WILLIAM MURDOCK ‘99

GRADUATE DEGREE: Master of City and Regional Planning; Dual Degree M.S. in Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Administration

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE: B.A. in Political Science, B.S. in Economics - The Ohio State University

CURRENT JOB: Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE OSU FOR YOUR MCRP DEGREE?
OSU had what I was looking for in a graduate program. I wanted to work on improving cities and the environment and OSU prepared me with a broad range of experiences and engaging faculty. The program also offered opportunities for internships and international study. And, it had the benefit of being in the great city of Columbus!

DESCRIBE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE YOU HAD IN GRADUATE SCHOOL.
I had the opportunity to participate in an exchange program and study opportunity in Dresden, Germany. It gave me the chance to go abroad, meet new people, and discover new ways of approaching urban and environmental problems.

DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNSHIP WHILE IN THE PROGRAM?
Yes, at the City of Gahanna, Ohio. The internship allowed me a hands on chance to see how a city works and how to connect what I was learning to real people and real places. It also led to my first full time job!

HOW DID YOUR TIME IN THE PROGRAM PREPARE YOU FOR A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD?
OSU’s City & Regional Planning program connected me with a range of ideas I’ve used for my whole career and to people in the field I still work with and learn from today.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE MCRP PROGRAM?
I was a City Planner for the City of Gahanna, Ohio. I was responsible for a range of planning and zoning work, community engagement, and community and economic development. I also got to work on a strategy to clean up and redevelop a contaminated brownfield site.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT JOB?
I’m the Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), a metropolitan planning organization and regional council of local governments for Central Ohio. I lead a team of over 70 professionals in transportation, planning, energy, environmental, data, and housing programming. Every day I collaborate with local government, business, and community leaders to advocate for sustainability, transportation, and local government best practices.

WHAT HAVE YOU VALUED THE MOST WHEN YOU HIRE CRP GRADUATES?
Their passion for making the world a better place combined with the creative, diverse skill set they learned in their graduate program.