

SIUE alumnus makes historic mark, climbs city leadership ranks

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EDWARDSVILLE - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville alumnus Shawn Bell has combined educational ambition and applied learning since high school, and is now achieving success as a city administrator, thanks in part to a resume filled with real-world experience.

Bell, a Glen Carbon native, earned a master's in public administration from SIUE in 2012. Since then, he has enjoyed a blossoming career in city management, including becoming the youngest city administrator in South Carolina in 2014, at age 28.

Now, he oversees approximately 100 employees and an \$18.5 million budget as the city manager/administrator for Fountain Inn, S.C.

"Early on in my proseminar in public administration course, Dr. Morris Taylor told our class about the role of a city manager," Bell said. "I'll never forget that day, and will never be able to thank him enough for that inspiration."

"Nothing prepared me more for my career in city management than the year-long internship the SIUE public administration and policy analysis (PAPA) program coordinated," he added. "I worked directly for the city manager and assistant city manager of Ferguson, Mo."

Throughout his career in city administration, Bell has overseen such departments as police, fire, finance, public works, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, and more. While his personal drive and professional experience are evident, he is the first to admit it takes a team of people to succeed.

"I am not and will not be an expert in any one field," he emphasized. "My department heads are the experts in their respective fields, and it's incredibly important that I don't micromanage. Instead, I need to know the right questions to ask and be able to hold individuals accountable."

SIUE's PAPA program meets the growing demand for a master's in public administration in an accelerated format. For more information on the graduate program, visit siue.edu/artsandsciences/papa.

By preparing the next generation of leaders in a knowledge-based economy, [SIUE's Graduate School](#) fulfills the region's demand for highly trained professionals. Graduate school offerings include arts and sciences, business, education, engineering, nursing and interdisciplinary opportunities. SIUE professors provide students with a unique integration of theoretical education and hands-on research experiences. Students can

obtain graduate certificates or pursue master's degrees, and be part of a supportive learning and rich intellectual environment that is tailored to the needs of adult learners. The Graduate School raises the visibility of research at SIUE, which ranks highest among its Illinois Board of Higher Education peers in total research and development expenditures according to the National Science Foundation. Doctoral programs are available in the Schools of Education (Ed.D.) and Nursing (DNP). The School of Engineering and the Department of Historical Studies feature cooperative doctoral programs (PhD), and the College of Arts and Sciences features an Environmental Resources and Policy cooperative PhD.