New Fellow Spotlight
David Powner

Dave is a Director for Strategic Engagement and Partnerships at the MITRE Corporation. In this role, he enhances MITRE's strategic corporate partnership interactions and development of new opportunities with the federal government, states, the private sector, and academia. Dave has more than 25 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. Prior to joining MITRE, he served as a Director at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) where he led numerous reviews of federal information technology that resulted in Dave testifying before Congress more than 100 times. He received Federal Computer Week's Federal 100 award in 2008, 2012, and 2017. In 2017, he was the federal government's top awardee receiving the Eagle award for his contributions to the federal information technology community. In the private sector, Dave led software development teams in the telecommunications industry. Dave is a frequent speaker and has been featured on Government Matters. He has also been a radio guest on multiple radio programs including Federal News Radio.

Dave holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Denver and attended the Senior Executive Fellows Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

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

Working on projects where I can pass along my experiences to help government leaders, particularly CIOs. I am also looking forward to learning from the current fellows and their vast areas of expertise and knowledge.

What inspires you during these challenging times?

Health care workers, sense of community still existing, outpouring for equality.

Who or what inspired you to work in public service?

Early in my career I worked on important areas for Congress like the National Weather Service modernization and DoD's missile warning systems. I saw first-hand dedicated and extremely talented federal employees working on critical missions and I was immediately sold.

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

Ensuring Data Security and Privacy and Making the Government AI ready given my background. Personally, it's the Social Equity challenge.

What was the first concert you ever attended?

Jackson 5 Victory Tour!

Who are your professional role models?

The late Senator Tom Coburn, Comptroller General Gene Dodaro, and Representative Will Hurd for their high level of integrity and professionalism.

What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

My work, in one way or another, helps agencies deliver on their important missions.

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