



New Fellow Spotlight: Dr. Gene Migliaccio Associate Dean & Professor for Applied Public Health George Washington University, Milken Institute of Public Health

Gene Migliaccio is an Associate Dean for Applied Public Health, and Professor at the George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health. His portfolio consists of building global partnerships with organizations to support internships and practicums for more than 2,100 students; overseeing community engagement programs that are focused on serving special populations; directing the Doctor of Public Health program; and instructing both doctoral and masters students in leadership, program design, evaluation, budgeting, and project management.

With more than 35 years in the federal government's Senior Executive Service, the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and the U.S. Air Force Medical Service, he has experience supporting health programs in five federal departments, including the Department of Defense, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Gene holds a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Hawaii School of Public Health, and a Bachelor of Arts from Marquette University. He is Board Certified in Health Care Management, and a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives.

Dr. Migliaccio is a highly decorated career officer who has received numerous federal, military, and private sector awards. Most recently, he was named Health Leader of the Year – 2020 by the Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service. Additionally, he received recognition for attaining meritorious national distinction in the field of public health by Delta Omega, the public health society. He also received a Proclamation from the Mayor of Houston for assistance with coordinating the federal health care response to over 200,000 Katrina evacuees in Houston, Texas.

What are you most looking forward to as a NAPA Fellow?

I am excited to be elected as a NAPA Fellow. This fellowship provides an opportunity to bring my academic and public sector experience together to build a stronger, more efficient government and to enhance leadership in the public administration profession.

What inspires you during these challenging times?

Working on the COVID-19 response has been a source of inspiration and hope to me. I worked with a dedicated and committed team at George Washington University to create a Volunteer Task Force, consisting of more than 500 students, staff and faculty from the schools of public health, medicine, and nursing. We supported a number of community partners – of note, we provided hundreds of volunteers to four local health departments to stand up testing sites, contract tracing, and investigation teams.

What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

I always enjoy helping people find what they love to do by providing them with the tools and opportunities they need to lead. Presently, I oversee a doctoral public health program – my purpose is to train our future leaders apply leadership principals to tackle complex issues to achieve results.

Who or what inspired you to work in public service?

My inspiration came from my academic and professional mentor (of more than 38 years), Dr. Jerrold Michael, the Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Hawaii. Dean Michael helped me understand where I could make a difference. He assisted me with my first public sector position (Hawaii State Legislature), led me to further my education by getting my Doctor of Public Health, and later joining the U.S. Air Force Medical Service, and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

Which of the Academy's Grand Challenges resonate most with you?

There are a number Grand Challenges that resonate with me the most: fostering social equity; building resilient communities; and, governance to address my passions on racism as a public health crisis, rebuilding our broken public health infrastructure, and leadership development.

What advice can you give to folks beginning careers in public service?

Two points: (1) Public service is a noble profession to serve people so they may thrive; and, (2) I have always been inspired by Mahatma Gandhi who said “Be the change that you wish to see in the world” and my advice to all has always been - don't fear or fight change, embrace it, and then lead the change for a better self, organization, and world.

What is the first concert you attended?

A Day on the Green (Milwaukee): Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young; The Beach Boys; Jesse Colin Young