

# MAPOR NEWS

Research Excellence | Leadership | Student-Friendly

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## Key Highlights:

- \* Thank you all so much for such a wonderful MAPOR conference in the fall! We were pleased with how the hybrid conference turned out, and have many ideas for how to proceed into the future.

If you're a student, make sure you check out the student fellowship program for 2022



## A Message from the President:

*By: Kevin Ulrich, MAPOR President, University of Chicago Survey Lab*

Hello MAPOR colleagues! I am honored to lead MAPOR in 2022 and excited to work with a talented and committed new Executive Council. I look forward to serving our MAPOR community and contributing to our distinguished chapter.

### 2021 Conference Summary

It was a great pleasure to meet and see fellow MAPORites in person and virtually at the annual conference this past November! The decision to host a hybrid model was neither an easy decision to make nor a simple action to execute. Kudos to former Conference Chair David Sterrett and former Associate Conference Chair Leah Dean for leading the conference committee through difficult decisions and unprecedented issues.

I'll be very honest. We know that some of our virtual attendees had a diminished experience and that audio and other technical issues were sometimes frustrating and distracting for everyone. We understand that some of these issues were a result of the means by which we executed the hybrid model. Our cost estimates for professionally run virtual options would have doubled our conference expenses. We made the decision to go with a low-cost and internally managed virtual model because we felt confident we could deliver a good product while being good stewards of MAPOR resources. In the end, navigating unprecedented technical issues was a challenge for us, but I am very proud of the hard work and diligence of the conference committee

and our volunteers who helped us work through these problems. In anticipation of potential issues, we planned and launched the conference feedback survey within 24 hours of the close of the conference. We received 114 responses from 201 attendees (AAPOR RR1 = 57%). Any future hybrid model will consider your feedback and suggestions for future conference planning. At this time, we anticipate an in-person conference at the Embassy Suites in 2022. The hybrid model may be an option although this decision will be made later in the year depending on the status of the pandemic. Again, we will use your feedback from the conference survey to guide planning and options for 2022.

This year there were 201 conference attendees and 59% of those were in-person. Commensurate with previous years, 68% of attendees were non-students, with students making up the remaining 32%. For context, our last full in-person meeting in 2019 had 256 attendees and our all-virtual conference in 2020 had 157 attendees.

*MAPOR 2021 Conference Attendees*

Type	N	%
General attendees	137	68%
In-person	75	55%
Virtual	62	45%
Students	64	32%
In-person	44	69%
Virtual	20	31%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>201</b>	

We congratulate former MAPOR president (2014-15) Allyson Holbrook for being selected as the 2021 MAPOR fellow! Allyson will chair the Student Paper Competition this year and is currently leading an ad-hoc committee to review the criteria for the competition.

**What’s coming up for 2022?**

To increase learning and professional development resources for members, the Executive Council established the **MAPOR Online Learning Committee**. The committee is chaired by President-elect Justine Bulgar-Medina and is composed of at-large members Erin Heiden, Rebecca Powell, and Jerry Timbrook. In addition to conducting at least two webinars in 2022, the committee will host new events and professional development opportunities catered toward students and mid-career professionals. Stay tuned for announcements about resume review and speed networking events!

2022 marks the second year of the **MAPOR Student Fellowship Program**. The program pairs a student with a MAPOR fellow for a unique mentoring and partnering opportunity. Students submit abstracts to the Executive Council and are paired with a fellow based on the topic and method of their proposals. The program is managed by the Awards, Grants, and Support Committee and is chaired by member-at-large Bob Davis. To improve the program this year, Bob and Student Liaison Evgenia Kapousouz met with each of the six participating MAPOR fellows and students from 2021 to solicit their feedback. The results of their interviews will help us streamline and improve the program going forward. We are grateful to the participating fellows and congratulate the students on their work! We encourage members to solicit the participation

of promising students. Visit <https://www.mapor.org/student-fellowship-program/> for more details.

This year also marks the second year of the **MAPOR Student and Colleague Support Grants**. The MAPOR Student Support Grant is intended to help support students who wish to attend the MAPOR annual conference. The Executive Council will award funding of up to \$500, depending on the student's needs and the needs of others in the MAPOR community. The amount was determined based on feedback from students who participated in the conference survey. The MAPOR Colleague Support Grant is intended to support MAPOR members who work in any sector of survey research or public opinion research to attend the conference. The Colleague Grant was originally created in reaction to dwindling resources from organizations because of COVID-19. We envision this grant will also be used to support any MAPOR member without adequate resources to attend. Preference for recipients of both grants will be given to those who plan to contribute to the conference by presenting a paper or poster or co-authoring a paper. We encourage all members to spread the word about these support opportunities. For more information, visit <https://www.mapor.org/2021-support-grants/>.

The Executive Council also made the decision to drop the **Sponsorship Coordinator position**. The tasks of this role will now be executed by the Past President. Dana Garbarski is ready to roll and will be contacting our generous sponsors in the near future.

### General Updates

- Absent an update from those who joined MAPOR via AAPOR, there are currently **302 MAPOR members**. Members are composed of 233 non-students and 69 students.
- **MAPOR finances remain strong**. As of late February, we have \$26,767.94 in our checking and \$46,972.38 in our savings account (overall, \$73,740.32). At the close of 2021 the balance of our expenses and revenues resulted in a \$45 deficit. That's not a typo; we lost \$45 after reducing fees for students and taking on additional expenses from the hybrid model. Big thanks to Secretary/Treasurer Lindsey Witt-Swanson for her bookkeeping acumen and vigilant oversight of our spending.
- Conference Chair Leah Dean successfully negotiated another **three-year contract with Embassy Suites**. We have continued our partnership with Embassy Suites given the consistent support for this location indicated in previous member surveys.
- **MAPOR has moved!** Although we do not have designated physical spaces at any location, we need a designated location for tax purposes and other contracts. Thanks to MAPOR Past President (2012-13) and MAPOR fellow **Joe Murphy** for hosting MAPOR at the RTI Chicago office for so many years! We now thank Past President Ned English (2019-20) for welcoming MAPOR to its new "home" at NORC's downtown location in Chicago.
- MAPOR will hold in-person **MAPOR mixers** in 2022. We prefer to schedule mixers that correspond with other conferences, meetings, or events to diversify attendance. If you would like to suggest a location that corresponds with another event, conference, or meeting, send me a message at [president@mapor.org](mailto:president@mapor.org).
- The **MAPOR Member Survey** will land in your email inbox soon. Please help us help you by taking part in the survey and providing your honest feedback.

- Would you like to learn about the work and decisions of your Executive Council? EC meeting minutes are posted on our website at <https://www.mapor.org/officers/minutes/>.

**Have any thoughts or suggestions for me?** Shoot me an email at [president@mapor.org](mailto:president@mapor.org).

Finally, on behalf of MAPOR, I would like to express sincere appreciation to Past President Dana Garbarski for her leadership this past year! We are also extremely grateful for the contributions of Ned English and John Stevenson (MAPOR Fellow 2020) whose service to MAPOR ended in 2021. We also send special thanks to former Conference Chair Sara Walsh for her contributions as an at-large member in assisting with the challenging conference planning of 2021. Many thanks to you all; your dedicated service is what makes our MAPOR chapter and community so great!



## Student & Early-Career Corner

*By: Evgenia Kapousouz, MAPOR Student Liaison, University of Illinois Chicago*

MAPOR Executive Council greatly values students thus it always finds new ways to support and engage with them. At the 2021 conference, 64 students participated which accounted for 32% of all the participants. The majority of the students attended the conference in person (69% of the students), while 20 students attended virtually (31%). We are excited that 36 students were first time attendees and we plan to continue our efforts to introduce the students as regular members.

There was also a good turnout on the short course “Questionnaire Design: Theoretical Paradigms and Best Practices” led by Allyson Holbrook as 10 students participated. This year students had the opportunity to engage and network with people in the industry through Speed Networking. Furthermore, the networking Lunch Buffet continued to be free for students which was an opportunity to network with other MAPOR members. In addition, on Thursday we hosted a happy hour at Moxy hotel where students had the opportunity to meet and on Saturday we had our traditional lunch at Quartinos. Both events had a good turnout for the students from a plethora of universities.

MAPOR launched the MAPOR Fellowship Program for the first time. Students had the opportunity to work with a MAPOR Fellow, receive guidance, and present their paper at the conference. We congratulate all students who participated in the program - Kruthika Kamath, Rafiuddin Najam, and Robert Schultz and we thank the fellows Joe Murphy, Leo Jeffres, and Paul Lavrakas that guided the students. We would also like to congratulate Micha Fischer and Eileen Wu for winning the Student Paper Awards. Lastly, this year we launched the travel award providing financial support to MAPOR members and students to attend the conference.

The MAPOR's Executive Council appreciates students' participation and will continue supporting them. If you have any recommendations or concerns please contact me at [ekapou2@uic.edu](mailto:ekapou2@uic.edu).

## 2022 Student Fellowship Program

The Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research is excited to announce its open call for proposals for the 2022 Student Fellowship Program. This is a unique opportunity for students to work with a MAPOR fellow and receive guidance on the development of an original research project. Students selected to take part in the program will be matched with a MAPOR fellow based on the topic of their abstract. The MAPOR Executive Council will choose up to 4 proposals for participation in the program and the selected proposals will be accepted for presentation during the 2022 MAPOR Conference. Each selected student will be awarded \$250 and the conference registration will be waived for the authors of the selected proposals.

### Eligibility

All students enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 are eligible to participate in the program. If more than one author plans to collaborate, please make sure that all authors are students. The topic of the proposed papers should be related either to public opinion or survey methodology. If the students propose a quantitative study, please, make sure you have access to the data before you submit a proposal. Membership in MAPOR is not required to participate, but students are expected to be MAPOR members at the time of the conference. Preferably, students can submit one proposal as the primary author. Preferably, the participants will attend the conference in person. Students who will be selected for the Student Fellowship Program will not be eligible for the student paper award during this year, but they will be eligible for travel awards.

### Procedure

To be considered please submit a proposal to the MAPOR Executive Council for the Student Fellowship Program. The proposal should be between 500 and 1000 words. It should include a very brief literature review and an importance statement. If the proposal is quantitative, please make sure you identify and describe the dataset. Send the proposal by 11:59 CDT, Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. In the email include a subject line that says "MAPOR Student Fellowship Program". In addition, the student should identify a faculty mentor and ask them to write a letter of recommendation. Both the student proposal and the letter of recommendation should be sent to Kevin Ulrich, [ulrichkv@uchicago.edu](mailto:ulrichkv@uchicago.edu). The selected students for the Fellowship Program will be announced by April 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Students' responsibilities

The selected students will be responsible for their communication with their mentor. MAPOR Executive Council will suggest a communication plan. However, the students that will be selected for the Student Fellowship Program can suggest a different communication plan if they wish. Both the student and the mentor should agree upon the communication plan in writing and the communication plan should also be emailed to Kevin Ulrich. The students are expected to work on the paper with the guidance of the mentor. In addition, the students who will be selected will be required to present their paper in MAPOR 2022.

*If you have any questions, please email us at [ekapou2@uic.edu](mailto:ekapou2@uic.edu).*

## 2021-2022 MAPOR Executive Council

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Bob Davis  
Davis Research

### Member-at-Large

Erin Heiden  
University of Northern  
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### Member-at-Large

Rebecca Powell  
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Support from organizations like yours helps keep costs down for young researchers, and keeps MAPOR conference attendance high. In return, your sponsorship increases the visibility of your organization, both to future customers and to future hires of survey professionals.

Benefits of Sponsorship							
	Ad in the program	Conference registration	Link on the MAPOR Website	Acknowledgement in the newsletters	Opportunity to connect directly with conference attendees	Logo displayed during conference	Prominent sponsorship of pedagogy hour or keynote address
Gold Sponsorship (Contributions of \$2,000 or more)	✓ full page	✓ (two)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Silver Sponsorship (Contributions of \$1,000-\$1,999)	✓ full page	✓ (one)	✓	✓	✓	✓ (at major conference event)	
Bronze Sponsorship (Contributions up to \$1,000)	✓ half page		✓	✓		✓	

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