

# Gary Michael DeCramer

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## EXPERIENCE

**Director, Master of Public Affairs Program**  
**Senior Lecturer, Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center**  
**Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs**  
**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis**  
**(May 2002 – present)**

Serve as administrator of mid-career masters degree program, providing recruitment, budget management, and advising to students. Senior Lecturer in public and nonprofit leadership and management.

**Research interests:** nonprofit board governance, ethics, rural development, leadership and civic engagement.

**Teach:** Leadership for the Common Good, Political Advocacy in the Public Interest, and Synthesis Workshop. Offer additional courses in project planning, and ethical practice in public affairs.

### **Other Activities:**

Member of the Institute's Executive Council; Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee; and Master of Public Affairs Admissions Committee. Serve as mentor to students who express an interest in rural affairs in the Humphrey Mentorship Program.

University wide service: Member of the Center for Integrative Leadership Faculty Steering Committee and subcommittee on curriculum Development; the Advisory Council to Center for Urban and Regional Affairs Community Assistantship Program for rural Minnesota community organizations and government entities.

National Organizations: Executive MPA Committee of National Association of School of Public Affairs and Administration.

**Organizational Consultant**  
**Self-employed**  
**(April 2001 – May 2002)**

Facilitated strategic visioning, program evaluation, fundraising strategies, and partnership formation in the context of leadership, community, and economic development, in Minnesota and Romania. Specific projects included:

- Served as project consultant with LifeLab Learning Institute and the Northeast Higher Education District on True North Project, a strategy supporting alignment- for-growth and investment in Northeast Minnesota.

- Conducted program evaluation of School Attendance Review Board process – a community-based truancy intervention project jointly sponsored by Hennepin County Office of Planning and Development and selected Hennepin County school districts.
- Served as an advisor to Project Harvest Hope, an organization dedicated to values-based economic and agricultural development in the villages of the Transylvanian region of Romania.

**State Director – Minnesota**

**United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD)**

**GS – 15, Schedule C Appointment**

**St. Paul, Minnesota**

**(July 1997-February 2001)**

Served as agency head directing community and economic development through USDA Rural Development employees in offices across Minnesota. USDA-RD provides financial and technical assistance to the towns and tribes of Minnesota in the form of direct financing toward: low income housing, community facilities, rural water and waste water infrastructure, distance learning and telemedicine infrastructure, rural business and cooperative services, and community development. Served as a representative of the Administration and reported to the Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development. Oversaw all personnel actions and civil rights/equal opportunity training and enforcement. Managed the budget and leveraged program funds. Developed and implemented strategic plan in partnership with local, regional, tribal, state and federal entities.

**Senior Fellow, Center for Transportation Studies (CTS)**

**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis**

**(1995-1997)**

Primary responsibilities were to develop programs and projects responsive to the interests of CTS executive committee, advisory board and the state legislature; direct the research of graduate assistants; assist in managing federally and state-funded faculty research grants. Organized an annual policy makers' forum for legislators, business community and advisory board members.

**Senior Fellow, State and Local Policy Program**

**Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs**

**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis**

**(1992-1997)**

Primary responsibilities were to conduct research related to transportation policy; direct the research of graduate assistants and other program staff; teach a capstone graduate seminar. Coordinated State and Local Policy Program's transportation policy, research and teaching activities with activities of the Center for Transportation Studies.

**Interim President  
Southwest State University  
Marshall, Minnesota  
(July 1991-February 1992)**

Developed and accomplished goals needed to facilitate the transition between administrations. Established a campus-wide long range planning process. Established a budget reduction management model in conjunction with leaders of each campus bargaining unit.

**Member of the Minnesota Senate (1982-1992)**

Served on Agriculture and Rural Development and Transportation Committees in all three terms.

**Chair of Senate Transportation Committee (1991-1992)**

Represented the people of six counties in southwest Minnesota in the state senate for 10 years. Worked closely with constituents, legislative colleagues and staff, student interns, representatives of state agencies and other public and private organizations.

**Farmer and small business owner  
(1978-1983)**

Owned and operated a small family farm near Ghent, Minnesota. Raised livestock and crops. Operated a bulk soft water delivery service throughout three county area.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

“They Love the Land and They Love Their Animals,” a guest column for League of Rural Voters, *Marshall MN Independent*, October 20, 2004. Column encouraging voter turnout.

“1999 is Fork in the Road to Future,” guest column, *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, July 28, 1999. Column was part of a series on how the world will feed itself in the future.

*Minnesota’s Area Transportation Partnership Process*, documentation through eight case studies of a decision making model for the annual distribution of more than \$300 million in federal funds, 250 pages, published by Minnesota Department of Transportation, January 1997.

*Transportation and Economic Development: New Models for Federal, State, and Local Cooperation in Infrastructure Investment*, a report to Congress on the economic impacts of transportation investment in the upper Midwest published by State and Local Policy Program, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 1995.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

**“Institutional design in an ethical framework: A look at President Lincoln’s leadership,”** guest lecturer in Dr. Paul Stone’s Government, Ethics and the Public Will course, Humphrey Institute, 2007.

**A civic forum on *Practicing Ethics: Living the Common Good*.** Grace University Lutheran Church Presentation. Minneapolis, 2007

**“Moving from the Tangibles to the Intangibles.”**

Project Harvest Hope session on sustainability, General Assembly of Unitarian Universalists, June 2007, Portland, Oregon. A research report on the role of volunteers in building civil society in Transylvania, Romania. For the CIVITAS Foundation of Romania and Project Harvest Hope (US). Research funded by University of Minnesota Office of International Programs and Project Harvest Hope.

**“Ethics in the public arena”** – a presentation. Citizens Forum. Roseville Minnesota, 2007.

### **National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration**

“Exploring the Who of Executive Education: A Focus on Students’ Perspectives.” Led a panel on curriculum and programming for mid-career students. October, 2006, Minneapolis.

“Rural Leadership and the Idea of America,” presentation to Minnesota Agricultural Rural Leaders program, a partnership in leadership development between University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Mankato, Minnesota, January 2004.

“A Commitment to Service,” presentation to Agassiz Rural Leadership Program, Crookston, Minnesota, April 2003.

“Our Land: An Asset or a Liability” co-presented with David Minge and Tracy Beckman at Joint International Summit on Community and Rural Development. Address focused on creating an alternative vision for a partnership between urban and rural dwellers in the stewardship of the land, conservation not consumption. Duluth, Minnesota, July 2001.

“Community Development is Cooperative Development,” keynote address at National Farmer’s Union 2000 Value-Added Agriculture Co-op Forum, Minneapolis, Minnesota, September 2000.

“Minnesota’s Area Transportation Partnership Process: Public Involvement in Transportation Decision Making” at annual conference of Transportation Research Board of National Research Council, Washington, DC, January 1997.

## **SELECTED AWARDS**

Instructor of the Year: Required Courses. University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. 2008.

Administrators Award. Recognition of outstanding effort in transforming standard of living from poverty to prosperity and helping to realize the dream of homeownership in Minnesota. USDA Rural Housing Service, January 2001.

National Farmers Union Cooperative Service Award which recognizes outstanding leadership, coordination and cooperation in service to farmer-owned cooperatives and economic development in rural America, November 2000.

## **SERVICE**

- Member, Board of Trustees, DARTS, a Dakota County volunteer based organization that supports services to seniors and all generations

## **EDUCATION**

- Ed.D. Educational Leadership, May 1997, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota. Dissertation title: *Public Partnerships: From Mandate to Mutual Trust*.
- M.A., English and American Literature, University of Oklahoma, Norman.
- BA, English and American Literature, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul.