



Press Release

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UAB announces 2019 leadership

NEW YORK (Feb. 1, 2019) — The governing body for Accreditation in Public Relations, the Universal Accreditation Board (UAB), announced key leadership positions and board members for 2019.

Douglas F. Cannon, Ph.D., APR+M, Fellow PRSA, has been named chair. He is assistant head of the Department of Communication and a professor of public relations practice at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Before joining the Virginia Tech faculty in 2010, he spent more than 30 years working in public relations. He was a U.S. Army public affairs officer and a communication executive for the United Methodist Church.

The 2019 UAB vice chair is Ann P. Knabe, Ph.D., APR+M, public relations director for Kane Communications Group in Milwaukee. Mitchell E. Marovitz, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA, chair of the public relations program at the University of Maryland University College, is the immediate past chair.

“Accreditation began in 1964 as a way to professionalize public relations practice,” Cannon said. “I look forward to continuing that work in 2019. The board is preparing for its next assessment of public relations practice in the United States during 2020. We will use results of this research to make sure our credentials continue to assess the highest standards of current public relations practice.”

For 2019, representatives from the nine UAB participating organizations are:

- **Asociación de Relacionistas Profesionales de Puerto Rico**
Carlos Rivera-Cuesta, APR
- **California Association of Public Information Officials**
Robin Rockey, APR
- **Florida Public Relations Association**
Lanette Hart, APR, CPRC
- **Maine Public Relations Council**
Nancy Roberts, APR
- **National Association of Government Communicators**
Laura Kirkpatrick, APR

- **National School Public Relations Association**
Marcia Kelley, APR
- **Public Relations Society of America**
Kristie Byrum, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA; David Eaheart, APR; John Forde, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA; Kevin Kane, APR; Katherine L. Morales, APR; Kathleen Donohue Rennie, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA; and Nicole Schwegman, APR+M
- **Religion Communicators Council**
Jeff Huett, APR
- **Southern Public Relations Federation**
Kristie Aylett, APR, Fellow PRSA, and Marian Faulk, APR

The Universal Accreditation Board administers the Examination for Accreditation in Public Relations and coordinates all activities related to the Accredited in Public Relations designation. The UAB was established in 1998 by a coalition of public relations professional organizations. Each organization contributes resources and senior-level volunteer members representing all segments of the public relations profession. For more information about the APR designation and the UAB, visit www.praccreditation.org.

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