



## Center for Public Policy and Administration

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### **UMass Public Engagement Project Sponsors “How to Make Friends and Influence Policy: Working with State and Federal Policymakers”**

Press Release  
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The UMass Public Engagement Project will present a panel discussion, “How to Make Friends and Influence Policy: Working with State and Federal Policymakers,” on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the Campus Center 903. All faculty, staff and graduate students are invited to attend the panel discussion.

The panel will feature Chris Hellman, Director of Research for the National Priorities Project, and Cheryl L. Dukes, the Associate Director of State Government Relations at UMass Amherst. Hellman works closely with policymakers at the federal level on issues related to military spending. Prior to joining NPP, he served as a military policy analyst for the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation and as a military budget specialist at Physicians for Social Responsibility. He also spent 10 years on Capitol Hill as a congressional staff working on national security and foreign policy issues. (Hellman takes the place of Robin Leeds, who was originally scheduled to participate as a panelist.)

Cheryl L. Dukes works with state legislators on university issues, including the annual budget process, and assists with UMass Amherst’s legislative agenda and advocacy. She assists faculty with legislative hearing testimony, tracks legislation, helps to coordinate campus visits by legislators, and manages volunteer legislative advocacy with parents, alumni, faculty, staff and students. She has created and maintains the UMass Amherst Advocacy website [www.umass.edu/advocates](http://www.umass.edu/advocates).

The UMass Public Engagement Project helps faculty to develop the skills necessary for making their research visible to audiences beyond the University, including citizens and policymakers. The panel on October 28 will offer information about how government bodies work and how best to communicate with policymakers at all levels of government.

The panel is co-sponsored by the Center for Public Policy and Administration, the Center for Research on Families, the Psychology of Peace and Violence Program, the Department of Sociology, and the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center.

For additional information about the panel, contact M.V. Lee Badgett, Professor of Economics and Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration ([lbadgett@pubpol.umass.edu](mailto:lbadgett@pubpol.umass.edu)).

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