Institute of Science and Public Affairs

Bringing Together University Resources to Solve Critical Problems
HISTORY AND MISSION

Since 1978, the Institute of Science and Public Affairs (ISPA) has served as the gateway to university resources and expertise for government agencies and private organizations.

Through its component centers and institutes, ISPA is able to identify and to respond effectively and efficiently to some of our most critical environmental, social, and economic problems, whether local, regional, statewide, national, or global.

Both undergraduate and graduate students are an integral part of every aspect of ISPA. They gain experience in both research and technology, learn to work as members of a team, and explore options for their future. Many of the centers and institutes provide opportunities for student internships within the university as well as elsewhere in the United States and abroad.

ISPA and its component centers and institutes employ over 150 people, including 65 faculty members. In FY 2005-06, they were awarded over 200 contracts and grants amounting to more than $18.7 million, including $6.5 million in federal awards.

Through a variety of contracts, ISPA maintains a broad array of data resources available for public use. It also offers an extensive set of services for use in responding to critical social, environmental, governmental, education and training, and economic issues.
SCOPE OF THE INSTITUTE

Social Issues

Each year the Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy (CPEIP) positively impacts the lives of thousands of children, parents and caregivers. The CPEIP partners with local, state and federal agencies to develop policies and implement practices that promote maternal and child health.

The Florida Center for Prevention Research (FCPR) is primarily concerned with substance abuse prevention and health issues. The FCPR has partnered with the School of Social Work and the College of Communication to study behavioral norms on the FSU campus and to develop a social norms marketing campaign to reduce high-risk drinking and alcohol abuse.

Established in 2001, the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights (CAHR) develops and promotes human-rights related courses, conducts workshops on human trafficking, co-sponsors the Human Rights Film Festival with the FSU Amnesty International Chapter, and places students in internships in human rights organizations around the world.

ISPA’s newest center, the Center on Better Health and Life for Underserved Populations (BHLC) develops and tests model higher education and community-based programs to address health disparities in populations with insufficient social and economic resources.
The natural environment is the focus of several of the centers and institutes within ISPA. The predecessor of ISPA, the Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center (FREAC), was founded to conduct research in the general areas of resource management and environmental analysis. Geographic Information System (GIS) development, spatial database maintenance, web based database delivery, and graphic representation of geographic information are FREAC strengths.

The Florida Natural Areas Inventory Program (FNAI) within FREAC collects, interprets and disseminates ecological information critical to the conservation of Florida’s biological diversity. FNAI provides scientific support for the Florida Forever land acquisition program. Databases are maintained for conservation lands, invasive plants, and the Florida Forever land acquisitions.
The Center for Biomedical and Toxicological Research (CBTR) was initially established to assist the state of Florida with its needs related to environmental contamination from a wide variety of sources. Dr. Roy Herndon, founder and director of the CBTR, recognized “in order to mobilize the best scientific and technological resources for addressing widespread environmental problems, a global perspective is necessary.” The Institute for International Cooperative Environmental Research (IICER) became the forum for non-Florida-based CBTR research, educational and public service activities.

Created in 1982 to recommend a Coastal Construction Control Line for each of Florida’s 24 coastal counties with sandy beaches, the Beaches and Shores Resource Center (BSRC), conducts and disseminates research on Florida’s beaches, including coastal storm risk analysis, dune erosion models, and beach nourishment.

Home of the State Climatologist, the Florida State Climate Center provides climate data and information for the state of Florida and also engages in and publishes results of research.
Government

Through its five affiliate programs (UF, USF, UCF, FAU, FGCU), the Institute of Government (IOG) serves governments and communities in Florida through applied research, training, technical assistance and public service. Former governor Reubin O’D Askew is a senior fellow at the Institute. IOG partners with the Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center (FREAC) to bring critical GIS technology to small communities in Florida. The IOG also coordinates a number of statewide conferences for government organizations, including the annual meeting of the Florida Association of County Clerks.

The Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium (FCRC) was established by the legislature “to serve as a neutral resource to assist citizens and public and private interests in Florida to seek cost-effective solutions to public disputes and problems through the use of alternative dispute resolution and consensus building.”
Education & Training

Although all the centers and institutes within ISPA provide some degree of education, training and technical assistance, the Center for Information, Training and Evaluation Services (CITES) specializes in information management and assessment and evaluation.

Also within ISPA is the Florida Geographic Alliance (FGA), funded by Mel C. and Dot Costin Magidson and the National Geographic Fund. The Alliance shares the mission of the National Geographic Society to foster innovation in geographic education in pre-K through 12th grade.
Economic Analysis

The Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis (CEFA) assists state, local and federal governments as well as the private sector in examining and understanding the economic implications of various public policies and proposals primarily in the areas of transportation, healthcare, tourism, agriculture and the environment. The Center is collaborating with the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium on Coastal Issues and Education.
DATA RESOURCES

Land Boundary Information System (LABINS)
www.labins.org
Funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and housed in FREAC, LABINS is one of the largest collections of downloadable survey and mapping data available on the web today.

Florida Public Lands Inventory
floridapli.org
Is an inventory of all public lands in Florida produced annually under contract with the Department of Environmental Protection using the ad valorem tax roll databases.

Florida National Areas Inventory (FNAI)
www.fnai.org
FNAI maintains a comprehensive GIS database on conservation lands, rare and endangered plants, and invasive species for mapping and analysis.

Climate Data
www.coaps.fsu.edu/climate_center/
Archives of monthly precipitation data from selected cities in Florida and local climatological data reports published by the National Climate Data Center.

Shoreline Data
http://beach10.beaches.fsu.edu/
Florida storm surge research and reports, Florida beach nourishment monitoring reports, Melbourne Beach wave gage data, and shoreline change rates.
# SERVICES

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CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

Center on Better Health and Life for Underserved Populations (BHLC)
C2200 University Center
Tallahassee, FL 32306-2614
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www.ispa.fsu.edu

Beaches and Shores Resource Center (BSRC)
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850-644-2847 fax 850-644-6293
beach10.beaches.fsu.edu

Center for the Advancement of Human Rights (CAHR)
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Tallahassee, FL 32301
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www.cahr.fsu.edu

Center for Biomedical and Toxicological Research (CBTR)
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Center for Information, Training, and Evaluation Services (CITES)
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www.freac.fsu.edu

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