JOSEPH "DALLAS" BREEN, PhD

Executive Director, John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development
P.O. Drawer LV, Mississippi State, MS 39762 | 662.312.3428 (cell) | 662.325.8203 (off.) | dallas@sig.msstate.edu

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Director of Mississippi State University's John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development since 2016, leading a 38-person applied research and outreach unit with a $2.5–3.5M annual portfolio. Directed $17.9M in funded research as PI/Co-PI and grew external contracts yearly since 2017, serving 300 cities, 82 counties and state agencies across Mississippi. Trains more than 500 newly elected officials each year and leads statewide programs in leadership development, economic analysis, disaster recovery and civic education. Past President of the Consortium of University Public Service Organizations (CUPSO); 2025–26 President of the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA); 2024 recipient of SECoPA's Donato J. Pugliese Distinguished Senior Member and Public Service Award.

Areas of leadership: University public service and outreach · Local and state government capacity building · Economic and fiscal impact analysis · Disaster recovery and resilience · Elections, redistricting and civic education · Public workforce and compensation · Research administration and external partnerships

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Executive Director 2017–present
John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development, Mississippi State University
Interim Executive Director (Aug. 2016–Aug. 2017); Acting Executive Director (May–Aug. 2016). Concurrent appointment as Assistant Research Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration (2017–present).

- Lead MSU's primary public service institute for state and local government: a 35-person unit with a $2.5–3.5M annual portfolio of research, technical assistance, training and civic engagement.
- Grew external grants and contracts every year since 2017; secured more than $2M in Mississippi Development Authority disaster recovery awards since 2025.
- Extended the Institute's reach to essentially all of the incorporated 300 cities, 82 counties and numerous state agencies, legislative committees and associations across Mississippi.
- Deliver annual training to more than 500 newly elected municipal and county officials through the Mississippi Municipal League and statewide association programs.
- Led the Institute through its 50th anniversary, successful institutional audits and increased staff educational attainment.
- Built cross-college research partnerships across MSU and advised peer institutions on public service strategy, including helping develop a public service startup center at Boise State University and research investment strategy at Valdosta State University.

Associate Director 2013–2016
Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University

- Managed day-to-day operations, project portfolio and staff; directed compensation studies, economic impact analyses and statewide policy studies.

Senior Research Associate 2011–2013
Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University

- Co-led redistricting for nearly 30 Mississippi cities, counties, school districts and courts, including U.S. Department of Justice submissions.

Research Scientist, Systems Administrator and Research Associate 2001–2011
Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University

- Progressed from intern to Research Scientist; served as PI on federally funded disaster and emergency communications research (DHS/SERRI, FEMA) and directed the SSRC Media Laboratory.

NATIONAL AND STATE LEADERSHIP

President, Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA) 2025–2026
Ex Officio Past President (2026–27); President-elect (2024–25); Treasurer (2022–24); long-standing Chair, Collins Award Committee

President, Consortium of University Public Service Organizations (CUPSO) 2020–2021

President, American Society for Public Administration, Mississippi Chapter 2026-present

Chair, Mississippi Certified Public Manager Program Executive Advisory Board 2020–22; 2026–28

Member, Master of Public Policy and Administration Advisory Board, MSU Current

Chair, MSU Task Force on Staff Performance Evaluation 2023–2024

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Career funding: ≈$17.9M as PI/Co-PI · ≈$29.8M in proposals developed and awarded · ≈$50M+ in proposals submitted

Disaster Recovery and Resilience

- **MS Disaster Recovery Local Recovery Planning** — Mississippi Development Authority; Co-PI; $2,000,000+ (2025–2031)
- **MS Disaster Recovery Unmet Needs** — Mississippi Development Authority; Co-PI; $75,000 (2025–2026)
- **Emergency Alert Systems and Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned** — DHS/SERRI, FEMA/Northrop Grumman, GRI/NGI; PI; $1.15M across four projects (2007–2011)

Economic Development and Fiscal Impact

- **Attracting Mississippi Talent** — Mississippi Economic Council; PI; $240,000 (2022–2023)
- **Mississippi Transportation Blueprint Policy Study** — Hearin Foundation; PI; $250,000 (2014–2015)
- **Economic impact analyses** for the Port of Gulfport, casino industry, Jackson County Schools, D'Iberville and private clients — Co-PI; $360,000+ (2018–2024)

Local Government Capacity and Leadership Development

- **Local Government Leadership Academy** with Delta State University — Hearin Foundation; project lead and curriculum developer; $86,880
- **Compensation and organizational studies** for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, MDOT, DeSoto County and the cities of Meridian, Greenville, Starkville and Crystal Springs
- **Forms of government advising** for Vicksburg (2024), Columbus (2022) and others; annual "Forms and Functions of Municipal Organizations" session, MML Annual Conference (2011–present)

Civic Education, Elections and Redistricting

- **Celebrating American History and Civics: America 250** — Delta Health Alliance and U.S. Department of Labor; PI; $75,000 (2025–2028)
- **Voter Registration and Election Data Best Practices** — MIT Election Data and Science Lab; Co-PI; $23,000
- **Mississippi Votes MapBook and Testimony**— election pattern analysis prepared for the Mississippi Legislature (2018, 2022, 2026); briefing to the Mississippi House Select Committee on Redistricting on *Louisiana v. Callais* (2026)

Higher Education Partnerships

- **Community College Fellowship Program** — Mississippi Community College Board; PI; $40,000; and National Initiative of Rural Community Colleges (PI)

EDUCATION

PhD, Public Policy and Administration, Mississippi State University 2014
Passed all comprehensive exam sections with distinction (has only been accomplished once since)

MPPA, Public Policy and Administration, Mississippi State University 2008

BBA, Corporate Finance, Mississippi State University 2001

TEACHING AND MENTORING

- Graduate faculty in the MPPA program: Seminar in Public Administration and Integrated Capstone each year since 2013 (in-person, hybrid and online); 18 directed individual studies, including advanced statistical methods and R.
- Methodologist, chair or member on 10 doctoral dissertation committees at MSU and Valdosta State University; honors thesis director.

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIP

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Nukpezah, J. A., Flomo, V. O., French, P. E., & **Breen, J. D.** (2024). Does public service motivation mediate public safety work's effect on public sector employee job satisfaction? *Public Organization Review, 24*, 907–923.

Dimitrijevska-Markoski, T., **Breen, J. D.**, Nukpezah, J. A., & Mobley, R. (2021). Strategic planning and management in small municipalities in Mississippi: Implementation, perceived benefits, and determinants of use. *Public Organization Review*.

Fowler, L., & **Breen, J. D.** (2014). The political influences and financial incentives for renewable energy. *The Electricity Journal*.

Breen, J. D., & Parrish, D. (2013). GIS in emergency management cultures: An empirical approach to understanding inter- and intra-agency communication during emergencies. *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*.

Fowler, L., & **Breen, J.** (2014). Political influences and financial incentives for renewable energy. *The Electricity Journal*, *27*(1), 74-84.

Fowler, L., & **Breen, J. D.** (2013). The impact of state political factors on renewable portfolio standard adoption: An EHA analysis. *The Electricity Journal*.

Selected Policy Reports

Phillips, J., **Breen, J. D.**, & Harper, J. (2019). *State of the industry: Tunica, MS*.

Breen, J. D. (2018). *Technical brief: United States Senate (MS) special election, 2018*. Stennis Institute of Government.

Phillips, J., **Breen, J. D.**, et al. (2015). *The economic and fiscal effects of the Mississippi Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program*. Prepared for the Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives.

Phillips, J., **Breen, J. D.**, et al. (2015). *The Mississippi highway infrastructure*. Prepared for the Mississippi Economic Council and the Hearin Foundation.

Breen, J. (2014). [Doctoral Dissertation, Mississippi State University] *Examining the intra-organizational differences among municipal employees: an empirical investigation of public safety workers in the municipal workforce*. Mississippi State University.

Full publication list, 30+ technical reports and 40+ conference presentations available on request.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Donato J. Pugliese Distinguished Senior Member and Public Service Award, SECoPA	2024
Zacharias Distinguished Staff Award, Mississippi State University	2014
Fellow, Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy	2013
Best Practices Award, International Traffic Records Forum	2010
Best Graduate Research Paper, Mississippi Political Science Association	2010

SELECTED INVITED ADDRESSES

"Redistricting Considerations in the Wake of Louisiana v. Callais," Testimony to the MS House Select Committee on Redistricting 2026

"Pre-Planning for the 2030 Census," University of Mississippi. 2024

"The Impacts of the Passage of Lottery Games in Mississippi," Testimony to the Mississippi Joint Committee on Gaming, House and Senate, Mississippi Legislature. 2019

"Southern Fried Policy: Utilizing Policy Research to Modernize Rural Communities," Boise State University 2017

Keynote, "The Conditions of Transportation in Mississippi," 72nd National Poultry Association Convention 2015

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Public Administration · Consortium of University Public Service Organizations · Southeastern Conference for Public Administration · Mississippi Political Science Association · Southern Political Science Association · Pi Alpha Alpha · Omicron Delta Epsilon

REFERENCES

Available upon request.