



## Strategic Plan 2020-2023

### *SUAPP VISION*

The School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy will be an innovative, national leader for building academic and community collaborations that address urban challenges.

### *SUAPP MISSION*

The mission of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy is to assist in identifying and implementing policies and programs that enhance quality of life, well-being, and prosperity in metropolitan settings. As a hub for collaboration, SUAPP creates the diverse range of resources and disciplinary perspectives necessary for effective comprehensive metropolitan action.

SUAPP's strategic plan is aligned with the University's mission of providing "the high quality education by focusing on research and service benefiting local and global communities" through collaboration, research and innovation, service, and student success. The goals outlined below provide a pathway to support faculty, students, and external collaborators along the rural-urban continuum in West Tennessee, the greater Mid-South region, and beyond, in pursuing research, providing education and training, and engaging in service to address key community issues.

### **Goal 1: Students have a rich environment for interdisciplinary learning, collaboration, and engagement.**

**Objective 1.a.** Students (UG, MA, and PhD) will have access to courses and experiential opportunities across disciplines within SUAPP that enhance their understanding of key issues and future practice.

- 1) Encourage students to enroll in elective courses in SUAPP departments outside their discipline.
- 2) Expand the Housing and Community Development Fellowship program to involve more students.
- 3) Create a SUAPP curriculum committee to identify and implement ways to strengthen interdisciplinarity of curricula.

### **Goal 2 – Faculty and researchers in SUAPP excel at advancing collaborative, interdisciplinary scholarship that addresses issues facing Memphis, communities across West Tennessee, the broader region and beyond.**

**Objective 2.a.** Faculty, researchers, and centers are supported in their pursuit of scholarship by department, school, and college resources.

- 1) Increase faculty interaction with existing research support structure.
- 2) Provide seed funding for emerging interdisciplinary/community-based projects.

**Objective 2.b** Faculty, researchers, centers, develop and disseminate new knowledge and earn recognition.

- 1) Create opportunities for faculty to interact, exchange ideas, and share their work.
- 2) Update information on faculty research and publications on SUAPP website.
- 3) Nominate faculty in SUAPP for national awards.

**Goal 3 – Community, both within and outside of the University, recognizes SUAPP as a central site of community engagement, interdisciplinary training, and expertise on pressing urban issues, especially those affecting Memphis and the greater region.**

**Objective 3.a.** Create a stronger, deeper internal awareness of SUAPP among students, faculty and the rest of the university community.

- 1) Continue SUAPP Excellence in Student Engagement Student Award.
- 2) Develop a communication strategy to reach audiences both on and off campus.
- 3) Create a recruitment committee to identify best-recruitment practices and develop a plan for mutually beneficial recruitment at graduate school and career fairs.
- 4) Develop student annual events that draw students from all SUAPP departments.

**Objective 3.b.** Create a stronger, more extensive external SUAPP presence in the greater Memphis community and region.

- 1) Update SUAPP webpage and enrich information on research expertise and community engagement within SUAPP.
- 2) Make faculty and research centers' work (e.g. reports, data books, and assessments) available to the community on the SUAPP webpage.
- 3) Encourage faculty outreach to local non-profit and grass-roots organizations.
- 4) Create a committee to consider the creation of a SUAPP "Critical Issues Think Tank" for scholarly and practical research projects within 2 years.