

Dr. Brian Pugh, Executive Director of the Stennis Center for Public Service

With nearly 18 years of government experience, Dr. Brian Pugh is the executive director of the Stennis Center for Public Service—a federal, legislative branch agency of government with offices in Starkville, MS and Washington, D.C. He previously served as deputy executive director and deputy state fiscal officer for the Mississippi Department of Finance & Administration, as director of finance for the Office of the Governor, and as a legislative budget analyst for the Legislative Budget Office. He worked for the Stennis Center as a student at Mississippi State University (MSU) before his career in state government.

He received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public policy and public administration from MSU and a Ph.D. in public policy and administration from Jackson State University, where he also taught for the College of Public Service. Dr. Pugh currently serves on the faculty for the Shackouls Honors College, at MSU, and was the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award in 2022 and the Faculty Teaching Award in 2024.

With an interest in public finance and budgeting, Dr. Pugh received a certificate in public financial management from the Center for State and Local Finance at Georgia State University. He is also a member of the Association for Budgeting & Financial Management and the American Society for Public Administration. In 2021, he was unanimously elected as a life member of the National Association of State Budget Officers.

Dr. Pugh is the author of the book, "Chaos and Compromise: The Evolution of the Mississippi Budgeting Process," published by the University Press of Mississippi in 2020. His book titled, "Who's Running the Show: The Historic Fiscal Battle between Mississippi Governors and the Legislature," is in progress. Dr. Pugh also conducts research on federal budgeting and the appropriations process.

Passionate about making housing affordable for all, in the poorest state in the nation, Dr. Pugh serves on the board for the Mississippi Home Corporation (MHC)—the state's housing finance agency. Dr. Pugh currently serves as MHC's Vice-Chairman. On the national level, Dr. Pugh is a member of the National Council of State Housing Agencies.