



## American Society for Public Administration

The Kern County Chapter of ASPA  
Announces the 2011

### **ASPA Student Essay Competition**

Answer one question:

1. Given the ideological differences between the Republican and Democratic parties at the national level, decision-making has become more complex and difficult for the Congress and the President. In this environment, does the size of the federal deficit present a problem for the U.S. economy and political system? Why or why not? What practical strategies would you suggest for managing or reducing the national debt?
2. The ideological divisions present at the national level first showed up in California. Given the ideological differences in the California Legislature, what advice would you give to Governor Jerry Brown about closing the remaining \$15 billion deficit in the California budget for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012?
3. According to actuarial consultants for the Kern County Employees' Retirement Association, pension payments make up 15% of the Kern County budget. That percentage may increase in the future if current forecasts are correct. What recommendations would you make to the Kern County Board of Supervisors about ensuring the long-term solvency of Kern County's pension funds?

800 words – Maximum.

Participants must be currently enrolled in a college or  
university in Kern County.

Open to students in Public Administration, Political Science,  
Business, and related fields. Open to both  
undergraduate and graduate students.

Three prizes of \$250 each  
Deadline: Thursday, April 28, 2011

Send MS-Word or PDF file to [kemaspa@gmail.com](mailto:kemaspa@gmail.com); in e-mail message, provide your full name, major, the name of college or university that you are currently enrolled in, and a contact phone number.

Go to <http://www.bakersfieldaspa.org/scholarship.asp> for more detailed instructions.

Winners will be announced in early May 1011

Questions? Please contact Dr. Steven Daniels at [rdaniels@csu.edu](mailto:rdaniels@csu.edu)

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