

## James M. and Audrey M. Banovetz Fellowship

The James M. and Audrey M. Banovetz Fellowship has been endowed to enhance the education and employment potential of students preparing for careers in local government management and other public service agencies. Professor Banovetz has long argued that the biggest academic difference between the Northern Illinois University M.P.A. program and those few M.P.A. programs still ranked higher than NIU is the absence of opportunities for students to begin involvement in professional activities during their academic careers. The Banovetz Fellowship funds are used to enhance the educational experience of NIU M.P.A. students by encouraging them to begin participation in professional conferences while still pursuing their professional credential, the M.P.A. degree.

### Professor James M. Banovetz

Professor Banovetz joined the public administration faculty in 1963, the year the M.P.A. program placed its first intern, and became program director in 1964. He maintained responsibility for the program, serving as either program director or department chair of political science until his retirement in 1998. During his tenure, he founded the Division of Public Administration, expanded the program from five interns to as many as 38, added concentrations in mental health and human services administration and in fiscal administration, and established the department's doctoral program. Banovetz developed the first graduate program in Illinois to offer special programs and financial support for minority students in graduate study. Under his leadership the NIU M.P.A. program achieved national stature, and by 1998 achieved the rank of fourth best program in urban studies and city management by Public Administration Review. The M.P.A. program continues to achieve national ranking in the areas of urban management and fiscal administration.

Professor Banovetz's accomplishments have been recognized internationally. He was named an honorary member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) in 1978 and was elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration in 1997, the first local government scholar in 25 years to be so honored. He was the second recipient of the Elmer B. Staats Award given by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration for outstanding service to public administration. Cleveland State University honored Banovetz with its visiting endowed chair, making him its Albert A. Levin Professor of Urban Studies and Public Service for 1991-93. He is Illinois' recognized leading academic authority on local government home rule, and has lectured in local communities throughout the state. Professor Banovetz has authored and edited six of ICMA's green books, dealing with the practice of the local government management profession.

In his retirement, Professor Banovetz has stayed active lecturing and writing. He holds an appointment as a senior research scholar in the Center for Governmental Studies, which he founded in 1970, where he edits the center's Policy Profiles.

### Banovetz Fellowship

The James M. Banovetz Fellowship was initially endowed in 2000 by David and Catherine Arnold to honor Professor Banovetz for his service to public administration education and to the city management profession, and for his leadership in establishing the strong program in local government management at Northern Illinois University. In 2006, Audrey M. Banovetz's name was added to honor Audrey for her many years of supporting the program, its faculty and students.

Contributions made by alumni and friends of the NIU M.P.A. program have now doubled the size of the original Arnold endowment, and a fellowship is awarded each year to an outstanding student. Banovetz fellows are provided with a financial grant to help defray expenses incurred in attending an appropriate professional conference for the first time.

In recognition of Mr. Arnold's long association with the ICMA, the first fellowship awarded each year will go to a student planning to attend the ICMA national conference. As contributions increase, other fellowships will be awarded each year to students who may choose to attend a local government or similar conference, such as the American Society for Public Administration or the Government Finance Officers Association, appropriate to their professional interests in public administration.

To open the fellowship competition to all students, including those taking emphases other than local government management, Professor and Mrs. Banovetz will in 2007 provide funds to allow, for the first time, a second fellowship for which all eligible students may compete.

### A New Funding Challenge

In addition, Professor and Mrs. Banovetz have pledged a significant amount to make a "challenge grant" to the fellowship program for alumni and friends. It is the Banovetz's hope that, by doubling the value of the endowment, additional fellowships will be available each year. It is for this reason that the university's public administration faculty is now launching a special initiative to seek additional contributions to double the amount in the fellowship fund. It is our desire to reach \$100,000 for this fellowship.

For more information on this fellowship program, please contact June M. Kubasiak at the Division of Public Administration, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115; (815) 753-6142; [junek@niu.edu](mailto:junek@niu.edu)

## 2007-2008 Pledge for the James M. and Audrey M. Banovetz Fellowship

Yes! Please add my pledge to the James M. and Audrey M. Banovetz Fellowship to enhance the education and employment potential of students preparing for careers in local government management or other public service agencies.

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Benefactor (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Supporter (\$600 - \$999)

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**Please return this form with your contribution and/or pledge to:**

June Kubasiak  
Division of Public Administration  
Northern Illinois University  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
Phone: (815) 753-6142  
E-mail: [junek@niu.edu](mailto:junek@niu.edu)

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