CENTER FOR STATE POLICY AND LEADERSHIP

2014 Annual Report
The mission of the Center for State Policy and Leadership is to: conduct research to inform public decisions; educate and engage citizens in public affairs; improve public leadership and service. The mission is accomplished through the concerted efforts of the students, faculty and staff of UIS, in tandem with our national, state and local partners.
WITH THE EVIDENCE

• In the first week of October, 2014, the Center for State Policy and Leadership’s Survey Research Office conducted a poll of the race for Governor using an online panel of voters, rather than the usual method of randomly telephoning people. The panel showed challenger Bruce Rauner leading incumbent Pat Quinn by 2 percentage points. Rauner ended up winning the election by 4.8 percentage points, within the margin of error of the panel poll. The results provide preliminary evidence that non-random panel polls may not be as unrepresentative as their critics think.

• “As the number of full-time reporters shrinks, new media outlets and [politicians’] political communications staffs seek to fill the gaps in coverage,” wrote Jamey Dunn in the Illinois Issues Blog on July 10, 2014. Dunn went on to describe the findings of a recent report from the Pew Research Journalism Project detailing the decline in coverage of statehouses by traditional journalism and the rise in coverage by narrower, sometimes ideologically oriented niche outlets, non-profit digital-only sources, and legislative offices communicating directly with the public.

• In his Ends and Means opinion column in the October, 2014 edition of Illinois Issues, Charles N. Wheeler III challenged the advocates of term limits for lawmakers. Drawing on his many years observing Illinois politics, Wheeler argued that “for those who see long-term legislative service as a bad thing, a better prescription for the perceived ailment than denying voters…the right to retain a lawmaker they believe is doing a good job…would be to level the playing field for challengers so that every race would be more competitive.” The way to do that, Wheeler suggested, “would be to adopt a redistricting procedure that minimized partisan considerations in drawing legislative boundaries.”

Each of these examples from last year’s work of the Center for State Policy and Leadership represents a type of evidence—the evidence from a novel political poll, the evidence from a research study incorporated into a blog posting, the evidence arising from long observation of Illinois politics.

Evidence, particularly of the more scientific kind, has a peculiar relationship with politics. Evidence can be cherry-picked, distorted, ignored, or have its validity challenged by ideological conviction or misunderstanding. Rather than produced with objective intent, evidence can be manufactured to support the result a political actor wants. And sometimes, of course, evidence serves the legitimate purpose of shedding light on the truth and making public decisions better informed.

Seventy years ago, John Dewey, one of the founders of the American school of thought known as pragmatism, and theologian Reinhold Niebuhr debated in the pages of magazines and newspapers the question of whether knowledge (evidence) could constitute an effective challenge to power. Ever the optimist, Dewey saw an integral relationship between the scientific mind, which he believed was accessible to all citizens, and the preservation of a democratic way of life. Niebuhr, whose pessimism had been shaped by his experience with Nazism and the Holocaust, argued that knowledge was too thin a reed to depend on and that only power could trump power.

Since that debate, scientific evidence has accumulated in every field. Although power still determines most public choices, it has gotten harder to act politically without taking the relevant evidence into account. Some states have deliberately made evidence more central to their decision making. For example, the Washington legislature has created a staff organization devoted to reviewing evidence on the effectiveness of policies and programs and conducting benefit-cost studies to allow them to be compared more rationally. Even Illinois, a state better known for its bare-knuckled politics and backroom deal-making, has taken steps toward becoming more evidence-based. The state’s Sentencing Policy Advisory Council has been participating in a foundation-funded initiative called Results First, which helps other states learn Washington’s benefit-cost study methods.

Making more and better use of evidence, such as benefit-cost analysis, is a good thing. During its 26 years, the Center for State Policy and Leadership, on its own or in cooperation with federal, state, and local governments and nonprofit organizations, has been advancing the role of evidence in public policy and practice. Through research and evaluation projects, the Center has sought to gain insight into the workings and effectiveness of
For many years, healthcare policy has been guided by three objectives – quality, access, and cost control. These aims remain central, but they have been joined recently by a fourth – accountability. The immense size and complexity of the healthcare system make it difficult to understand and navigate. Assuring that the system is informed by the wants and needs of its patients and the larger public interest has spurred a variety of research and education activities in the Center.

Assessing Community Needs

The Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, requires non-profit hospitals to assess the needs of their community every three years. Hospitals then have to show what they are doing about the needs the community identifies. The first local needs assessment for Springfield began last summer, when the two local hospitals and the county public health department, in collaboration with the SIU School of Medicine, contracted with the Center’s Survey Research Office (SRO) under its director Dr. Ashley Kirzinger, to begin collecting data on needs from the community.

Close to 800 local residents responded to a survey that SRO conducted this past fall. Public input was also obtained through five public forums where residents had the opportunity to discuss health issues.

Living Better with Disability

A rising proportion of the population is older people with functionally limiting conditions and people under the age of 65 who have long-term physical and mental disabilities. Recent decades have seen a shift away from caring for this population in institutions and, instead, helping them live at home or in community-like settings. Institutions are, on average, more than twice as expensive as community-based care. And while sometimes necessary for people with severe needs, institutions are, by definition, less responsive to individual circumstances.

Through a grant provided by the Affordable Care Act, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS) operates a demonstration program, called Money Follows the Person (MFP), that helps people living in nursing homes or other institutions move back to the community and get the support and services they need there. This past year, IDHFS contracted with the Center’s Office of Electronic Media (OEM) to produce a video that can be used to educate nursing home residents and their family members about Money Follows the Person. The video features interviews with Money Follows the Person care coordinators and people who have successfully transitioned back into the community. The initial popularity of the video prompted IDHFS to order substantially more copies for distribution statewide. (The video can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2E8d2Zh1SY.)

The survey and forums identified a variety of health concerns, ranging from specific diseases affecting particular neighborhoods and families to nutrition in the schools. When people were asked to identify what they consider to be the top priorities, four areas were rated most important by a majority of the residents participating in the survey and forums: access to care, child abuse, mental health, and obesity. Child abuse, mental health, and obesity are not just health concerns, but also social problems. Addressing these priorities will not only require good healthcare but awareness and effort in many other parts of the community as well.

Evidence is no cure-all. And the purveyors of evidence – the experts – are not immune from abusing power to advance their own interest. But, evidence, when developed and used correctly, is capable of making public decisions better than they would be otherwise, and giving the public more confidence in the ability of government to solve problems and meet needs. The Center for State Policy and Leadership is committed to this ideal, as its activities in 2014 amply demonstrate.

The NEW AGE OF HEALTHCARE ACCOUNTABILITY
year to submit to the federal government a plan for how they will comply with the rules within a reasonable period of time. To that end, IDHFS, and the Illinois Departments of Human Services and Aging, developed several surveys with the help of the Survey Research Office to assess how well existing residential and non-residential service settings in communities comply with the new requirements applicable to them.

One of the main insights from the surveys concerns employment opportunities – both paid and volunteer – for individuals in community-based residential settings. While people in these settings can come and go as they please, they don’t have as much flexibility in pursuing job opportunities outside the residence. Yet, the new federal rules make clear that employment must be a significant element in ensuring the integration of residents with the community where they are located. In light of this finding, Illinois is developing a plan to assure that individuals living in facilities funded by Medicaid have more autonomy in seeking outside employment.

The shift toward caring for people at home or in their community has been accompanied by more attention to what is known as palliative care. Historically, much of medicine has focused on finding and applying cures. But, not all diseases currently have cures or the cures for them are unreliable. Palliative care focuses instead on relieving the symptoms, such as pain, and the stress of severe illness.

This past year, the Office of Electronic Media (OEM) worked with the Illinois Homecare and Hospice Council to develop video content for a multi-part MOOC, short for Massive Open Online Course, on approaches to palliative care. The four hours of video programming supplement educational content with interviews with healthcare providers, employees, and patients. “The intent,” explained OEM director Cody Pope, “is to improve understanding of how palliative care can strengthen the coordination of care across the continuum of home and community-based services.” Training modules deal with the theory of palliative care, its delivery, how to plan for care, managing pain, the business case for palliative care, and related topics.

Coalescing around Healthcare Preparedness

Coalitions are a common way to unite different parties around a common purpose. But, despite their prevalence, they are, once created, often difficult to sustain. In 2014, the Illinois Department of Public Health, with funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, engaged the Center’s Certified Public Manager Program of Illinois (CPM) to train the state’s ten regional healthcare preparedness coalitions in current best practices for building and sustaining themselves.

The healthcare preparedness coalitions are a network of healthcare providers, emergency medical services, public health departments, law enforcement, and others created to prepare for the response to and recovery from disasters. The training, delivered by CPM director Lorena Johnson, focused on a range of relevant topics, including establishing clear purposes, the benefits and costs of coalitions, identifying local interdependencies among disaster response partners, managing conflicts, and evaluating success.

Ripping Off Seniors

“Last spring, the state legislature got interested in financial abuse of seniors. This can occur, for example, through checks or other forms of low-tech financial theft at banks. At the Illinois Department on Aging, in response to legislative interest, we wanted to address the problem by making banks mandated reporters, meaning that they would have to disclose to police and adult protective services if there was suspected abuse of a senior. Because the banks were opposed to the mandate, I was asked to gather evidence of the problem by investigating financial abuse against seniors during the past two years in Illinois. In the Chicago area alone, I discovered over 30 cases of financial abuse by bank employees. Several of them were bank managers who had been hired after being fired for financial abuse from their previous job. The same was true of bank tellers. The bill to deal with this died in committee, but the issue hasn’t.”

Timothy Hameetman
Graduate Public Service Intern
2014
Developing the Community and Economy Together

Harvard political scientist Robert Putnam coined the now familiar metaphor “bowling alone” to characterize the decline of civic engagement in the United States since the 1970s. Before Putnam became famous as a metaphorist, his most notable work was a scholarly study of democracy in Italy, entitled *Making Democracy Work*. Drawing from a variety of sources of evidence, Putnam argued that more economically advanced regions in Italy also had better governments, and the underlying reason for both is that these regions were more civic. More precisely, they had traditions of civic engagement stretching well back in time, and these traditions produced the social capital needed for economic and governmental health.

Whether or not Putnam’s “discovery” is universally applicable to democracies, the idea that economy and community are intertwined and affect each other is hard to argue with, as a number of the Center’s experiences in 2014 illustrate.

Measuring the Quality of Life

In 2013, the Survey Research Office conducted the first of an anticipated decade-long series of biennial surveys on the quality of life of Sangamon County residents. The success of that survey prompted SIU’s Paul Simon Public Policy Institute in Carbondale, Illinois to contract with SRO to do a similar survey of the residents of Jackson and Williamson Counties. The survey dealt with economic, education, health, government, civic participation, infrastructure, social well-being, culture, recreation, public safety, and environment.

“Two-thirds of residents in these counties reported that things were generally on the right track in southern Illinois,” said SRO director Ashley Kirzinger, who oversaw the survey. Majorities rated the southern part of the state positively as a place to live, raise children and retire. However, residents expressed concern about the southern Illinois economy. Majorities rated their county as either a fair or poor place to work, and less than 15 percent of the 592 respondents to the survey said that current local business conditions are better than they were a year ago. Most respondents indicated that attracting new businesses to the area was a high priority.

Residents were very supportive of education at all levels. Almost three-fourths reported that pre-kindergarten was a high priority for the region. A majority evaluated as positive the quality of elementary and secondary education their children are getting. When asked the change most needed to improve kindergarten through twelfth grade, increased funding received the most support from respondents.

Using Evidence to Revise the Rules

“One of my larger projects while at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has been serving on the committee responsible for updating regulations. My specific area is class III groundwater standards, which have to do with groundwater located within a designated nature preserve or special resource water deemed impossible to replace. I began looking and running statistics on the data we had from a geologist in order to assess the need for new standards. Other committee members and I felt that we probably did not have enough data to support a change. So, I contacted the geologist to see if he had any other data he was willing to share. He was able to give me raw data from his research, which I then analyzed and presented to the committee. I was able to increase our sample from 25 to 300 using this analysis, which gave us a firmer basis for considering a rules change.”

Rachelle Malin
Graduate Public Service Intern
2014
An Improving Economy but....

In two stories that aired on WUIS, veteran journalist Bill Wheelhouse captured the tension between an improving economy and the lingering challenges spawned by the “great recession.” In September, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce released its annual economic outlook, showing that local employers were more optimistic about the economy than they had been. The outlook, based on a survey the Survey Research Office conducts every fall and spring, found that more than 80 percent of the employers who responded were feeling better about their own business and the overall Sangamon County economy. Respondents identified healthcare and education as two key strengths of the region.

While things were looking up for the for-profit sector in 2014, nonprofit businesses that answered the outlook survey were more pessimistic, observed Wheelhouse. They noted problems with revenue as a result of reductions in state funding and donations. Following this same line, in August Wheelhouse did a WUIS story on how charities in the United States were increasingly under pressure to provide services and programs that were previously a government responsibility. He cited a study by consultants who looked at 400 charitable gifts of $1 million or more and found that 40 percent of the donations were related to the actions of government. “The focus of that study,” wrote Wheelhouse, “was finding ways for philanthropy to succeed in a new age of government austerity.”

Democratizing Technology

The free flow of information is critical to a democracy. Today, that means ready access to the changing array of technologies through which information can be obtained and used. No set of institutions is more important to this cause than libraries, which help to level the playing field of technological access for all people, not just those with the ability to pay.

Since 2010, the Illinois State Library has operated a program called ILEAD to help librarians learn how to work with the latest web technologies. The Center’s Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies (the Institute) and SRO have together been ILEAD’s evaluator from the start. The latest evaluation was of a cohort of 34 Illinois librarians who experienced ILEAD in 2014. In the ILEAD model, librarians learn about new information technologies by participating on small teams. Each team is responsible for designing and trying to complete a project using one or more of these technologies, which participants learn about at a series of three in-person training conferences in Springfield. The evaluation found the 2014 cohort to be among the best yet in terms of how well their teams functioned and what librarians reported learning from the experience. Participants also indicated that the results of team projects were already producing substantial benefits for library patrons.
Neil Fligstein, a sociologist at the University of California-Berkeley, wrote a book in 2001 describing how businesses in many, if not most, industries prefer markets with stable rules. Regulatory stability makes it easier to predict the future, which is helpful in estimating income, costs, and, most of all, profits. The same preference for stability and predictability applies to nonprofit organizations and even the public ones that promulgate the rules.

In the wake of the 2007-2009 economic recession, business leaders and the news media began talking about the problem of “policy uncertainty” — in other words, unstable rules — and its deleterious effects on business decision making. Though policy uncertainty has, in fact, been on the rise since the 1960s, the recent recession amplified it. How to get out of so deep an economic hole was not obvious, and the stand-off between the political right and left on solutions only added to the uncertainty.

Though the U.S. economy has improved, policy uncertainty has continued to be a challenge in Illinois, both because of the state’s slower than average recovery from the recession and the conundrum posed by its massive budget problem.

**Short-term Politics vs. Long-term Realities**

Facing elections in the fall, Illinois policymakers in 2014 produced an annual budget with a built-in several billion dollar deficit. Resolving none of the major questions about taxing and spending fueled the main debate between the gubernatorial candidates. As Illinois Issues’ Jamey Dunn put it in November: “Should the [temporary] income tax [hike] be allowed to sunset in January as scheduled? Should it be held at the current rates? Should it be allowed to step down gradually to cushion the blow to revenue? Will the Illinois Supreme Court uphold a law that would cut pension benefits? If not, how does Illinois address its $100 billion unfunded liability?” Answers to these questions were discussed, but none became policy.

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Somewhat marginalized as an issue for many years, inequality rose to a prominent place on the national and state agendas in 2014. Economic and racial disparities suddenly had the public’s attention in ways they haven’t had in a long while. A combination of evidence from research and events, tragic and dramatic, seemed to propel the topic to a new, more central place in policy conversations.

### Wealth and Income

Economic inequality in the United States was high early in the twentieth century, declined between the late 1920s and late 1970s, and then has been increasing since then, according to a study published in 2014 by economists Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman. Put simply, wealth has become more concentrated in the hands of the very rich. As the rich have gotten richer in recent decades, the labor market, through which most
people acquire their chief source of income, has become less fluid. A less fluid labor market means slower rates of both job creation and destruction, leading to fewer new opportunities. The effects of the decline in fluidity have been especially adverse for young and less educated workers, concluded analysts Steven J. Davis and John Haltiwanger in a paper for the National Bureau of Economic Research In November, 2014. Their data show that Illinois has one of the least fluid labor markets in the country.

“What most agree on is that opportunity should be there for everyone,” wrote Marcia Frellick in the June edition of Illinois Issues. Frellick was citing statistics that describe economic inequality in Illinois. The state has the ninth highest income inequality in the country, said Frellick, with the income of the top 1 percent increasing by 212 percent between 1979 and 2007, while the income gain of everyone else averaged 12 percent during that time. Frellick cited evidence from research suggesting that one of the factors in rising levels of inequality may be the increased tendency of people to marry partners with the same level of education. Two people with college degrees get jobs that produce a significantly higher income than a married couple with less education. Education should lead to better jobs with higher wages, but if people work hard and still can’t get ahead, indicated Frellick, then a growing level of inequality may be harder to defend.

Illinois policymakers’ efforts to address the problem of income inequality in 2014 were mostly limited to trying to raise the minimum wage. The issue, at least for a time, figured as a bone of contention between then Gov. Pat Quinn and challenger Bruce Rauner. As WUIS’ Amanda Vinicky wrote in the December edition of Illinois Issues, “Quinn got on board with President Barack Obama’s call for a minimum wage hike in early 2013.” The issue fizzled then, but Quinn resurrected it in 2014 as part of his campaign platform. Rauner’s views on elevating the minimum wage vacillated. A YouTube video from September, 2013 showed Rauner saying that he was “adamantly against raising the minimum wage,” reported Vinicky. But during the campaign in 2014, he took a less strident approach, supporting an increase “under certain conditions.”

In the end, while the legislature failed to pass a bill increasing the minimum, the voters did manage to approve a non-binding ballot question in November to up the minimum from its current level of $8.25 an hour to $10.00 an hour. The effects of increasing the minimum might be mixed, said Vinicky. She cited a February, 2014 Congressional Budget Office report indicating that an increase of the federal minimum wage to $10.10 an hour could lift 900,000 families out of poverty, while also possibly eliminating 500,000 jobs.

Race and Diversity

Police killings of unarmed black men, particularly the shooting death of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson, Missouri, galvanized public attention on racial disparities in law enforcement in 2014. Maureen Foertsch McKinney captured the mood well and pointed to one of the less obvious consequences in her Code Switch article for the November edition of Illinois Issues: “…anger has bubbled to the surface about how much more likely it is for black men to die at the hands of law enforcement. Or to be profiled while driving, shopping, or going to school. What may be overlooked is how the perhaps already bruised psyches of black boys are affected by a staccato series of killings of young black men such as Oscar Grant, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown,…and others.” McKinney summarized research showing how threats in the environment can elevate brain chemicals and hormones associated with stress and affect cognition, “making it more difficult to retain information and remain focused in school.”
A more personal perspective on the dilemma came from John Fountain, a professor of journalism at Roosevelt University and regular columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times. Writing in the September edition of Illinois Issues, Fountain described the anger he experienced while waiting to find out if his son would win the lottery for a seat at a charter school, and thereby avoid having to go to one of Rich Township district’s three high schools. “I sat percolating,” wrote Fountain, “angry, on the one hand, that 56 years after Brown v. Board of Education, public schools remained separate and unequal; and on the other, that on this night the potential educational fate of 185 students came down to one simple dynamic: a wisp of air beneath a ping pong ball.” Fountain worried that improving public “high school graduation rates won’t necessarily mean a brighter future, especially in cases where students are academically failing.” Part of the solution may lay, suggested Fountain, in educators who are loving and caring but also set high expectations and stick to them.

Racial inequality can also find its way into the voting booth, according to a draft paper UIS political science professor John Transue coauthored last year with Gregory A. Petrow of the University of Nebraska and Timothy Vercellotti of Western New England University. Transue and his colleagues looked at voting in the 2008 and 2012 Presidential elections and three other elections in 2010. They found that “the mere presence of a black candidate cues white racial identity, reducing support for these candidates among whites.” Specifically, cued “white racial identity reduced President Obama’s approval, thus reducing support for all Democratic Congressional candidates in the 2010 midterm and 2012 Congressional elections.” The effect occurs when blacks and whites run against each other, but not when candidates of the same race do.

The influences of racial identity are not limited to whites and blacks. Other races are affected as well, and it doesn’t take an explicitly political context to make racial identity salient. Just ask The Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield. Last summer, The Hoogland put on a traditional production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s operetta The Mikado. Reporting for WUIS, Rachel Otwell described the Mikado’s music as “undeniably western…It’s a musical comedy that pokes fun at life and politics in England. But the look…is Japanese, stereotypically and fantastically so.” The production attracted criticism that it portrays the Japanese in a racist way by having white actors perform in “yellowface.” A recent production of the Mikado in Seattle, said Otwell, “had attracted protesters with picket signs saying things like ‘My culture is not a costume.’” The Hoogland and others disputed the characterization of The Mikado as racist.

Although racial disparities and discrimination persist, small gains are being made here and there that provide at least a bit of cause for hope. In the spring, the Center’s Survey Research Office, on behalf of Springfield’s Community Relations office, conducted a survey which found mostly positive attitudes among city employees toward the city’s awareness of diversity issues and efforts to provide a welcoming environment for demographically different workers. Female and nonwhite employees were less sanguine than male and white employees, but they were still more positive than negative. Attitudes in 2014 toward the city’s work on diversity issues improved some over those recorded by a similar survey in 2013, although in both years employees expressed concern about diversity in hiring decisions.

In the September edition of Illinois Issues, Brian Mackey described some of the progress being made to use what are called “restorative justice” methods to manage discipline and other behavior problems in schools. A black student, as Mackey noted, is “three times more likely to be suspended or expelled than his white classmates.” Being thrown out of school for disciplinary reasons means less opportunity to learn, which can often put less advantaged nonwhite students further behind. With restorative justice, instead of sending students who misbehave out of the building, they are brought together with other students in a kind of mediation where the students themselves work out what to do. It’s like a “peer jury,” said Mackey. While the method has been catching on, evidence of its effectiveness has largely been
anecdotal. As Mackey put it, “The current data craze isn’t going away. One of the challenges for restorative justice advocates is that there’s no entry for ‘stronger relationships’ or ‘fights prevented’ on school report cards.”

Unequal Campaign Spending

Whether one views it as furthering the reach of inequality, the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in April 2014 to **lift the cap on total contributions by individuals** to political campaigns would seem to benefit the wealthy over others. Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, “likened an individual’s right to contribute to as many candidates as he or she chooses to the freedom the First Amendment grants to the press,” explained Jamey Dunn in the May edition of *Illinois Issues*. In the minority opinion Justice Stephen Breyer, said Dunn, argued “that as the wealthy exercise their speech through tons of cash, the average American would not be able to compete, and his or her speech will be suppressed.” Illinois does not set aggregate limits on individual donations in state races, so the ruling won’t directly affect state campaign finance. But, the Court’s decision did stir up interest from advocates on both sides of the issue, according to Dunn. Those concerned about the undue political influence of the wealthy talked about pushing for a campaign finance amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Those who think the First Amendment’s protection of free speech should take priority continued their efforts to challenge Illinois’ existing campaign finance restrictions.

Fair Justice

According to the National Registry of Exonerations, 2014 set a record for exonerations, with 125 individuals released from prison for crimes they did not commit. The year before set the previous high of 91.

The Center’s Illinois Innocence Project is one of only two projects in the country operated out of an undergraduate institution. Undergraduate students play a large role in identifying and evaluating cases of possible innocence. The Project is also the only one in the United States affiliated with all of the public law schools in the state.

In 2014, the Illinois Innocence Project relied on the help of 15 UIS undergraduate students and 37 law students from the University of Illinois College of Law, Northern Illinois University College of Law, and Southern Illinois University School of Law. In addition, the Project established a major volunteer program to help with casework, communications, and fund raising. Starting with one volunteer at the beginning of the year, it ended the year with 14. Students and volunteers worked with John Hanlon, the Project’s legal director, Lauren Kaeseberg, a project attorney, and Gwen Jordan, a UIS legal studies professor on 37 active innocence cases. During the year, 10 of these cases were “in the lab” for DNA testing, and the Project prevailed in three other cases in obtaining court orders for testing.
In 2000, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) published a ground-breaking report on the science of child development, emphasizing the early years. The report, From Neurons to Neighborhoods, described in detail the findings from research, but also identified how the changing landscape of child development was constraining the use of this knowledge. That landscape was characterized by an increasing amount of work outside the home by parents and more time spent in care settings outside the home by children. Continuing high levels of economic deprivation for families with children were linked with the complexity produced by increasing racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity and growing awareness of the damage of family and community stress on children. The report summed up the main point this way: “This convergence of advancing knowledge and changing circumstances calls for a fundamental reexamination of the nation’s responses to the needs of…children and their families, many of which were formulated several decades ago and revised only incrementally since.”

In the intervening 15 years, while the response to the IOM’s call to action has not been dramatic, progress has been made in Illinois. Knowledge of child development has continued to accumulate, and it is playing more of a role in shaping policies and programs affecting children. The Center’s experiences from 2014 offer a case in point.

Protecting Children

The Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois, part of Memorial Health System, launched an initiative four years ago to do a better job identifying children with social and emotional problems and help them access the treatment they need. Catalyzed by funding from the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation, MOSAIC, as the project is known, has focused on the 26,000 children who live within the boundaries of the Springfield public school district. The local approach is based on what has been learned through research about building coordinated systems of care that are more efficient and effective in meeting the needs of children with mental health challenges. The evaluation of MOSAIC has been carried out by the Institute and SRO.

In 2014, MOSAIC screened 10,004 children for mental health issues through healthcare providers and schools. This compared to around 7,000 children screened the year before. The initiative has been gradually extending its reach healthcare provider by healthcare provider and school by school, with the aim of eventually covering all children in the local area. Of the children screened by schools in 2014, 20 percent had a “positive” screen, meaning the presence of social or emotional difficulties that required further attention. Data on positive screens from healthcare providers was still being analyzed as the year came to a close.

In the spring, the Institute and SRO surveyed healthcare providers on the value to them of the MOSAIC model. While there was some hesitation to fully endorse the accuracy of the screening instruments being used, respondents to the survey saw important benefits in both the screening and the model’s embedding of mental health clinicians in provider offices. Nearly all said they would recommend the MOSAIC model to other provider practices. In the second half of the year, with a grant from Women for Women, a fund within the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, MOSAIC began collaborating with Mercy Communities in Springfield to provide mental health support for the mothers of at risk children. Results from the Institute’s and SRO’s evaluation of this component will be available in 2015.

Children with social and emotional problems often come from circumstances in which they have been abused or neglected. There is no more trying job in the public sector than investigating allegations of child abuse or neglect. “Child welfare work is notoriously difficult,” wrote Kevin McDermott in the March 2014 edition of Illinois Issues, “rife with unpredictable outcomes and unavoidable tragedies.”
There is probably not much that can be done to make the work less difficult, but those who do it might be more effective if they had better training. Most child protection workers begin their careers with classroom training that does not adequately prepare them for the complexities of the family situations they will encounter. To help remedy this, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) entered into a year-long contract with the Center in the summer of 2014 to revamp the state’s child protection training. Under the leadership of Dr. Betsy Goulet, the project is drawing on the research of effective learning practices to make the Illinois training more experiential and less didactic. The hope is to anchor the training in simulated real-life situations that will give new staff a richer and more accurate understanding of what the work is actually like. According to Goulet, “The partnership between the university and DCFS is making it possible for the next generation of child welfare workers to enter the field with the necessary skills to protect the most vulnerable of victims.”

Efforts to strengthen child protection training and improve mental healthcare access for children have come amidst cutbacks in state funding, which only make the work that much more difficult. McDermott cited figures from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees showing that DCFS lost a third of its staff headcount between 2000 and 2014. In an article for the April 2014 edition of Illinois Issues, Maureen McKinney reported that funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services for children’s mental health had declined by 23 percent since 2009.

A Better Education

Education is generally the largest expenditure of state and local governments. In fiscal year 2014, Illinois spent $12 billion on education, about a third of the total state operating budget. Despite that, Illinois ranked last among the states for funding of public elementary and second education, as Dusty Rhodes reported for Illinois Issues in November. “For the past few years,” said Rhodes, “the state has failed to pony up the full amount pledged to schools, paying just 89 percent of the total promised” and leading to efforts in the legislature to change the funding formula. Spending on higher education has also eroded. Although Illinois’ education funding performance has been something less than stellar, the fact that a third of the budget is spent this way makes education of high political importance. Such a big investment carries with it, as Stanford education scholar David Labaree points out, expectations of a payoff from the contribution that education makes to the economy. Students are expected to enter the adult world ready to be productive workers and good citizens. Perceptions that American students are falling short, particularly when compared with students in other countries, has given rise to the rapid adoption of the Common Core learning standards in English language arts and math by most states, including Illinois in 2010.

“The new standards are supposed to hold all students,” wrote Tara Garcia Mathewson in the September edition of Illinois Issues, “to the same high expectations.” To find out whether Illinois students are meeting the Common Core standards, the
State Board of Education piloted in the Spring of 2014 a new test that will replace the Illinois Standards Achievement Test for elementary and middle school students and the Prairie State Achievement Exam for high school students. Called PARCC, for Partnership for Assessment and Readiness for College and Careers, the test was developed by the giant education company, Pearson, and is being used by 11 states. Due to be implemented statewide in spring 2015, PARCC has not been uniformly embraced by educators. In two stories for *Illinois Issues* in December, Dusty Rhodes described concerns that some have about the validity and reliability of the test. The pilot test in 2014 focused on technical aspects of administering the test, rather than how well it measures what students learn. There were also, noted Rhodes, the usual concerns about the cost of doing something new at a time of strained school budgets.

Raising educational standards may pose a special challenge for less advantaged children, who were already more likely to struggle in school when the standards were lower. Prompted by this possibility, the Sangamon County Continuum of Learning, of which the Center is a member, commissioned a study in 2014 to develop recommendations for improving developmental and educational outcomes for at risk children. Working groups of experts from the community evaluated the evidence from research and the experience of local programs to identify ways in which the educational achievement gap between less advantaged and more advantaged children could be substantially narrowed. The groups completed their work in December, and the coordinating council of the Continuum is expected to issue a public report, under the name of *Sangamon Success*, in the spring of 2015. Among the possibilities the community will be encouraged to consider are adopting a program called the Nurse-Family Partnership, in which nurses visit low-income, first-time mothers in their homes, increasing the availability of high quality preschool slots for less advantaged children, expanding the use of evidence-based mentoring programs, such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and promoting wider use of dual credit programs in which high school students can earn high school and college credits at the same time.

### Pathways to Service

One of the longstanding commitments of the Center has been the development of young talent for public service. Some of the most accomplished and competent people in state government have come through the ranks of the Center’s Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) program and Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP). In 2014, GPSI placed 305 graduate students, from nearly every master’s degree program at UIS, in half-time internships with 26 state and other agencies. Under the guidance of experienced agency supervisors, placements allowed interns to apply and use their skills on professional-level tasks and to learn about the workings of public service. ILSIP had 23 people complete nearly year-long, full-time internships with the Democratic and Republican caucuses in both the House and the Senate and in the Legislative Research Unit. Of these interns, 14 subsequently accepted offers for regular employment with the legislature when their internship ended.
Honoring a Wise and Honest Public Servant

Terry Weldon-Frisch, a long-time policy analyst with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), won the 2014 Sagarika Madala Memorial Award for Exemplary Leadership by an intern supervisor in the Graduate Public Service Internship program. In nominating Weldon-Frisch for the award, intern Ryan Warner described an early experience he had that exemplifies Terry’s commitment to the highest standards of public service: “Terry asked me to prepare a brief on biofuels for the director of DCEO. After I drafted the brief, I sent it to Terry and a short while later got an email from him with dozens of revisions in the brief. In total, we revised the biofuels brief nine times before giving it to the director. This is just one of many examples where Terry reinforced the idea that, so long as I do my work as completely and thoroughly as possible, and do research that is honest and balanced, I’ll be fine.”

UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES THROUGH THE PAST

How we respond or what we think at any given moment is governed by our past. The relevant past may have been an hour previous or 30 years ago, but prior experience is, as cognitive scientist Stellan Ohlsson puts it, our only guide to the future. Our personal histories, defined in this way, seem to be bound by the timeframes of our individual lives, and this is what we are most familiar with. But, in fact, our lives are suffused with a history that is always much larger than ourselves. Our language, perceptions, and beliefs are shaped by this longer past. We better understand ourselves and our possibilities when we better understand the bigger history of which we are the current chapter.

Looking at the evidence of the past to inform the present and the future is hardwired into the Center’s approach to its work. It helps that UIS is located in Springfield, which is not just the state capital, a place with a rich history, but also the home of Abraham Lincoln, the state’s historical favorite son and most iconic political figure.

Documenting Lincoln

In 2014, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, of which the Center is a co-sponsor, continued its long track record of productivity in locating, imaging, transcribing, and annotating all documents written by or to Lincoln. The project located and imaged 1,400 new documents of the total 90,000 documents located and imaged to date, produced 3,242 transcriptions, marked up 2,632 documents, and entered historical annotations into 262 documents. Most of the transcriptions were done by the Papers seven volunteers and three interns.

Every year, the Papers staff find previously unknown documents or solve mysteries associated with documents already identified. For example, in 2014, associate editor Stacy Pratt McDermott, Ph.D. decoded a 25 year-old puzzle about a part of a letter found in the walls when the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield was being restored in 1987. It was clear that the letter had been sent to Lincoln in 1846, but who wrote it was unknown. Through handwriting comparison, McDermott was able to determine that the author was a Whig newspaper publisher named Andrew Johnson. Historians at the Paper also solved another mystery, perhaps with deeper political significance. It pertains to a cryptic note by Lincoln to a political ally to keep up a secret relationship with someone. Papers staff were able to determine that the ally was Bloomington attorney Leonard Swett and that the relationship was with notorious New York political boss Thurlow Weed.

New Editor

In September 2013, the Abraham Lincoln Association voted to make Christian McWhirter, Ph.D., an assistant editor of the Papers, and the editor and Papers’ director Daniel Stowell, Ph.D., the senior editor of the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association. The Journal, which is issued twice annually by the University of Illinois Press, publishes original scholarship and reviews related to the life and legacy of Lincoln. “Keeping the Journal in association with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is an important goal,” observed Stowell. “This library and museum are the only place where a scholarly journal, a documentary editing project, and a museum dedicated to a single historical figure are all located in one place, and the symbiosis among them is important to the future of Lincoln studies.”

Under McWhirter’s editorship, the Journal published two full issues in 2014. The summer edition was especially noteworthy, since it included articles by some of the most prominent Lincoln scholars. Each author examined a different aspects of the relationship between Lincoln and his former law partner, William H. Herndon. The articles represent the most significant collection of published scholarship on Herndon since David Donald’s 1948 biography of him.
Learning from Lincoln’s Legacy

The 12th Annual Lincoln Legacy Lectures were held October 16, 2014 at UIS, and kicked off the 150th anniversary commemoration of Lincoln’s funeral in Springfield in spring 2015. The lectures are organized each year by the Center in cooperation with Dr. Michael Burlingame, Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies at UIS and coordinated by Dr. Barbara Ferrara, associate director. The 2014 lectures were presented in collaboration with the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition and were cosponsored by the Engaged Citizenship Common Experience (ECCE) Speaker Series. The event drew record attendance: 473 on site plus 101 who viewed the live webcast. Of those, 166 students participated in the lectures for ECCE course credit.

Burlingame kicked things off by recounting that in his speech on April 11, 1865, two days after General Lee surrendered, Lincoln publicly called for black voting rights for the first time. Hearing Lincoln’s public support for black citizenship, John Wilkes Booth declared to friends that would be the last speech Lincoln would give. Burlingame suggested that it was appropriate, from the vantage point of the 21st century, to view Lincoln as a martyr for black civil rights.

In his lecture, James L. Swanson, senior legal scholar at the Heritage Foundation and author of best-selling books on Lincoln’s assassination, described the journey of the train that carried Lincoln’s body back to Springfield as “among the greatest” in American history, “like the explorations of Lewis and Clark, the settling of the West….or even landing on the moon.” Swanson suggested that the train became a universal symbol of the cost of the Civil War. “It wasn’t just Lincoln on that train,” said Swanson, “it was all of them” who had lost their lives in the war.

Dr. Richard Wightman Fox, professor of history at the University of Southern California, focused on how we’ve forgotten “that blacks and whites mourned together in dramatically new ways” in the wake of Lincoln’s death. Fox noted that this was especially true in the Midwest, “where blacks were treated not only kindly but with enthusiastic welcomes.” But, the mourning was different. “Blacks saw no silver lining in the assassination in the way whites did,” observed Fox. “Many whites…kept saying it was good for Lincoln that he died when he did, at the peak of his powers, having demonstrated his virtue….Black people were not persuaded that they could do without Lincoln.”

The 2014 lectures were cosponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Public Affairs and Administration, the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, the ECCE Speaker Series, Laurie and David Farrell, Jim and Linda Gobberdiel, the Illinois State Historical Society, the Illinois State Library, Staab Funeral Home, University of Illinois Alumni Association, and WUIS/Illinois Issues. A link to the video of the lectures can be found at the Center’s website: http://cspl.uis.edu.

"Funeral of President Lincoln," woodcut engraving by William T. Crane, 1865, courtesy of Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.
2014 marked the beginning of a period of time in which the Center is adapting more aggressively, than it has in the past, to a changing environment. As this report has emphasized throughout, evidence is becoming more important in public policy and practice. This is unlikely to be a passing fashion, since it is the nature of science to evolve and, thus, for the storehouse of evidence to grow. As the public affairs arm of the public university situated in the capital of the state, the Center needs to be a curator of this storehouse – contributing to, translating, and communicating the results of research to help government make better decisions and citizens to ask for a better government.

At the same time, acquiring the resources needed to operate has become more challenging. State funding for higher education is not what it used to be, and the competition for support from other sources becomes stiffer by the day. The only way to compete successfully in this environment, which is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future, is to be more innovative and intelligent. And that’s what the Center is striving to be.

Last year, the Center took its first big step in this direction by combining WUIS and Illinois Issues into a single public journalism unit. Combined, these two news media, both with long, venerable histories, have much more capacity to produce credible, thought-provoking news and analysis that can effectively compete for the attention of the public on the air, in print, and, especially, online. Center journalists are now working individual, substantive news beats that will enable them to develop and bring to bear the level of expertise required to cover the news in an age of increasing complexity. Plans are underway to further solidify this way of operating and to hammer out a new, shared name by the summer of 2015.

Changing the Center’s organizational structure for research is also a work-in-progress. Currently, research and evaluation activities occur in both the Survey Research Office and Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies, where faculty have their part-time appointments in the Center. Bringing these two research operations together will, just as with the merger of WUIS and Illinois Issues, create more capacity. Already, SRO and the Institute collaborate on many projects. It will not be a big leap to unite them structurally. But, bringing them together will up the odds of doing work with high impact.

Innovations typically happen by combining ideas that no one thought to combine before. When people from different vantage points – the staffs of SRO and the Institute, for example – are put in the same structure and communicate more, the chances for creativity increase. This may mean concentrating efforts in a few select areas of public policy and practice, where sufficient intellectual resources can be brought to bear to produce actionable knowledge. Two areas in which the Center already has strength and on which further work can be built are healthcare accountability and social capital/civic engagement.

Structural changes are also a possibility in the work the Center does to better equip students and professionals for public service. Several units of the Center are involved in this activity. The Graduate Public Service Internship and Illinois Legislative Staff Intern programs make a substantial contribution and have been very successful. The Institute has a long history of providing training for public sector employees, most recently and significantly through the Certified Public Manager Program of Illinois (CPM). The Office of Electronic Media, which will soon be renamed the Office of Video Integration and Design, has been using its advanced capabilities in film-making to help state agencies and others provide training and disseminate information.

All of these units operate fairly independently. While that autonomy needs to be preserved to a degree, not only is there much the units could learn from each other, but they need to collaborate more in figuring out how best to improve public service capacity in Illinois. UIS is the leading public institution of higher education set up for this purpose, and the Center is the university’s most active, day-to-day connection with the public service world. Lorena Johnson, director of CPM, is leading a planning committee, including both internal and external people, which is constructing the elements for a strategy that will unite the Center’s public service units in a common direction.
Despite the shaky condition of state finances, which translate into fiscal uncertainty for the public universities, the Center largely held its own during fiscal year 2014, which concluded last June 30th. Overall funding declined only slightly. State appropriations, which constitute just under 15 percent of the Center’s funding, edged up a bit due to a small university-wide salary increase, and other funding sources representing the remaining 85 percent edged down a bit.

Over the past decade, appropriations have declined as a share of the Center’s budget by almost a third, while increases in other sources have more than compensated. The total budget has increased by 67 percent since 2004, entirely as a result of success in acquiring resources from the environment to support specific programs and activities.

In 2014, 100 staff and faculty, or about 60 full-time equivalents, worked in the Center. In addition, 110 graduate and undergraduate students held paid positions.
Graduate Public Service
Internship Program
Abaidoo-Asiedu, Kofi
Abbott, Courtney
Abina, Daramola
Addanki, Venkata
Adesakin, Oladamola
Adhi Reddy, Santosh
Reddy
Agbesola, Yetunde
Akkineni, Venkat
Alda, Monica
Alapati, Sri
Allen, Alimyon
Anbazhagan, Vaishali
Andoh, Jennifer
Andrews, Jesse
Anu, Arun
Arce, Maricela
Arnett, Barry
Atoyebi, Oluwaseun
Ayorinde, Omonike
Bade, Geethika
Bar, Libby
Baker, Sara
Ball, Catherine
Bandari, Madhuri
Bandela, Vinith
Baragiola, Dustin
Barker, Ross
Barnes, Caitlyn
Barrow, Mallory
Batsios, Thomas
Bauman, Alexander
Beathea, Ronnie
Bell, Colton
Benedict, Logan
Benedict, Melissa
Bergen, Stacy
Bernardy, Johanna
Berry, Brandon
Beyers (Downs), Charlee
Bishop, Stephon
Bonala, Padmavathi
Breyer, Melissa
Broadbaker, Nichole
Brown, Iveree
Brake, Bradley
Bruce, Heidi
Buchanan, Ashley
Campbell, Spencer
Cao, Yixin
Carey, Samuel
Carlin, Justin
Casio, Vittorio
Catlin, Kevin
Cawley, Megan
Cawley, Robin
Challa, Manasa
Chavan, Aditya
Chebium, Kaavya
Chintakuntla, Amulya
Clapper, Andrew
Clark, Chelsea
Claycomb, Corinne
Cline (Davis), Abigail
Clow, Kristina
Coad, Samantha
Coulley, Megan
Coleman, Shi
Colmenares, Bianca
Conner, Jenessa
Cooper, Lanie
Crone, Heather
Crosetto, Jacob
Cross, Emily
Cummins, Benjamin
Daniels, Simon
Davidsmeier, Kirk
Davis, Keena
Debosi, Samantha
Deng, Bin
Derka, Abigail
Desai, Krupa
DeSuno, Nicholas
DeWeese, Alexis
Dias, Bertrand
Dilley, Jamie
Dingle, Justin
Dixon, Richard
Dolbear, Zachary
Drake, Ana
Dsoouza, Alan
Dunlap, Darrah
Dunne, Susan
Edwards, Trace
Eiland, Matithia
Elliott, Kari
Elliott, Michael
Erude, Sarah
Essig, Katelynn
Farmer, Jessica
Filla, Thomas
Fiscus, Elana
Fisher, Caley
Franklin, Jamie
Fredricks, Felicia
Fuller, Tiffany
Futrell, Vivica
Gade, Ravindra Reddy
Geng, Hong
Gibson, Amber
Gibson, Lauren
Gold, Benjamin
Goluguri, Ravi
Goodwin-Corley, Ramele
Gopu, Satishkumar
Green, Adam
Green, Amornthip
Hagy, Whitney
Hameed Fahad, Abdul
Hameertman, Timmy
Harbison, Jill
Harris, Sheveen
Hauptmann, Kassandra
Hawkins, Jillian
Hazelrigg, Andrew
Henderson, Victoria
Hermes, Chelsea
Hilderbrand, Brittany
Hill, Jarrod
Hlavach, Laura
Hoefert, John
Hollenbeck, Kaitlin
Hoyle, Nathaniel
Hungerford, Ann
Indugula (Menon), Gayathri
Iqbal, Rabeena
Jachino, Jared
Jackson, Darlene
Jacobs, Keith
Jakha, Naga
James, Ormege
Jankauski, Emily
Jeje, Oluseye
Jenkins, Jason
Kambli, Sonam
Kerr, Shaun
Kessinger, Kimberly
Kirbach, Logan
Kirchgesner, John
Knapik, Alyson
Knox (Mehrhoff), Danielle
Kondapalli, Swapna
Kondragunta, Hima
Kondrapally, Abhinav
Koonce, Brittany
Kotapu, Prabhu
Kruse, Beth
Kubik, David
Kuriniec, David
Kurra, Ganesh
Lakadhi, Mounika
Lawson, Amy
Lawson, Trevor
Leimbach, Mary
Leontios, Constantine
Levek, Kayla
Lindsay, Kevin
Liu, Ying
Lomingo, Fanny
LoRusso, Kristina
Lovgren, Laura
Lu, Kecheng
Madden, Grant
Maddula, Lakshmi
Maguluri, Vijaya
Mahendra, Neha
Mahendran, Divyaa
Malin, Rachelle
Marsaglia, Stephanie
Martin, John
Mathi, Sangeeta
Maziarz, David
McDaniel, Kayla
Melesse, Biniyam
Mendy, Evelina
Michaud, Nathan
Miller, Lindsay
Miller, Molly
Mohammed, Azza
Morgan, Paige
Moskage, Nicholas
Motley, Matthew
Muloski, Martin
Mulpuri, Kalyana
Munugala, Subhash
Murphy, Felita
Murray, Robert
Nama, Anusha
Nevins, Cristina
Nome, Cheick
Nudelman, Jacob
Nuguri, Rohith
Nwaogwugwu, Ahunna
Nyamasuren, Battushig
Olaoye, Ifihan (Deborah)
Olaturji, Ayobami
Emmanuel
Oyakojo, Michael
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Partipilo, Lisa Ann
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Petter, Ryan
Phillips, Jacob
Piehl, Geoffrey
Prisco, Monica
Pugh, Jessica
Puhr, Stephen
Pullum, Jacinda
Raboin, Adam
Rajalingari, Prasoon
Rajasekar, Anusha
Rallabhandi, Bharadwaj
Raut, Aditya
Rhodes, Mitchell
Rice, Andrew
Robinson, Linda
Rodriguez, Marco
Rose, Emily
Ruio, Marsha
Russell, Gail
Ruyle, Caleb
Sahoo, Dharitri
Saldadino, Samantha
Salvador, Katrina
Sama, Manish
Santell, Stephen
Sapoori, Sai
Saravakota, Ananda Babu
Schlouch, Benjamin
Schmelzle, Timothy
Schwendau, Trevor
Sciortino, Larry
Scott, Zivile
Sekuboyina, Sai Srinivas
Sharma, Nitika
Sheley, Megan
Showis, Joseph
Shrivastava, Akash
Sinkus, Kallie
Smith, Yasmine
Soetan, Omolara
Solano, Francisco
Solomon, Shijiin
Steenhuis, Peter
Stevens, Timothy
Stock (Elliott), Crystal
Strutz, Patricia
Stull, Trisha
Sudi Reddy, Pooja
Sun, Jun (Ray)
Swanson, Christopher
Sweatman, Christian
Sweatman, Ciara
Tang, Siwen
Thomas, Wanda
Thompson, Ashley
Titus, Matthew
Topah, Ometere
Topula, Rohit
Torres-Gonzalez, Jasmine
Townsend, Kelsey
Turner, Jacob
Umesegha, Chidinma
Vallabhaneni, Amrutha
Varaganti, Sunaina
Vasser, Xaviera
Walberg, Carrie
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Warner, Ryan
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Wijsentunge, Maharshi
Williams, Amanda
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Woiwode, Megan
Woldemariam, Kaleab
Woodcock, Heath
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UIUC / Illinois Issues
Ahmed, Syed
Andrews, Simon
Bandela, Abhilash
Clay, Eliot
Davis, Nina
DeLeonardo, Sidney
Dose, Felay
Howell, Elizabeth
Karumanchi, Keerthi
Meisel, Hannah
Papiaia, Vidurlatha
Adivilli
Portillo-Lopez, Kerry
Rafeeq, Mohammed
Robles, Edwin
Rydinsky, Caitlin
Shaffer, Kristen
Skym, Wesley
Strubinger, Lee
Suresh Kumar, Ashwin
Vincent, Katie
Vignesh, Vinayakamurthy

Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program
Besler, Patrick
Buck, Kristina
Chrisler, Megan
Deane, Kristen
Diene, Tyler
Eastman, Matthew
Epstein, Joshua
Felde, Caitlin
Finley, Noah
Flinn, Robert
Florian, Nickolaus
Foutch, Kyle
Garcia, Cristian
Gebhardt, Brock
Gibbons, Emily
Groeper, Krysta
Harner, Maddison
Helton, Colin
Hernandez, Ramiro
Highfill, Cara
Holman, Sydney
Hyon, Sarah
Kelly, Kylie
Kennedy, Alaina
Manning, Evan
Markey, Caleb
McColpin, Michael
Mendiola, Embarina
Mitchell, Jenna
Mosher, Cameron
Murphy, Jaelyn
Nelson, Elizabeth
Nelson, Jonathan
O’Brien, James
Phillipp, Alex
Ruchman, Melinda
Sanders, Matthew
Scarow, Samuel
Sepich, Craig
Shroyer-Stokes, Austell
Simon, Brett
Simon, Joseph
Slana, Michael
Stovall, Elizabeth
Taylor, Rachel
Williams, Latisha
Williams, Samantha

Innocence Project
Bramstedt, Emilee
Burkhart, Cassidy
Carlson, Andrea
Cox, Marc
Dobill, Matthew
Goodwin-Corley, Ramele
Hanson, Michelle
Hook, Faith
Jenkins, Jason
Kelly, Elizabeth
Leverenz, Mac
McConville, Ryan
McKinnon, Ryan
Tatum, Michelle
Vayr, Bryan

Office of Electronic Media
Adeolu, Moyo
Agababiak, Michael
Bernard, Zach
Bhoopathi, Keshav
Bolling, Shayna
Cintron, Edwin
Devlin, Kaitie
Dixon, Matt
Fannon, Emilee
King, Kentrell
Madduri, Vishnu
Nash, George
Omenazu, Josh
Patton, Will
Pounds, Elijah
Ross, Kayla
Schoonover, Casey
Snowden, Brandon
Talluri, Aditya
Taylor, Rona
Villegas, Andres
Walker, Brandon
Wells, Jenny
West, Gilbert
Williams, Aaliyah
Williams, Lauren
Yilmaz, Reha
Zon, Alex

Institute for Legal, Legislative and Policy Studies
Case, Matthew
Clayton, Amanda
Hoffman, Jennifer
Moshage, Scott
Quertermous, Jennifer
Simnor, April
Souther, David
Stapleton, Julia

Papers of Abraham Lincoln
Davis, StaLynn

Survey Research Office
Adams, Trenton
Aguilar, Daniel
Amarapalli, Seshidhar
Anwar, Sameer
Banning, Luke
Bergles, Jay

Bolling, Shayna
Bryant, Alicia
Camp, Alexander
Case, Matt
Cross, Cameron
Gordon, John
Grigsby, Paris
Gregor, Daniel
Harish, Jeshwanta
Hellman, Jesse
Hepner, Cassandra
Hughes, Aretha
Ijaola, Stephanie
Jenkins, Tayla
Kehl, LeAnna
Li, Lingling (Josephine)
Macias, Cristina
Mazzuca, Daniel
Miller, Jammie
Nguepnang, Elvire
Ortiz, Ivette
Ortega, Jose
Puh, Stephen
Rainey, Aaron
Ray, Ashley
Robinson, Keiana
Stapleton, Julia
Sutton, Teja
Talavera, Manuel
Tohme, Rachel
Turner, Khala
Williams, Lauren
Willingham, DeJa'
Willingham, Duane

Office of Executive Director
Bruce, Jessey


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Resolution of Congress to submit a proposed Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution to the states for ratification. Vice President Hannibal Hamlin for the Senate and Speaker Schuyler Colfax for the House of Representatives signed the resolution. Though not required to do so, President Abraham Lincoln also signed the resolution to demonstrate his support. The State of Illinois was the first state to ratify the proposed amendment, on February 1, 1865. When Georgia became the twenty-seventh state to ratify it on December 6, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment became a part of the Constitution.

Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration and the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.