Monitor Newsletter January 21, 2003

Bowling Green State University

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If there's one thing the 50 states have in common when it comes to dealing with local government fiscal crises, it's that they don't have much in common.

Sometimes, believing in local control or lacking the human or financial resources to get involved, take a hands-off approach, according to Beth Walter Honadle, political science and director of the Center for Policy Analysis and Public Service. Other states, including Ohio, have clear criteria for what constitutes a fiscal crisis— inability to pay employees or vendors, or to make debt payments, for instance—and an elaborate system for intervention when one occurs. Still others tread a middle ground.

Regardless of the role they play, however, states can learn from one another's experiences. A process that has been simplified through research conducted by Honadle last year. Her April-August telephone survey of members of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers asked her an invitation to speak at the New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum in September. Her findings from the states will next be presented in a forthcoming article in the International Journal of Public Administration, which is devoting a special issue to local government fiscal crises.

Beth Walter Honadle

Asking the state officials what they do to predict, prevent, mitigate and prevent a recurrence of a crisis, Honadle found that states generally aren't proactive, but they do commonly provide technical assistance and advice to local jurisdictions.

Recent local-government fiscal crises were reported by 36 states, Honadle found. In those states that acknowledge local crises, the reasons can be economic, political or managerial. State mandates, changing demographics and even weather are also among the factors that leave local governments vulnerable to fiscal instability, Honadle said. While states don't have the manpower to work directly with all the jurisdictions within their borders, they generally do obligate to help local governments—especially the small, rural ones—and make sure the locals follow the rules, she said. So they try to provide technical assistance, training and education, sometimes through state-wide or other associations of important players, she added.

They tend to get more heavily involved to protect their bond rating, if necessary, or if "cleaning up" a situation after the fact is perceived to be more costly than preventing it. "The greater the financial and the state is in it, the more likely they are to get involved," Honadle noted.

In addition, jurisdictions, a state can respond to a crisis with legislative action, whether locality-specific special legislation or reform legislation to remedy a situation or conditions across the board. Ohio has fiscal "watch" and "emergency" designations that are determined by a number of measures. Nine Ohio cities and villages are currently deemed by the state auditor's office to be in the "emergency" category, which also entails appointment of a seven-member oversight commission for the locality. The commission must approve a plan prepared by the jurisdiction for getting out of the emergency, and the state provides fiscal supervision all along the way. Ohio's system is "one of the very best monitoring programs for local governments" not only in the U.S., but in the world, Honadle said.

University wishes 15 retirees well

Fifteen University employees begin a new chapter in life upon their retirement in 2002. Following is a list of those who retired and the year they began at BGSU. The list starts with classified staff members.

Shirley Jackson, biological sciences, retired in June. She came to the University in 1984.


Kay Snyder, University Dining Services, retired in September, as did Hazel Chris Hunsbarger, ITU, in October. Snyder came to the University in 1980 and Hunsbarger in 1973.

November's classified staff retirees included Donald Lindley, facilities services, and Kathleen Huntz, inter-collegiate Athletics, both hired in 1972.

Retiring in December were Wayne Freshcorn, facilities services, hired in 1986, and Jean Pavilion, University Dining Services, hired in 1985. Five administrative staff members retired last year. They are George Cripe, technical services coordinator, Instructional Media Services; Keith Pogan, director of planning and construction, Capital Planning; Charles Stocker, director of BGSU Firelands budget and operations; Eleanor Ann Mccreery, director of Springboard, and Paul D. Yon, director of the Center for Archival Collections.
Griech-Polelle book
(Continued from front)

Griech-Polelle, who notes that von
Galen had the education, the
aristocratic background and the
access to high political figures—
in short, the clout—to break
ranks had he been chosen to do so.

But, like the Nazis, he was
also conservative and nationalis-
tic. In 1933, he became the first
Catholic bishop appointed by
the Nazis, who thought they could
work with him because of his
nationalism.

He later said that any
German soldier who died while fighting
communists in the Soviet Union
would go directly to
Paradise. Sponsored by the
Satterlee, piano, 8
p.m., PCA gallery.

To many people in that
time and place, Jews were associated
with Bolshevism. Von Galen already
carried such fundamen-
tal anti-Semitism, believing that their
rejection of Jesus had con-
demned the Jews. In his mind,
then, it wasn’t hard to buy into a
Judeo-Bolshevik conspiracy and
the prevailing Jewish stereo-
types, Griech-Polelle says.

But trying to protect
Jews would have incurred
the wrath of both
the Nazis’ and
the persecution of Catholics by the
Bismarck government in the
1870s, she notes.

So he fought for what he
defined as “Catholic causes,”
meaning churches, schools and
other institutions that the Nazis
tried to seize, rather than for
people, says Griech-Polelle. She
maintains that denomination
should have been irrelevant,
especially to a bishop who had
the moral authority to urge
listeners to open their doors to
those in need.

While acknowledging the gift
of hindsight, Griech-Polelle,
says her “shameful” that Pius XII
and his subordinates didn’t seize
the opportunity to put into
action the Gospel of loving your
neighbor as yourself.

continuing education

Blackboard presentations scheduled
Continuing Education and ITS have organized a free presentation
designed for BGSU faculty and staff to learn about Blackboard.
The focus will be on demonstrating how students and other members
of the community are now using Blackboard.

For answers to your questions, visit http://ctc.bgsu.edu/bb.htm or
call Continuing Education at 2-8181.

Panel to look at immigrants’ civil rights
The University Libraries’ Multinational Affairs Committee will
hold a panel discussion titled “Do Immigrants Have Civil Rights?”
in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event is part of the
Issues in Cultural Diversity Series.

The program will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday
(Jan. 22) in the Pallister Conference Room in Jerome Library.
Five panelists will take part in the discussion. They include: Susan
Goldstein of University Libraries, Mark B. Hansen of the
Immigration and Naturalization Service office in Cleveland, Carol
Jackson of the INS Detroit office, Loretta Lopez-Moseman of the
Detroit Border Patrol Sector and John Shousher of the International
Institute of Toledo.

Diane Regan, Equity, Diversity and Immigration Services, will
moderate the discussion.

Among the issues to be discussed are: what civil rights immi-
igrants have, myths surrounding those rights, whether these civil
rights are different from those of native or naturalized citizens,
what rights are specific to racial profiling and detention, and what
civil rights are specific to amnesty and labor issues.

job postings

There were no postings this week.

Please contact the Office of Human Resources at
419-372-8421 for information regarding classified and adminis-
trative positions. Position va-
cancy announcements may be
viewed by visiting the HR Web
site at www.bgsu.edu/offices/hr.

Employees wishing to apply
for these positions must sign
a “Request for Transfer” form
and submit an updated resume
or data sheet. This information
must be turned in to Human
Resources by the job deadline.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
for Residence Life for Educational Initiatives
(S-080)—Office of Residence Life. Administrative grade 14. Review of
missions will continue until the position is
filled.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
of Alumni Affairs and Special Events (02-
102)—University Advancement. Administrative grade 14. Review of
missions will continue until the position is
filled.

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