For Immediate Release
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University at Albany's Rockefeller College is the Northeast Regional Site for NASPAA’s First Simulation Competition

ALBANY, N.Y. (February 27, 2015) -- UAlbany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy will serve as the Northeast location for the first-ever national Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) simulation competition occurring at six regional sites across the country on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

Competing students will be presented with a simulation related to a current health care policy problem facing local, state, and federal legislators. They will be tasked with applying the crosscutting skills they have learned in the classroom and will consider a variety of intervention tactics, stakeholder needs and financial models when devising a real-world fair solution. During the competition, students will implement systems thinking as well as gain skills that will foster their professional marketability.

In addition to UAlbany, students have been selected to compete from the following institutions:

- Baruch College
- Binghamton University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Columbia University
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Kean University
- Long Island University Brooklyn
- New York University
- Post University
- Rutgers University - Newark
- Rutgers University - New Brunswick
- Syracuse University
- The New School
- University of Pittsburgh

The judges representing this regional site include:

- John Shaw, president of Next Wave
- Dennis Smith, associate professor of public policy at New York University
- Andraida Tomoaia-Cotisel, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
“The progression of public service education and the advances in technology will further enable public servants to be competitive with their business school counterparts while augmenting their classroom experiences,” said NASPAA Executive Director Laurel McFarland. “The competition will spur dialog about how the system can be improved, as well as provide a unique learning environment for these students, our future public policy leaders.”

In sharing his thoughts on the competition, Bobby Milstein, director of ReThink Health noted, “We are poised to create a new generation of policy leaders who understand better how the health system works and who will not be content with quick fixes. They will resist partial reforms that are doomed to rebound and instead invest in sound strategies that will steer our health system in new, more sustainable directions.”

Each regional site will have a winning team, decided by three judges, and on Monday, March 2, 2015, an overall national winner will be announced. Students on each winning team will receive prizes such as the opportunity to shadow a federal official for a day or meet with state legislatures. The students will have the opportunity to customize their prizes based on their locations and interests.

Because of this inherent nature of public problems, many public policy, administration and management schools have incorporated simulation work into their curriculum to ensure that their students are able to better understand, analyze and resolve complex issues. NASPAA is hosting the national daylong immersive competition in order to supplement innovative teaching methods in the classroom, and to showcase excellent public service education students.

NASPAA

NASPAA, the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration, is the global standard in public service education with a twofold mission to ensure excellence in education and training for public service and to promote the ideal of public service. It is the membership organization of graduate education programs in public policy, public affairs, public administration, and public and nonprofit management. NASPAA is also the recognized accreditor of master's degree programs in these fields. Its nearly 300 members are located across the U.S. and in 14 countries around the globe.

*Educationally and culturally, the University at Albany-SUNY puts “The World Within Reach” for its more than 17,300 students. An internationally recognized research university with 118 undergraduate majors and minors and 138 graduate programs, UAlbany is a leader among all New York State colleges and universities in such diverse fields as criminal justice, information science, public administration, social welfare, business and sociology. With a curriculum enhanced by 500 study-abroad opportunities, UAlbany launches great careers. Visit UAlbany's extensive roster of faculty experts.*