The Institute for Policy and Economic Development held its Pre-Commencement Ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of the Spring 2006 graduates. Thirteen individuals completed their Master of Public Administration and seven more completed their Master of Arts in Leadership Studies.

Spring 2006 Master of Public Administration Graduates:

- Oscar D. Garcia
- Monica Y. Hernandez
- Peggy S. Hodge
- Beatriz Lucero
- Melissa Michelle Madrid
- Bernadette I. Montoya
- Natalia Nevarez-Straight
- Daniel Joseph Quiñones
- Julie Rey
- Garrion Jackson
- José Esteban Hernandez Salas
- René Navarro
- Lisa D. Turley

Spring 2006 Master of Arts in Leadership Studies Graduates:

- Kenneth O. Archbold
- Carlos E. Chaparro
- Hector G. Gill
- Daniel N. Sedrak
- Jason R. Bowers
- Andrew James Cornwell
- Arthur G. Levesque
UTESP Honors Convocation

**Peggy S. Hodge** received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for the Master of Public Administration Program.

**Jason L. Hansford** received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for the Master of Arts in Leadership Studies Program.

**Maria L. Picard-Ami & Alfonso Urquidi, Jr.** both received the Outstanding Master of Public Administration Research Award.

**“El Segundo Barrio & La Fe’s Community Development Corporation: An Analysis of Current Conditions, Strengths, and Opportunities”**

Each semester, MPA students completing their degree program participate in an applied research project that examines a public issue affecting a local governmental or non-profit agency. The class members study a public problem or issue presented by the local organization. Under the direction of MPA faculty members, students examine the background and scope of the problem and the methods to be applied in developing a solution. The class then conducts the research and prepares a report with recommendations.

This spring, the client for the Capstone was Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe’s Community Development Corporation. The large cohort of students necessitated forming two groups. The two teams engaged in data collection and analyses separately while still working as a collective. One evaluated the physical attributes of the Segundo Barrio and the other examined a variety of social indicators and implemented a social census survey.

The Capstone class worked with Carlos Gallinar, Administrator for Community Economic Development at La Fe. The following students worked on a physical analysis of the neighborhood under the direction of Dr. Sergio Peña: Leticia Chávez, Juan Carlos Gómez, Laura Granado, Peggy Hodge, Beatriz Lucero, Bernadette I. Montoya, and Natalie Nevarez-Straight. The social census group worked under the direction of Dr. John Bretting and the members of this group were: María Gándara-White, Oscar D. García, Mónica Hernández, Melissa M. Madrid, Nadia P. Morales Baylón, Daniel J. Quiñones, and Julie Rey.

The students presented their findings to La Fe’s Community Development Corporation and invited guests on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at La Fe’s Cultural and Technology Center. After the presentation, La Fe hosted a dinner for the students as a gesture of their appreciation for their hard work.

The report comes in the midst of a downtown redevelopment plan proposed by the Paso del Norte Group. This report along with a variety of opposition groups to the downtown plan has brought a lot of attention to the neighborhood. Please look at the MPA website to download the report.

**MPA Capstone Website:** http://organizations.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=38949
The MPA/MLS programs have a variety of course offerings for students available this summer. Organizational Theory and Behavior (PAD 5350) runs from May 9, 2006 to June 1, and is being taught by Dr. Bill Weaver.

Meanwhile, Administrative Ethics and Responsibility (PAD 5358) started on May 15 and runs to June 26. The students are in for a real treat as they have three professors teaching the course: Ms. Debra J. Little, MPA, Dr. Sue Green and Dr. John Bretting.

For the first time in the history of the MPA program we will have an online course taught by Dr. Sergio Peña. The course is entitled Comparative Public Administration (PAD 5355) and will run from May 30 to July 21, 2006.

The course will offer a comparative view of public administration in developed and developing countries, covering different geographical regions such as North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

The course will place special emphasis on the roles and functions of government, markets and civil society regarding collective decision making to achieve agreed upon ends in society to improve citizens’ quality of life. The students will explore the fundamental question of what would be the “right” institutional balance of markets, government and social agents to better serve the public interest.

Please contact the MPA coordinator, Dr. Dalton at 747-5037, or MLS coordinator, Ms. Little at 747-6170, for information regarding registration for the online course or any of the courses listed.

### MPA / MLS Marketing

Both the Master of Public Administration program and the Master of Arts in Leadership program have been developing new recruiting materials for the Institute.

The MPA program finalized the design of a recruitment poster that will be mailed to several universities in the southwest region. Local non-profit organizations located in El Paso will receive the recruitment poster in an effort to improve the general awareness of the MPA program.

The Master of Arts in Leadership program is currently designing a brochure to inform prospective students about the MLS course of study. The MLS brochure will include items related to the program’s history and the program’s graduate certificate offering.

Please call 747-8865 if you would like any of the marketing materials sent to your place of business.
CPT Jason L. Hansford

CPT Jason L. Hansford, a husband and father of two sons, earned his Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology at West Point with an engineering sequence in mechanical engineering.

Honored as the 2006 Outstanding MLS Graduate, he was “very pleased” to find out about the MLS program that resulted from the relationship between IPED and the Fort Bliss Captain’s Career Course and feels that the MLS program will help develop better officers in the future.

Along with his experiences in Iraq, he hopes to pass the knowledge he has gained from the MLS program to others, whether in the military or civilian education system. He hopes that passing his knowledge on will help others avoid mistakes that he has made. In addition to Ft. Bliss, CPT Hansford has been stationed at Ft. Riley, KS, Ft. Knox, KY, and Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Laura R. Granado

Laura R. Granado started working for the University’s Office of the Vice President for Finance & Administration as an Organizational Development Specialist, responsible for the implementation of the Balanced Scorecard, a system of strategic management.

Laura holds a bachelor’s degree in Finance and her MPA concentration is in Financial Management. Part of the new curriculum of the MPA program is a requirement that students enroll in an Organizational Theory course. Organizational Theory gave Laura a deeper understanding of theories and prepared her for the challenges one can expect when dealing with groups of people.

She says that group projects in the MPA program have sharpened her skills in dealing with different types of people and that comparing organization theories allows her to make better decisions in her job. Laura also thinks that the intense writing required by MPA courses has improved her writing skills and made her a more effective communicator. Laura is planning to complete the MPA program in the summer of 2006.

Peggy Hodge

Peggy Hodge, a spring 2006 graduate of the MPA program, will be returning to her native Canada this summer. Honored as the Spring 2006 Outstanding MPA Graduate, Peggy maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her time in the program. When she arrives in Deep River, Ontario, she will become Executive Director of the Deep River Science Academy (DRSA), a non-profit agency.

DRSA is a six-week summer program that allows high school students the opportunity to work on research projects in leading laboratories (e.g. Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.) under the guidance of scientists, engineers, and tutors (university undergraduates and graduates).

For the past twenty years, a volunteer board of directors and small administrative staff have run DRSA. As the first executive director, Peggy will be responsible for developing and implementing policies and procedures for the non-profit organization; overseeing all activities in the areas of promotion/marketing, fundraising, budgeting, and strategic planning; the coordination of national grants; and, the supervision of staff and volunteers. The MPA program, along with reaffirming her commitment to working in the non-profit sector, has allowed Peggy to improve her research, writing, and analytical skills.