

James B. Borsig, Ph.D.



James B. Borsig, Ph.D. has a wealth of experience in higher education, government and the private sector. He currently serves as Associate Commissioner for External Relations and Public Policy for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. In this role, he is responsible for external and government relations, communications and staff support for the university system's research enterprise, public policy and economic research.

Other higher education experience includes serving as Assistant Commissioner of Government Relations for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, as Executive Assistant to the President of the University of Southern Mississippi, and as Research and Development Coordinator for the John C. Stennis Institute of Government. Since 2007 he has been a visiting professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University.

Since 2007, Dr. Borsig has led the Institutions of Higher Learning's work on raising Mississippi's education attainment level by increasing the number of college graduates produced by the university system. These efforts have required consensus building within the IHL system, as well as with state legislative leaders, the Governor's Office, both the K-12 and community college systems and the private sector.

Dr. Borsig's experiences have afforded him the opportunity to build and maintain good working relationships with a wide variety of constituencies on the local, state and federal level, as well as those within the business community. His legislative experience includes both policy and budget issues, allowing him to become familiar with the appropriations process and the capital improvement bond bill process.

A native of Jackson, Dr. Borsig has held senior leadership positions in municipal government, not-for-profits and higher education. He has served as Executive Director of the Mississippi Municipal League and as Director of the Center for Member Programs at the National League of Cities.

Dr. Borsig holds a bachelor's degree in political science and American Studies and a master's degree in political science with a concentration in public administration, both from the University of Southern Mississippi. He earned his doctorate in public policy and administration from Mississippi State University.

He has conducted research and authored or co-authored papers on a wide variety of topics involving local government and higher education. Some of these include *Strategic Initiative on Increasing Baccalaureate Degree Completion in Mississippi*, *Making Opportunity Affordable* and the *Graduation Rate Task Force Report*.

Throughout his career, Dr. Borsig has been involved in numerous public and community service activities. Some of these include serving on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Main

Street Association and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government Advisory Council and the Advisory Board for the Roger Wicker Center at Mississippi University for Women. He served on the Economic Competitiveness Committee and the Advisory Council for the Blueprint 2011 initiative.

Dr. Borsig holds memberships in a number of academic and professional memberships, including the American Planning Association, the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), the Mississippi Economic Development Council, the University of Southern Mississippi chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa and the Mississippi State University chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha.

An Eagle Scout, Dr. Borsig received the National Distinguished Service Award, Order of the Arrow, from Boy Scouts of America and was named the Alpha Tau Omega Alumni of the Year by the University of Southern Mississippi chapter. He received the Presidential Citation from the Mississippi ASPA Chapter and was also named the Local Public Administrator of the Year by the same organization.