenya and the lessons those counties can provide US local governments. Underway since 2016, this research project has helped him develop an *Engaged Budgeting Model* to strengthen democratic accountability and improve allocative efficiency. Thurmaier also continues research about intergovernmental and intersectoral collaborations of local governments in the US. This research builds on previous work about city-county consolidations and interlocal agreements in the US. Consulting with local governments about shared services increases data collection on the topic.

He leads a month-long study abroad course for graduate and undergraduate students to Musoma, Tanzania every other year to study the role of NGOs in developing countries. He has served as a consultant and researcher with ICMA, HIID and several local governments. He is a lifetime member of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) and has served as chair of the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM). He is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (including the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association), the International City/County Management Association (including the Illinois and Wisconsin associations) and has served as chapter president at KU, Iowa State and NIU in their chapters of Phi Beta Delta, The National Honor Society for International Studies.



Molly B. Holmes (she/her/hers) serves as the director of the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center at Northern Illinois University.

Her main role at the GSRC is to support and advocate for equity for all genders and sexual identities, inclusive of race, ability, and multiple intersecting identities, contributing to NIU's commitment to retention and persistence of all students. The GSRC brings thoughtful and innovative educational experiences to the campus community through encouraging student-led programming, leadership, and ideas. NIU was recently named one of the "Best of the Best" college campuses nationally for LGBTQ+ inclusion for the second year in a row and was named the Best in Illinois for LGBTQ+ inclusion.

Molly is originally from Springfield, IL and received a B.S. in Health Education and a M.S. in College Student Personnel, both from Western Illinois University (Macomb). Previously, she worked at Indiana University-Bloomington, and has worked at NIU for 16 years.

Molly is committed to making the GSRC and NIU a place where everyone has an opportunity to share their story.



Katie Davison has served as the Director of State Relations at NIU since 2021. In her role, she advocates for the appropriation of the university's annual \$90M+ operating budget and key legislation to support the advancement of the university's vision, mission, and values. With input from NIU President, Dr. Lisa Freeman, and her senior roundtable, Katie develops the university's annual legislative agenda and responds to state issues of major importance to the university.

Prior to her role at NIU, Katie served as the founding executive director of Innovate Springfield, a nonprofit social innovation and business incubator serving entrepreneurs and social change makers in the Springfield region. In this role, she led the organization through the transition to the University of Illinois - Springfield to become the anchor hub in the capital region for the [Illinois Innovation Network](#).

Katie spent the first part of her career at Northern Illinois University at the Center for Governmental Studies from 2002-2016 where she developed a strong insight into the impact universities have on communities, the region and state through her work as a key member of the university's outreach and engagement team for economic and workforce development projects.

She lives in Springfield, IL with her husband and three children.