The 2014 APPAM Fall Conference will continue to feature sessions introduced in 2013, called the "Saturday Caucus." The primary purpose for these sessions is to offer a dedicated time for participants to gather informally to discuss new and emerging policy issues, to formulate new research questions, approaches to research and to form possible research collaborations.

Unlike the 2013 Fall Conference, we do not intend to limit these sessions to Saturday morning. Depending on the response, we will offer caucus sessions throughout the conference. They will simply be called "Caucus Sessions."

## **Background**

Due to time constraints, the conference often does not offer sufficient opportunities for participants to get together with colleagues to discuss topics of interest that could help advance research and/or practical management practices. Further, there are emerging issue areas that are not addressed during the panel sessions because, among other reasons, the issues are in their infancy, they have not been adequately framed, or they have not yet been thoroughly researched. These sessions would help to formalize the casual discussions that members have in the hallways and at social events during the conference and create a framework for moving a new issue forward.

As stated above, depending on response, Caucus Sessions will be scheduled throughout the conference. The sessions will take place in session rooms, just like panel sessions, throughout the Albuquerque Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque Hotel.

## **Nomination and Selection Processes**

Those wishing to submit a proposal for a Caucus Session should do the following:

- Prepare a written description of the caucus addressing the following questions:
  - o Why it would be beneficial to conference participants?
  - o What the expected focus of the caucus would be?
  - o Who the intended audience for the caucus would be?
  - o How is this topic emerging or cutting edge?
- Submit the proposal to Tara Sheehan, APPAM Executive Director at <a href="mailto:tsheehan@appam.org">tsheehan@appam.org</a>.
- Deadline for submissions is June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Caucus proposals that are selected will be included in the normal notification process for the Fall Conference. Submitters should expect to be notified about whether their proposal was accepted or not by email in early July.
- The accepted caucuses will be included in the digital preliminary program and the final printed program, just as any other session would.

## **Examples of Possible (and Past) Caucus Topics**

The following are illustrative and should not be interpreted as limiting nominations for the caucus sessions.

- HUD Research Roadmap and the Future for Housing and Community Development Research (included in the 2013 Fall Conference)
- Data Review: National Survey of Early Care and Education (included in the 2013 Fall Conference)
- Discussing possible consequences of emerging new data sets or significant adjustments to existing sets.
- Making sense of the advancement of information and communications technology and implications for how we are governed, who owns data, how privacy concerns are addressed, how organizational structures and systems will change, etc.

Questions? Contact Tara Sheehan, tsheehan@appam.org, 202.496.0130 ext. 205.