



New Fellow Spotlight: Phillip Singerman, PhD

Senior Advisor

National Academy of Public Administration

Phillip (Phil) Singerman, PhD is a recognized national innovator in public/private partnerships to promote economic development, job creation, and nation security through technology development, transfer and deployment.

Mr. Singerman recently stepped down from federal service after nine years as the first Associate Director for Innovation and Industry Services, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In this position he led NIST's unique national technology transfer program. In addition to coordinating the commercialization of intellectual property assets for NIST, he was responsible for inter-agency policy development/reporting on the federal government's annual investment in intramural research and regulatory promulgation. As one of NIST's three

Associate Directors, Mr. Singerman was responsible for NIST's suite of advanced manufacturing deployment and technical assistance programs.

Mr. Singerman currently serves as a Senior Advisor to NAPA on a Congressional Directed Study of the value of a DOE affiliated Foundation, as a Senior Advisor for Technology Transfer and Commercialization to the Montgomery County Economic Development Council and a Senior Fellow at the International Economic Development Council.

Previously Mr. Singerman served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development and directed the Economic Development Administration (1995- 1999) that was responsible for providing grants to distressed communities for revitalization activities such as re-use of closed military bases, research parks, business incubators, and revolving loan funds.

Mr. Singerman was the founding chief executive of two of the most successful and long-lasting state-sponsored technology-led economic development public/private partnerships, Philadelphia's Ben Franklin Partnership for Technological Innovation (1983-1995) and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (1999- 2005).

Mr. Singerman received his B.A. from Oberlin College and his PhD from Yale University, and taught at Barnard College (Columbia University), Yale University, and the Fels Center of Government (University of Pennsylvania). After graduating from College, he served in the Peace Corps as a Rural Community Promotor de Accion Comunal in Colombia, South America.

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

NAPA is a highly credible organization, widely recognized for its quality and independence, with a worthy mission and a committed staff. I have known of NAPA for years - indeed - while I served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development during the Clinton Administration - I commissioned a study by NAPA of the Economic Development Administration. Now recently I have had the opportunity to work with NAPA as a Senior Advisor on a Congressional directed study of the value of a DoE Foundation to support clean energy technologies, and I have been impressed with NAPA's leadership and process.

What inspires you during these challenging times?

NAPA Fellows bring to their position years of experience and important expertise. It is the responsibility of our cohort of leaders to pass along the knowledge we have learned over the years.

What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

Expanding my knowledge base through a mission driven exercise as part of a diverse team.

Who or what inspired you to work in public service?

After graduating from Oberlin College, I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Rural Community Development in Colombia, South America. That was a transformative experience and set me on the path for public service in the governmental and non-profit sector.

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

Don't be a "careerist" - choose an opportunity that you are passionate about, no matter how uncertain it may be. Work hard and with ethical principles and your work will be recognized and rewarded, and you will be given unanticipated opportunities.

What is the first concert you attended?

Modern Jazz Quartet, Xmas Eve, Carnegie Hall