

UConn MPA Student Wins Prestigious National Award

Noelle Denny-Brown, a University of Connecticut, Master of Public Administration (MPA) recent graduate, is the recipient of the 2006 National Pi Alpha Alpha Best Paper Award. She was given this award for her MPA capstone research project, which she completed this past spring.



Noelle running regression analysis for her capstone research.

Noelle's paper was entitled: *After the Hyde Amendment: the Impact of Medicaid Funding Restrictions on Abortion Rates*. She analyzed the impact of state Medicaid funding restrictions on abortion rates, using an interrupted times series comparison group design for her analysis.

Entries were judged on the basis of relevance of topic, appropriate use of methodology, quality of presentation, originality, innovativeness, clarity, and academic quality.

Pi Alpha Alpha is the MPA national honor society and is intimately tied to the MPA national association and accreditation body, the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). NASPAA's twofold

mission is to ensure excellence in education and training for public service to promote the ideal of public service.

Noelle's achievement will be celebrated at the NASPAA conference in October at a lunch to be attended by about 300 Deans and Directors of MPA programs. Pi Alpha Alpha is also sponsoring a smaller dinner in her honor.

Bill Simonsen, Director of the Public Policy MPA Program, recently captured the excitement of the Department, exclaiming "This is an extremely competitive award, and winning is a terrific accomplishment. Noelle is a highly-motivated, determined person. Her capstone research was engaging, well crafted and remarkable. We are very proud of her success."



Noelle fields questions from the audience during her capstone presentation.

Noelle currently works as a Policy Analyst for Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. in Cambridge, MA.