



CENTER FOR STATE POLICY AND LEADERSHIP  
**2013 Annual Report**



UNIVERSITY OF  
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LEADERSHIP  
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# CENTER FOR STATE POLICY AND LEADERSHIP

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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.



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## BUILDING ON HISTORY

Organizations are imprinted by their early experiences. An organization is created using the resources – cultural, political, economic, and technological – available at the time of its founding. And those early choices of what to do and how to do it tend to embed in the organization’s enduring character. Change can and does happen, of course, but the imprint of history persists, even if sometimes it is difficult to perceive after many years have passed.

The Springfield Campus of the University of Illinois is a case in point. It is today known for its deep commitment to teaching, innovative work in online education, advanced learning opportunities for professionals, and strong interest in public affairs. Each of these emphases can be traced to expectations set at the beginning in the late 1960s, early 1970s. The talk then was of faculty being “full-time teachers,” the institution “being innovative,” giving high priority to educating practitioners, and engaging directly with the public sphere. The connection between past and present comes through especially clearly in UIS’ emphasis on public engagement.

At the groundbreaking in June of 1970, Governor Richard Ogilvie described the campus as “the public affairs university” that would “serve as a continuing source of ideas and research” for the government anchored in Springfield. To this end, there was to be a “cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences between



Sangamon State University groundbreaking, June 1970

this campus and the offices of government.” The initial formulation of the curriculum characterized the university’s public affairs interest as investigating “the major questions of the day” that were challenging society. The domestic conflict over the Vietnam War, the continuing struggles of the civil rights movement, and the rise of the women’s and environmental movements fed uncertainty about the future. Like trying to build the raft while riding the rapids, forging a new institution of higher learning amidst the social turbulence of the times was not for the faint-hearted. The idealism of newly recruited faculty hoping to do something different and better in higher education clashed with the realities

of producing a credible education quickly in the fish bowl of the state capital. The result was an institutional culture at once both experimental and conventional. Unsurprisingly, some experiments worked, others did not.

All of the units that today constitute UIS’ Center for State Policy and Leadership have their roots in this early experimental and challenging period of engagement with the world beyond the campus. They are among the experiments that have worked.

While the Center has remained true to the vision that breathed life into UIS’ public affairs’ identity decades ago, it has also changed in important ways. It could not help but do so. With most of its work dependent on relationships and resources from the larger environment, the Center has had to evolve to remain relevant and effective.

Of the forces that have guided this evolution, among the most influential in recent years has been an increasing emphasis on producing, finding, and applying evidence in public policy, practice, and leadership. As government has become more complex and the resources to pay for it more constrained, evidence of what works and what doesn’t, evidence of what is and what isn’t, evidence that can educate the thinking and decisions of public officials and citizens, has become ever more important. Helping to meet this need, through the efforts of faculty, staff, and students, is a natural role for the public university located in the state capital.

Evidence – the grounds for believing something – is the basic material the Center works with in all of its functions:

- The evidence produced through research, evaluation, and discovery by the Center’s Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies (ILLAPS), Survey Research Office (SRO), and the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.
- The evidence students derive from their hands-on experiences in the Graduate Public Service Internship Program (GPSI), Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP), and graduate assistantships and student jobs in Center units.
- The evidence applied through professional development programs for public and nonprofit employees, programs which are operated or enabled by the Institute and Center’s Office of Electronic Media (OEM).
- The evidence found in the course of reporting on and analyzing public problems and issues through WUIS and the pages of *Illinois Issues*.

In this annual report of the Center for State Policy and Leadership, we highlight examples of the different ways that evidence played the leading role in our work in 2013.

Regardless of their specific focus, all of the Center's research and evaluation projects, carried out mainly by ILLAPS and SRO, seek answers to one or more of the following fundamental questions about public affairs, always with the aim of yielding knowledge of practical, and not just academic, value.

- How do organizations and groups serving the public or community interest operate and with what effects?
- What are the effects, good and bad, of public policies?
- What are the motivations and incentives that drive political behavior?
- How does the public perceive important issues and social, economic, and political conditions?

### A Focus on Organizations

More than ever organizations that receive public funds are being held accountable for their performance. With more organizations competing for a share of a limited and sometimes shrinking pie, an advantage goes to those able to show they produce desirable outcomes. The Center's research and evaluation work helps organizations meet this challenge.

**MOSAIC** is a collaborative, multi-year project in Springfield, started by the Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois in 2011, to help children with social and emotional difficulties access mental health and other care and supports. Historically, accessing these services has been harder for children with behavioral problems living in low-income families and neighborhoods. The Center's Institute is the evaluator of the project, which is funded by the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation. The evaluation, led by research manager Peter Weitzel, M.A., and Center executive director David Racine, Ph.D., with assistance from graduate research assistants, has focused on tracking the screening, assessment, and treatment of children. In 2013, close to 7,000 children were screened for social and emotional problems by health care providers, schools, and others in the community.

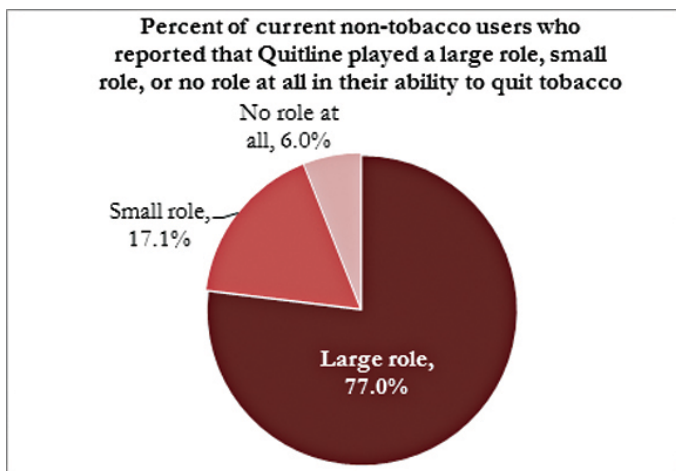


Pediatrician Virginia Dolan of Memorial Physician Services at Koke Mill, proponent of the MOSAIC project.

Rates for "positive" screens (presence of social/emotional difficulties) varied among providers, with a high of 36 percent and a low of eight percent. In a preliminary analysis, the Institute compared a small sample of children served by MOSAIC with other children involved in the mental health system. The analysis found that MOSAIC children were less likely to have received crisis intervention, more likely to have participated in therapy, and less likely to have not shown up for appointments – all signs of a favorable impact. In addition, in a spring 2013 survey, organizations participating in MOSAIC gave high marks to the quality of the collaboration and the continuing value of the project to the community.

The Institute and SRO have been the evaluators of the Illinois State Library's **ILEAD** program since 2010. Funded by the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), ILEAD's purpose is to improve libraries' use of the latest web technologies. The training program was limited to Illinois librarians until 2013, when additional funding from IMLS enabled the State Library to extend ILEAD to four other states – Iowa, Ohio, Colorado, and Utah – while continuing to expand it in Illinois. While the evaluation of the 2013 expansion, led by Ashley Kirzinger, Ph.D., SRO's director, and David Racine, is still underway, preliminary results showed that the program was well-received in the other states and that participating librarians in all five states reported relatively high levels of learning. In the ILEAD model, librarians participate on small teams tasked with developing a project using web technology. The evaluation of the first ILEAD cohort in 2010 found that how well teams functioned made an important difference in the value librarians derived from the entire experience. These lessons have been applied in subsequent cohorts, and the 2013 evaluation indicated that the critical influence of team functioning was not unique to Illinois.

In 2013, the American Lung Association contracted with SRO for the third year in a row to evaluate the **Illinois Tobacco Quitline**. Funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Quitline provides a toll free number that Illinois residents can call to access trained nurses, addiction specialists, and respiratory therapists who assist with smoking cessation. The SRO evaluation survey, overseen by Kirzinger and SRO research manager Valerie Howell, showed that those who called the Quitline were using tobacco products less often. Nearly a third of participants who responded to the survey reported that they were not currently using tobacco, a level consistent with results from 2012 but significantly higher than the level reported in 2011, the first year of the evaluation. In 2013, some three-fourths of individuals who said they had successfully stopped smoking reported that the Quitline played a large role, and 55 percent reported smoking less than they did before calling the Quitline. Studies have found that telephone quitlines can be a cost-effective strategy for curbing the use of tobacco.



Quitline chart

For many years, the Institute has conducted, on behalf of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), training programs for the prosecutors, law enforcement officers, probation officers, and others involved in the enforcement of the state's **drunk driving laws**. Three years ago, under the direction of Peter Weitzel, the Institute substantially improved the evaluation of these programs to get a better handle on what participants learn from them. In the evaluations of the seven different training programs in 2013, participants reported average learning gains of 30 percent. An average of 51 percent of participants said the information they received through training was completely or mostly new, and an average of 75 percent said they would make at least monthly use of what they had learned through training. Late last year, owing to reductions in federal funding for traffic safety grants to states, the Institute began converting all of the trainings from face to face to online.

As part of the work for IDOT, Weitzel also analyzed twelve years of drunk driving arrest data (2000-2012) to gauge the extent of repeat offenders, or recidivists. He found that the percentage of arrests for DUI represented by recidivists varied a great deal among the 25 most populated counties in the state. For example, 31 percent of the DUI arrests in Sangamon County were of repeat offenders in a given year, while in Champaign County the rate was 16 percent. These differences might be due not just to differences in rates of drunk driving, but also differences in enforcement of the laws against drunk driving. Such geographically specific data can be useful in targeting efforts to combat driving under the influence.

SRO has long made its survey capabilities available to help the campus collect data on topics of importance to the university. In 2013, SRO and the Institute were asked to conduct a survey of so-called "**stopout**" students – students who left UIS before completing their degree – to find out what may have led them to leave. Student retention has become an important challenge in higher education. Kirzinger and Racine analyzed survey responses and found that students generally could be grouped into three different categories with different reasons for stopping

out: students of traditional college-going age who were more likely to leave to attend another institution and also more likely to know someone who had already stopped out or was planning to; somewhat older students in their late 20s, early 30s, mostly employed, who exited for financial reasons; and middle-aged students, typically in online degree programs, who were more likely to stopout for family reasons. The results of the analysis are being used to help improve UIS' retention strategies.



Interviewers in the SRO lab

In 2012, Beverly Bunch, Ph.D., a public administration professor with a joint appointment in the Center, began a study for the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies on the role of **leadership in community action**. Using interviews, survey results, and other data sources on community action in Mid-western states, Bunch and her colleagues are in the process of producing a book manuscript of their findings, which will have value to frontline, nonprofit service providers in general. Meanwhile, in 2013, Bunch presented conference papers on how community action agencies are responding to performance and financial challenges. At the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management meeting in Washington, D.C., Bunch described innovative ways in which these anti-poverty agencies are seeking to generate revenue as federal funding, the primary funding source for community action, becomes more limited. In a paper at the Western Social Science Association in Denver, Bunch and faculty colleague Junfeng Wang, Ph.D., compared the different approaches used by United Way of Central Illinois and community action agencies to integrate outcome measurement into funding requests and performance reporting.

## The Effects of Public Policies

In determining public policies, political actors contend and compromise with one another to decide what will be done about a particular issue. The positions they take are shaped by ideologies and values, but also, one hopes, by a due consideration of the pertinent evidence. Mustering such evidence is an important contribution the Center can make toward the end of always seeking to improve the quality of public debate.

## Capital Study

Public administration professor Beverly Bunch, who has had a long-standing interest in the financing of capital infrastructure (highways, schools), has, during the past couple of years, turned her attention to a different type of capital – investment in human capital. Bunch and her UIS colleagues – Junfeng Wang, Travis Bland, Lorena Johnson, and Aaron Itulya – have been working with the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA) on a study of leadership in local community action agencies. Community action agencies, which were created as part of the federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, focus on helping people with low incomes become more self-sufficient.

The UIS research team is looking at the role of community action leaders in pursuing the community action mission, responding to challenges in a more strained fiscal climate, and building organizational capacity. “Through conducting an online survey and interviews with community action officials in a six-state region in the Midwest,” noted Bunch, “we have been able to gather information from local leaders who collectively have more than 650 years as community action chief executives. As baby boomers move into retirement, we believe it is important to listen to what they have to say and to learn from their leadership experiences and insights.”



Beverly Bunch

Gary Reinbold, Ph.D., an assistant professor of public administration with a joint appointment in the Center, studies the effects of income transfer and tax policies designed to benefit low-income people. In 2013, Dr. Reinbold completed two research projects that shed light on previously unexamined aspects of these policies. One project, described in the Center’s 2012 annual report, looked at the combined effects on inequalities and incentives of 18 different **income transfer and tax programs** available to nonelderly, nondisabled households in Illinois. The other project, presented in a paper at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management in Washington, D.C., showed how the benefit phaseouts that occur in means-tested transfer programs as household income increases are not as bad as previous research has indicated. Using panel data that tracked household circumstances over time, Reinbold found that as a household’s income rises, there is a period of time before benefits are adjusted to reflect the increase, and those “excess” benefits moderate the loss of benefits due to the phaseout itself.

Many income transfer and social benefit policies make eligibility for them depend on a family’s socioeconomic status, although how best to measure this status has long been controversial. In a post on the well-regarded **Education Policy Blog** in January 2013, the Institute’s Peter Weitzel weighed into the measurement debate with a trenchant argument on why the use of eligibility for free/reduced price lunch in education programs is fraught with problems. “Free/reduced lunch is a lousy indicator of socioeconomic status,” Weitzel wrote, because, for one thing, “it classifies all students into just one of three categories (free lunch, reduced lunch, no lunch support), losing valuable detail in the process.” Weitzel suggested making more use of family educational attainment, in addition to income, to measure the educational needs of schools.

**Immigration policy** has been a charged topic the past several years. Hinda Seif, an associate professor of sociology/anthropology and women and gender studies, and a recipient of research grants from the Center, has been investigating the effects of the Obama Administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. DACA allows undocumented immigrant youth to apply for a two-year period when they will not be deported

and may seek authorization to work. In 2013, Seif and Christina Craig, her undergraduate research assistant, analyzed weblogs and other Internet communications by immigrant youth to see how they are using the term “DACAmended” to characterize their identities. They have found that use of the term has both positive and negative connotations – positive in the sense that DACA is an improvement over prior policy and negative in the sense that, though youth are no longer undocumented, they still lack legal status. Seif presented her work at an international conference at Harvard University in October and at the American Anthropological Association in Chicago in November.



Ideally, the likely effects of policies are known before enactment. In 2013, Patty Byrnes, associate professor of economics with a joint appointment in the Center, completed for Landmarks Illinois, a statewide historic preservation advocacy organization, an analysis of the potential economic impact of a proposed **state historic preservation tax credit**. A tax credit is a deduction from income tax liability and is intended to encourage behavior – in this case, historic preservation – that might not otherwise occur. Byrnes’s model showed that preservation projects likely to use the credit could generate up to \$10 in economic value for every dollar of tax credit during construction and more than \$11 for every dollar during five years after construction.

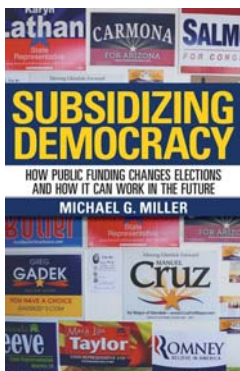


Historic Governors View building in downtown Springfield, IL.

Though most of the Center’s research to inform public policy focuses on the local, state, and federal levels in the U.S., the production of usable knowledge does not stop at the national border. Last year, the Center provided a research grant to assistant professor of environmental studies Hua Qin to support his investigation of **immigration flows between rural and urban areas in China and the effects on environmental quality**. Qin reviewed the relevant literature and traveled to several cities in China to collect data, which he converted into a longitudinal dataset. In analyzing the data, he found that in-migration to urban areas was significantly and negatively associated with city air quality, even after controlling for other likely influences (e.g., population, industrial output).

## What Drives Political Behavior?

Aristotle called the study of politics the architectonic, or master science, for it designs the political order through which all other human affairs in society become possible. Although we tend not to think of political science in quite this way anymore, the study of political behavior remains of fundamental importance in our efforts to understand and improve how we function as a society. The Center has long brought a practical perspective to the examination of political behavior. Recently, it has added to this practical orientation rigorous research methods capable of yielding more valid and reliable evidence.



Assistant professor of political science Michael G. Miller, who also has a joint appointment in the Center, has, since arriving in 2011, put under the microscope key questions about why political actors do what they do and with what consequences. In *Subsidizing Democracy*, published by Cornell University Press in November, Miller builds on his doctoral dissertation research to produce new insight into how **public financing of campaigns** shapes political behavior.

Using a new dataset he created with funding from the National Science Foundation, Miller shows the effects of public funding laws on the conduct, quality, and outcome of elections in 18 states. He finds that public campaign funding heightens direct interaction between candidates and the voting public and enables qualified political neophytes to obtain otherwise unobtainable resources.

Miller also completed the manuscript for a book due out in 2014 from Routledge on the after-effects of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United*. *Super PAC! Money, Elections, and Voters after Citizens United*, co-authored with University of Mississippi political scientist Conor Dowling, analyzes campaign data, advertising content, and public opinion data to determine how new, looser regulations on outside spending since 2010 have shaped the present campaign environment and voter perceptions of it. Miller and Dowling find that people react negatively when informed about the involvement of outside groups in elections, but that without more efforts to educate voters, knowledge of and concerns about Super PACs and corporate electoral engineering are limited.

In another study completed last year, and now under review for publication, Miller and Dowling addressed the question of whether information can alter voters’ perceptions of **women candidates’** chances of winning election. They found that only about 35 percent of people believe a man and a woman have an equal chance of winning. The rate shot up to 75% when they showed participants in their study an informational video about women performing comparably to men. However, when respondents were re-pollled two weeks later, the positive effect of the video had mostly vanished, suggesting that while information can help, it may need to involve a more sustained approach to make a real difference.

In another study of the role that information plays in public affairs, SRO’s Ashley Kirzinger and several colleagues from Louisiana State University found that people dissatisfied with their medical care and choice of providers have an easier time than others locating **online information about health care quality and costs**. Further, those with a chronic medical condition were more motivated to use a health information website, and somewhat unsurprisingly, better educated, wealthier, and younger people were more apt to search online for medical information. The results of the study appeared in the December 2013 issue of *The Social Science Journal*.

## Public Perceptions

Finding out systematically what the public thinks about issues and conditions is one of the most basic forms of public engagement and a valuable source of evidence in formulating public policy. Obtaining people’s opinions and perceptions constitutes a core function of the Center’s Survey Research Office.

With help from the Survey Research Office and a grant from the Center, accountancy professor Don Morris last year completed a national study of the public’s perceptions of **tax privacy vs. tax**

**transparency.** It has been argued that the privacy accorded income tax returns is partly responsible for the increasing complexity of the tax system. Morris wanted to find out more about how the public perceives tax reform, complexity, and privacy. SRO administered a phone survey on these topics to a national sample. One part of the survey asked people about honest reporting in tax filings. A majority of respondents said current law provides no encouragement for honest reporting, and an additional 25 percent said the law provides very little encouragement. The survey asked people to evaluate a potential incentive for honest reporting – a refundable tax credit to taxpayers willing to have their tax returns classified as public information. Almost half of the 748 people who responded to the survey indicated that they would be either very likely or somewhat likely to take advantage of such a credit if it were offered. Morris and graduate student Hong Geng, who compiled legal materials for the research, have developed three papers from the study and submitted them for publication in research journals.

As it has for many years running, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) contracted with SRO in 2013 to conduct several statewide surveys of Illinois drivers. The surveys produce data that IDOT uses to assess the effectiveness of its own programs and state policy and to inform its decisions going forward. In a November survey, SRO focused on a number of driving behaviors, including the **use of cell phones and other mobile devices.** Last year, Illinois passed a law that, for the most part bans, effective January 1, 2014, the use of cell phones while driving. The survey found pronounced differences between the Chicago metro area and downstate. Respondents from the Chicago area indicated that they tend to practice safer use of cell phones and other devices while driving, including making more use of hands-free cell phones. Chicago area respondents also were more likely to be in favor of police taking action against improper use of cell phones and other devices while driving. In future surveys, SRO will examine compliance with the new ban on hand-held cell phones and mobile devices while driving.



Thinkstock Photo

Ban on cell phone use while driving took effect on January 1, 2014.

Obtaining a firm grip on local opinion got a boost in 2013 when SRO conducted the first Sangamon County **Citizen Survey.** Designed by SRO in cooperation with university faculty and staff and community leaders, the purpose of the survey was to measure the quality of life in the community. More than two-thirds of respondents to the survey rated the county as either an excellent or good place to raise children. Over four-fifths of the parents who participated in the survey gave high marks to the quality of education for their children, and most also said they believe the schools are safe. A majority of respondents think that growing downtown Springfield is either very or somewhat important. One of the more troubling findings in the survey is the percentage – one in five – of individuals who reported being unable to afford housing, food, and health care. This response was more likely from people who have a disability, lack a high school diploma, are younger, or are African American. Other topics addressed in the survey included culture, recreation, economics, health, infrastructure, government, and civic participation. The 2013 poll, cosponsored by the Center, the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, and the United Way of Central Illinois, will serve as the benchmark against which changes in the county will be tracked periodically over the next ten years.

### Leading Locally



John Stremsterfer

The first Sangamon County Citizens Survey might not have happened without the leadership of John Stremsterfer, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln (CFL). Stremsterfer, who used to work in UIS' development office, is well-known throughout the community and within Illinois philanthropic circles. He was attending a meeting of the board of governors of the Citizens Club of Springfield, when he heard a presentation by SRO's Ashley Kirzinger

on a quality of life survey project in another community. He quickly realized that a similar effort in Sangamon County could provide the kind of in-depth data and analysis of local opinion that was needed, but that it wouldn't happen without help. He began contacting members of the community who he thought would be interested in a local survey, helping to line up people to work with SRO on the questions for the survey and to bring United Way of Central Illinois on board as a funder along with CFL and the Center.



## PUBLIC SERVICE

The largest part of the Center's budget goes to public service with a threefold purpose. One purpose is the evidence that students acquire through their experiences as interns. A second purpose is the application of evidence or knowledge through training programs and dissemination of information to improve leadership and problem solving capabilities in the public and nonprofit workforces – in other words, society's public servants. Third comes the direct application of evidence through specific service projects that address important public priorities.

### Developing Young Talent

UIS and the Center are well-known for their two graduate internship programs – the Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) and the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP). GPSI is one of the most substantial programs of its kind, and ILSIP has long served as an important breeding ground for distinguished careers in public service.

In calendar 2013, **GPSI** placed 307 graduate students in internships with 21 state agencies and four local and other organizations. Three state agencies took on interns for the first time, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board, and Illinois State Board of Education. Students were drawn from 18 of UIS' 20 graduate programs, with the largest numbers from public administration, computer science, accountancy, and business administration. GPSI interns work half time and go to school the other half of their time. Part of their work time also includes participation in a seminar, in which they learn about the organizational environment of public service and for which they receive graduate credit. In 2013, GPSI interns earned \$3.9 million in stipends from their internships and generated \$1.2 million in tuition and fees for the university.

The aim of GPSI is to give a graduate student hands-on, practical training in public service and professional work, with direction and support provided by a seasoned supervisor in the agency and the staff in the GPSI office. Interns have an opportunity to make

a real difference while learning the ropes, perhaps the best kind of educational experience. In 2013, the winners of the annual intern award for academic and professional excellence and the award for supervisory excellence show how this works.

Destiny Moser received the Brian T. Milbrandt Memorial Intern Award for her accomplishments as an intern with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. As her supervisor, John Harris wrote in nominating Moser for the honor, she “played a key role in the restructuring of the Third Party Database (TPD)..., a repository of employers and other income sources that is used statewide [in child support enforcement.]” He went on to note that Moser's “success in performing the daily operation of maintaining and updating the current TPD...will ensure timely payments to families nationwide that depend on our services.” The Sagrika Madala Memorial Award for Exemplary Leadership last year went to supervisor John Baranzelli of the Illinois Department of Transportation. Baranzelli was nominated by intern Bailey Meek, who was tasked with reviving the department's technical training program for engineers. Meek said that Baranzelli “continually challenged [her] to think outside the box and to think of new ways of doing things.” He recommended books and articles for her to read, sent her to training to strengthen her skills and qualifications, and helped her with career planning.



Destiny Moser and John Harris



Bailey Meek and John Baranzelli

### Same Start, Different Paths, Still Friends

Bill Pluta's and John Kinnamon's careers took different paths of accomplishment, but they started in the same place, as GPSI interns in what was then the Illinois Department of Local Government Affairs (later renamed the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, DCCA). In 1977-1978, they teamed up as interns with the significant responsibility of assuming state control of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development. After his internship, Pluta stayed at DCCA, eventually becoming the official manager of the block grant program. He relocated to Texas and Louisiana doing similar work for state and local agencies, and then returned to Illinois in the early 1990s to become director of the Office of Housing Coordination Services in the Illinois Housing Development Authority, a position he still holds. He is well-known across the country among housing and development officials. Kinnamon stayed with DCCA, as well, for a few years, but then followed his former director at DCCA to the Oklahoma City Chamber of

Commerce. He subsequently became head of economic development in Edmond, Oklahoma, a large suburb of Oklahoma City, where he led one of the most successful economic recovery programs in the state's history. In 1992, Kinnamon shifted to the private sector, becoming an investment banker and developer in the energy industry. Through all the years, despite following different paths, Pluta and Kinnamon have remained close friends, all because of the work they did together as GPSI interns more than 35 years ago.

In academic year 2013, the **Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP)** placed 25 college graduates in full-time, 10- to 11-month internships with the Democratic and Republican staffs in each chamber and with the General Assembly's Legislative Research Unit (LRU). Funding for the program is provided through the LRU. The cohort for 2014, which began last August, consists of 23 interns. Interns across the two cohorts came from 25 different institutions of higher education both inside and outside Illinois. The largest number of interns was from the Springfield and Urbana-Champaign campuses of the University of Illinois, Western Illinois University, and the University of Chicago. The legislature hired eight of the 2013 interns into regular staff positions after their internships ended.

Just as with GPSI, legislative interns get practical experience doing professional work, in this case in a context defined by partisan interests. Josh Epstein offers a good illustration of the value of the experience. Epstein graduated from the University of Chicago in 2012 with a degree in philosophy. He spent the next year as a City Corps member in Central Park East Middle School in East Harlem, New York City before applying and being accepted into ILSIP as an intern with the Senate Democratic staff. Among his notable achievements during his first few months "on the job" was a project that he and fellow intern Liz Stovall worked on. They were asked to review the 50-state annual fiscal projections produced by Moody's, the financial ratings company, in which Illinois placed last in percent change in job growth. Epstein and Stovall discovered that Moody's in-house projection for Illinois had improved since the projections report was released. That revelation led to an upward revision of Illinois' ranking, information that was published on Rich Miller's widely read Capitol Fax Blog.



Illinois Legislative Staff Interns 2013-2014

## Building Capability

**The Certified Public Manager Program (CPM) of Illinois** is a professional development credential or certification for public and nonprofit managers looking for a way to improve their problem solving skills. There is only one CPM program per state, and some 40 states have programs. Directed by Lorena Johnson, M.A., M.P.A., the Illinois CPM, operated under the auspices of the Institute, has delivered fee-based training to many individuals and organizations since its founding in 2007. Customized training, using different parts of the CPM curriculum, has been provided to managers in the Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Illinois Office of the Auditor General, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Governor's Office of Management and Budget, Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, the communities of Galva, Fulton, and Centralia, Springfield Urban League, Illinois Head Start Association, and others. The number of people trained every year has grown steadily, from 66 in 2007 to 592 in 2013.

In its training of groups of managers in public and nonprofit organizations, CPM's hope is to have a transformative impact. Since this can be difficult to achieve through single-shot training events, the program adapts its curriculum to the specific management training needs of each organization. The result, often, is an ongoing relationship. The multi-year work with the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies (IACAA) offers a good illustration.



Dalitso Sulamoyo

The chief executive of IACAA, Dalitso Sulamoyo, first learned about CPM when he applied as an individual candidate for it not long after it launched in 2007. He decided instead to pursue a doctorate but saw the potential of the program to benefit staff in his association and the network of community action agencies in Illinois. CPM worked with IACAA in 2008, helping to identify its needs, and then the first contract for training was written in 2009. Every year since, CPM has worked in conjunction with IACAA to deliver training to community action managers in Illinois. Three cohorts of managers have graduated so far, and the fourth cohort got started in 2013. Along the way, CPM has also provided strategic planning assistance to local agencies that are part of the IACAA network, thus helping to create a context in which the lessons managers learn through training can be applied.

While CPM is a direct source of professional development, another unit in the Center, the **Office of Electronic Media (OEM)**, uses its expertise in making video content to enable

others to deliver training and information dissemination more efficiently to public and nonprofit employees and the public as a whole. In 2013, OEM substantially expanded its work in this area.

OEM worked with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to produce a video on the **Colbert Consent Decree** to be used by nursing home care coordinators when they meet with clients. The decree provides eligible elderly and disabled people with more of an opportunity than they had before to receive the services and supports they need to function as independently as they are capable. The video describes the stories of people who have benefited under the decree.



Nursing home care coordinator meeting with client

OEM continued its partnership with the **Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA)** to produce training DVDs and webinars for the caregivers of older people and agency staff on important subjects and policy changes affecting their work. In 2013, OEM produced 20 different videos for IDOA, from an overview of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) to the future of adult protective services. The videos have been a moneysaver for IDOA, reducing the costs of travel and time associated with attending in-person training. IDOA also put more emphasis in 2013 on integrating technology into the training, by having OEM produce training for the department's online account at Vimeo.com, which allows employees to log in and access training as well as questions and tests.

Another continuing effort was video support for public education in central Illinois. For Regional Office of Education #40 (Green, Jersey, and Macoupin counties), OEM produced videos that instruct school employees on how to recognize homeless students and procedures to follow when a student is found to be homeless. The work is part of the federally sanctioned **McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Training** program. Additionally, OEM recorded classroom lessons at Rochester High School for the **Better Lesson** project. The project puts lessons online as a resource for high school and elementary teachers throughout the United States to use in improving their lesson planning and teaching methods.

## Teaching Teachers and More



Larry Pfeiffer, Regional Office of Education #40 Superintendent

OEM first worked with the Regional Office of Education #40, covering Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, and Macoupin counties, in 2012, recording a teacher institute. The partnership then expanded to include a series of video programs on educating homeless children, which appeared on the Regional Office's website and YouTube. Larry Pfeiffer, the Regional Superintendent, said that the homeless program has allowed the schools in the region to save money and save teachers from having to travel for training and miss classes. "By integrating this technology, our office saved thousands of dollars and minimized the time that our teachers and administrators spend out of their schools," commented Pfeiffer.

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In any given year and in addition to its work for external clients, OEM devotes substantial time and effort to helping the university disseminate information. In 2013, this work included production of informational videos for the President's Office, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the UIS Development Office, and webcasts of University of Illinois Board of Trustees' meetings, UIS athletic events and Student Government Association meetings, and video capture of a variety of other UIS events.

## Learning to Solve Problems in the Real World



Kadylynn Havemeyer

Kadylynn Havemeyer, who started working in OEM as a junior, graduated from UIS in December with a degree in psychology and a minor in criminal justice. While at OEM, she operated the camera at events, did content maintenance for the Campus Channel, directed video production of Student Government Association meetings, and learned about graphics design and audio mixing. "Throughout my time at OEM," Havemeyer says, "one of the skills I...improved [was] problem solving, and I will be able to use this skill in so many different ways." Havemeyer complimented OEM on giving her experience that can be difficult to find in campus jobs. "Working at OEM [was] unlike any other campus job," she explained, "You're not a secretary, you're not answering phones, and you're not doing the same routine every day. You get to be creative in every aspect of the job."

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## Applied Problem Solving

Since 2001, when it began, the **Illinois Innocence Project** has served as a prime example of how the Center uses its intellectual resources to help solve an important public problem. In 2013, the Project continued its recent record of success in assisting those who have been wrongfully convicted seek their release from prison. During the year, it worked actively on the cases of 34 people who it believed, after careful review, to be innocent of the crime(s) for which they were convicted and imprisoned. One of those people, Peggy Jo Jackson, had her life sentence commuted in March by Governor Quinn. Jackson was found guilty in 1987 of first-degree murder in the death of her husband, who had abused her throughout their 12-year marriage. The Project's staff attorney Erica Nichols Cook, J.D., case coordinator Rhonda Keech, M.A., and student volunteers worked with the Illinois Clemency Project for Battered Women to get Jackson's case before the Illinois Prison Review Board. Jackson is the sixth innocent person the Project has helped get out of prison.

From the beginning, the Project has relied heavily on student involvement. Indeed, it was one of the first innocence projects in the country to make room for participation by undergraduates. In 2013, 14 UIS students served as interns or student workers with the Project, and 47 law students from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Northern Illinois University, and Southern Illinois University assisted with Project cases.



John Hanlon

Much of the Project's work in recent years has involved the use of forensic science, particularly DNA testing, which is overseen by its executive director/legal director John Hanlon, J.D. Though DNA is the most definitive way to demonstrate someone's innocence, the actual path that forensic science follows in cases of wrongful conviction is often far from straight-forward. In one case in 2013, the

Project encountered one obstacle after the next in conducting a DNA test. There was a temporary loss of evidence (victim's fingernail scrapings) by the court clerk's office. After the Project's repeated efforts to get the clerk's office to search further, the evidence was finally located. However, it was too degraded for standard DNA testing, and the local prosecutor resisted ordering further testing of the evidence. Fortunately, the lab was able to do another type of DNA testing with the degraded evidence, finding that the client's DNA was not present under the victim's fingernails. The Project's work on cases involving DNA evidence has been mainly funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Justice since 2011.

In May 2013, the Center became the fourth organizational partner on the coordinating council of the Sangamon County

## An Unparalleled Learning Opportunity



Ryan Williams

Ryan Williams graduated from UIS with a degree in psychology in 2009, and then got his law degree from Cooley Law School in Michigan. He currently works as an assistant appellate defender in the Fourth District Office of the State Appellate Defender in Illinois. Williams credits his Illinois Innocence Project internship in 2009 with educating him about the realities of the criminal justice system and helping him pursue a legal education. "I simply cannot express the debt of gratitude I owe," Williams wrote Chancellor Susan Koch, "for everything that my experience with the Innocence Project has done for my life and career."



Bryan Vayr

Bryan Vayr is pursuing a double major in political science and legal studies at UIS. Vayr completed an applied study term (undergraduate internship) with the Innocence Project last year and is currently a student worker for the Project. With a GPA of 3.84, Vayr will graduate in May from the UIS Honors Program and attend the University of Illinois College of Law in the fall on a full-tuition scholarship. The benefits Vayr has gotten from his work on the Project are clear: "Few other legal

entities are willing to entrust such substantive work to undergraduate students. I have worked alongside attorneys as they prepare for trial, conducted legal research, analysis, and writing, have written motions ready to be argued in court, and gained comfort in navigating the day-to-day minutia and organization necessary for any lawyer to be successful."

**Continuum of Learning**, joining the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, the United Way of Central Illinois, and the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Started in 2007, the purpose of the Continuum is to promote educational improvement across all age ranges and throughout the county. Until he became interim executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Dr. Harry Berman, former interim chancellor and provost at UIS, chaired the Continuum coordinating council. The Continuum has had notable success building bridges among the array of organizations and interests involved in education and child development and spurring innovative efforts to strengthen child readiness for kindergarten and access to post-secondary learning. The Center, which assumed responsibility for administering the Continuum from the Community Foundation, brings to the mix its expertise in data analysis, research, and evaluation.

The Center's expertise was put to use almost immediately after joining the Continuum. UIS Chancellor Susan Koch agreed to chair a working group of local education leaders charged by the

Strategic Leadership Council (SLC) of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce with proposing an educational initiative with the potential to transform the county. Center executive director David Racine took on the responsibility of capturing the ideas of working group members in a white paper that the SLC could review. The ultimate product, approved by the SLC in November, was a proposal to develop a plan for making greater use of data and evidence of what works in shaping educational improvement across all stages of the Continuum, from the prenatal period to entry into post-secondary learning, and with a particular emphasis on the needs of less advantaged children. The SLC agreed to provide financial support for the planning initiative, as did the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, the United Way of Central Illinois, and the Center itself.

The Continuum's planning process will occur in a context likely to be deeply affected by Illinois' implementation of the **Common Core Learning Standards** for elementary and secondary schools. For the new standards to be effective, classroom teachers will likely need to change what they do, and not just what they know, suggested Center executive director David Racine in a keynote address to school-university professional development teams in October. The teams were attending a statewide conference in Bloomington sponsored by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois State Board of Education, and Center for the Study of Educational Policy at Illinois State University. Racine laid out a series of guidelines for constructing professional development that promotes the learning and improvement of teaching skills.

## PUBLIC JOURNALISM

Many public universities, especially those located in state capitals, have units that conduct public policy research, evaluate public programs, or offer internships to students. But the Center for State Policy and Leadership is one of the few, if any, that also does public journalism, the work of regularly informing and educating the public about the latest developments in policy and politics. The Center's public journalism units, WUIS and *Illinois Issues*, muster a wide body of evidence of practical value to the public through their ability to look deeply into matters of public concern and to report on those matters in a rich and balanced way. The importance of the role they play has not diminished amid the information profusion of the age of the Internet. If anything, as Charles N. Wheeler III, director of UIS' Public Affairs Reporting program, wrote in the June edition of *Illinois Issues*, "the data explosion actually enhances the need for people who are good at sifting the wheat from the chaff, connecting the dots and explaining complex issues in understandable terms." Here we give attention to examples of how WUIS and *Illinois Issues* did their best to "sift the wheat from the chaff" in 2013.

### Access to Health Care

The **Affordable Care Act**, otherwise known as Obamacare, aims to increase access to good health care coverage for those who lack insurance or are underinsured. But its implementation has been far from smooth. As Amanda Vinicky, Statehouse bureau chief for WUIS, reported in January 2013: "The Affordable Care Act is a complicated, bureaucratic, ever-evolving law that even its creators are still trying to get a grip on." The law hit a bump in the road when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional its mandated extension of Medicaid to poor adults without children. The ruling left it up to each state to decide whether to opt in. In Illinois, that meant some "strange bedfellows" – the Illinois Hospital Association, Illinois Chamber of Commerce,

and Illinois Primary Health Care Association, among others, observed Vinicky, coming together in support of the expansion, which is 100 percent federally funded the first three years, gradually declining to 90 percent by 2020. The Medicaid expansion bill eventually passed before the end of the spring legislative session, over objections from doubters, reported Vinicky in July, that the federal government "will keep its promise" to pay for most of it.

Even with expanded access to health care, it is not clear whether people will actually be able to get the care they need. In an article in the October *Illinois Issues*, Debra Landis pointed out that while over half a million Illinoisans are expected to be newly eligible for Medicaid under Obamacare, there may not be enough physicians to serve them. The law, wrote Landis, "includes a two-year incentive that offers a higher reimbursement rate for primary care." However, only about 10,200 doctors, less than a fourth of the physician population in the state, had signed up for the incentive by this past fall.

The Affordable Care Act also holds promise for improving access to treatment for those who are **mentally ill**, an area in which Illinois has had its share of fiscal challenges in recent years. Writing in the March *Illinois Issues*, Jamey Dunn, the magazine's Statehouse bureau chief, noted that between 2009 and 2011, Illinois cut its mental health care budget 30 percent, the fourth most in the country behind South Carolina, Alabama, and Alaska. Even before the latest rounds of cuts, Dunn reported, the state had serious shortages of inpatient psychiatric beds, and many counties lacked psychiatrists. Under Obamacare, the expansion of Medicaid and the availability of affordable private insurance through the state's online exchange may improve access to treatment for young adults in the 19-25 age range, the time of life when many mental illnesses first appear and get diagnosed.

## Hall of Fame

In November, five former participants in the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program were inducted into the Samuel K. Gove Illinois Legislative Intern Hall of Fame, sponsored by *Illinois Issues* and the University of Illinois Alumni Association.

- U.S. Rep. **Cheri Bustos**. Bustos was elected to Congress to represent Illinois' 12th District in 2012. Originally an award-winning journalist, she left journalism in 2001 to work for one of the nation's largest nonprofit health care systems. In 2007, she was elected to the East Moline City Council. Bustos earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois Springfield.
- **Scott Kaiser**, assistant secretary of the Illinois Senate. He served as a legislative analyst on the Senate Republican staff from 1988-1996, and from 1997-1999 served as deputy director of legislative affairs for Governor Jim Edgar. In 1999, he relocated to Carbondale, where he served as assistant to the president of Southern Illinois University before rejoining the Senate staff in 2004. Kaiser received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois Springfield.
- **Mona Martin**, who owns a lobbying and consulting firm in Springfield. She previously worked as deputy director of policy development, planning, and research at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Her career in government began as an intern in 1989 with the House Republican staff. She later worked for the House Revenue Committee, and in 1993, became the director of research, in addition to later adding the responsibilities of director of appropriations.
- **Scott Reimers**, chief of staff for the House Republican leader since 2012. Beginning his career as an intern with the House Republican staff, he later became director of research and deputy chief of staff for public policy before being named chief of staff. Reimers received a bachelor's degree in political science from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Illinois Springfield.
- **David Sykuta**, retired executive director of the Illinois Petroleum Council. Sykuta started his career with the Senate Republican staff in 1973, and was hired as a full-time legislative consultant for Senate Republicans a year later. Sykuta joined the Illinois Petroleum Council in 1976, and was appointed its executive director in 1986. Sykuta received a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Illinois State University in 1972 and attended graduate school in public administration at Illinois State and UIS.

In a follow-up article in the November *Illinois Issues*, Dunn described difficulties that providers in Cook County, which was permitted to implement the Medicaid expansion early, were having getting reimbursed from the state for well-established, research-based mental health treatment programs, such as Assertive Community Treatment and Community Support Treatment. According to Dunn's source, the state was doing its best to get these services covered under a set of complicated federal rules.

## Education Reform

Access problems also cropped up in education in 2013, and on both ends of the educational continuum. Efforts at the federal and state level to expand **preschool education** collided with the reality of curbs on public spending spurred by the recession in 2008-2009. In Illinois, which has received high marks for its early education policies from the National Institute for Early Education Research, state-funded preschool slots have been cut since 2009, as Maureen Kelleher highlighted in a May 2013 *Illinois Issues* article. Early childhood education has attracted bipartisan support in Illinois, said Kelleher, mainly because of research showing that it is cost-effective. However, she wrote, "the research is actually a little more complicated," noting that the studies used to support strong claims of cost-effectiveness involved small numbers of children in unusually high quality programs. There is a positive return on investment, but it may not be as high as some proponents suggest. Meanwhile, Kelleher said Illinois was busy developing its system for rating the quality of early education programs, in anticipation of being able to compete for increased federal funding if and when it becomes available.



Early childhood education classroom

Reductions in state funding for preschool were compounded during the year by cutbacks in the federal **Head Start** program as a result of the so called "sequester." The sequester triggered the automatic spending cuts which President Obama and the Congress agreed would go into effect if they could not reach a deal on deficit reduction. In the June *Illinois Issues*, Jamey Dunn reported that owing to the sequester cuts, Head Start agencies in Illinois anticipated having to lay off some 300 employees. Head Start was targeted in part because research has reported mixed results on its effectiveness. "Critics of Head Start say it is a good place to cut the budget," wrote Dunn, arguing that "it does not provide a measurable academic leg up for kids." They cite a

federal study which shows the effects of the program disappeared after a few years. While Head Start has to be justified mainly on the basis of its benefits to young children, educational benefits are not its only value. As Lori Morrison-Frichtl, executive director of the Illinois Head Start Association, told Dunn, “Sometimes Head Start is the largest employer in [a] community, so it’s really going to impact the economy when its funding is cut.”

Schools are not just schools anymore but also places where, for one reason or another, other challenges in society are often addressed. One of these is the fight against **obesity**. In recent years, efforts to improve childhood nutrition and exercise have made their way into early child development programs and elementary schools. In August last year, Rachel Otwell, a reporter for WUIS, interviewed Dr. David Steward, associate dean for community health and service at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, about a local project using a national evidence-based program to help children get and stay fit. Through the Springfield Collaborative, faculty and staff at SIU work with several schools in Springfield District 186 and Head Start sites to improve activity and healthy nutrition. There is evidence, said Steward, that more activity leads to better academic performance, and that children who are obese in preschool are more likely to be obese as adults. Meanwhile, as reported by WUIS’ Sean Crawford later in the month, Illinois was contemplating new nutritional standards for day care centers in an effort to reduce obesity in young children.

On the other end of the educational spectrum, anxiety over the affordability of **higher education** continued to attract public attention. In an essay in the April *Illinois Issues*, John Carpenter questioned whether Illinois has an obligation to assure that people can afford a higher education. “Tuition, room and board [at the University of Illinois] one generation ago,” noted Carpenter, “represented slightly more than 10 percent of the state’s median income. Today, it represents more than 50 percent.” Though the price has gone up, the economic returns to individuals and the places where they live remain substantial, he said. As a result, “Illinois’ declining investment in public universities...is actually costing the state money.”

**Testing** also garnered headlines during 2013. The state raised the cut scores on the Illinois State Achievement Test that children in grades three through eight take every year. Higher cut scores likely mean fewer students will be deemed proficient. Sean Crawford, WUIS news director, interviewed Tom Bertrand, superintendent of the Rochester School District, to get his take on the effects of the change. Bertrand, whose school district performs better than the state average on achievement tests, summed up the feeling about the change this way, “We’re left to explain it [the effect of the cut score change] to the 9 year old... who made adequate yearly progress last year, who can’t make it this year, no matter how hard they try.” The ISAT itself is supposed to be replaced in the future with new tests aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards.



Testing

The year saw a different kind of testing, of teachers themselves, stir up controversy. The state enacted a law in 2010 tying the performance evaluations of elementary and secondary teachers to student scores on state tests and to systematic observations of their classroom performance. Beginning in the fall of 2013, all districts were supposed to begin using parts of the new evaluation system for teachers and administrators. In the January 2013 *Illinois Issues*, Kerry Lester described the efforts of the State Board of Education to train evaluators to conduct the classroom observations of teachers. As of the start of the calendar year, roughly 85 percent of evaluators had been trained. How well the new approach to evaluation will be accepted and implemented remained to be seen. Lester talked to state officials and others who said that many teachers support the idea of having student test scores count in their evaluations, while others are not as sanguine and worry about the additional time and cost involved in carrying out more rigorous evaluation when school budgets are already pressed.

## American Values

In a sense, much of the news reporting and analysis that public journalism does focuses on the relationships between government action and important values, which, while not necessarily unique to the United States, are built into the country’s founding ethos. Fairness and equality are common themes in the news work of WUIS and *Illinois Issues*, and 2013 was no exception.

Jamey Dunn of *Illinois Issues* has been tracking the state’s efforts to manage its **juvenile justice responsibilities**. Through two articles last year, she detailed how well the state was living up to those responsibilities. In May, Dunn described the tensions between those who want to reform the state’s juvenile justice system and law enforcement over the age and circumstances under which a teenager can be deemed an adult. In 2010, Illinois enacted a law that upped the age of adult from 17 to 18 for misdemeanors. Although opponents of the change feared it would overwhelm the juvenile justice system, the state’s Juvenile Justice Commission conducted a study of the law’s implementa-

tion and found no negative effects. In December, Dunn took a closer look at how well the state has honored the commitment it made in 2006 to recognize that youth offenders have different needs than adult offenders when it split the Department of Juvenile Justice from the Department of Corrections. “[S]ince its inception, the Department of Juvenile Justice has been the focus of negative report after negative report,” Dunn wrote, as a result of youth being kept locked up beyond their sentences because there is nowhere for them to go, evidence of sexual abuse while imprisoned, and lack of response to youth inmate grievances. Among the reforms being considered, said Dunn, is a bill that would establish an ombudsman for the Department of Juvenile Justice. The ombudsman would have unfettered, complete access to the state’s youth facilities, would be empowered to investigate and resolve grievances, and would be required to report suspected crimes to the Illinois State Police.

The question of fair and equal treatment received intense scrutiny in 2013 as the state considered legislation that would **allow gays and lesbians to marry**. The bill eventually passed in the fall and was quickly signed by Governor Quinn. Amanda Vinicky of WUIS reported in October, when House action on the measure was still in doubt, on the war of words between proponents of the change and the religious opposition to it. Proponents staged a rally on the first day of the General Assembly’s fall veto session. Before the rally, explained Vinicky, Springfield Catholic Bishop Thomas Paprocki spoke out saying that “anyone wearing a rainbow sash [indicating support for the bill] in his cathedral would be turned away.” Quinn, a Catholic, waded into the fray, publicly disagreeing with Paprocki and quoting the love verses from Corinthians.

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, otherwise known as **Food Stamps**, garnered headlines as it appeared likely that it would be cut during negotiations in Washington, D.C., over the farm bill. Reporting for WUIS’ Harvest Desk in November, Peter Gray described the safety net that Food Stamps provides in rural parts of Illinois. Gray discovered, for example, that Marion County in southern Illinois has a higher percentage of families eligible for Food Stamps – one in five – than the city of Chicago. If the program is cut, said Gray, that could put more strain on local food pantries that have already been asked to do more in the down economy.

While not often thought of as an issue of fair and equal treatment, the ebbing political punch of **downstate Illinois** compared to the Chicago metropolitan area can seem unjust to the denizens of downstate. In an article titled “Let my people go” for the September *Illinois Issues*, Kevin McDermott, a political reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, described the “decades-long exodus of voters from rural areas throughout the state.” Many more voters are now located in the suburban collar counties, and most of the top political leadership come from the Chicago area. “Thus has downstate Illinois gone,” wrote McDermott, “from being one of three crucial pillars in the triumvirate of Illinois’ political power structure (with Chicago and its suburbs) to political irrelevance.” McDermott attributed the change less to geography and more to shifting economic fortunes, including the decline of the coal industry in rural southern Illinois.

## Rural Environments

One controversial development that may have brightened the economic outlook for rural downstate Illinois was the deal reached last year between business and environmental groups to permit “horizontal fracking” to extract oil and natural gas. As Jamey Dunn explained in the July/August *Illinois Issues*, groups that normally fight over environmental issues found common ground in supporting legislation that allows fracking under what is expected to be among the toughest regulations in the country. Not everyone was happy, noted Dunn. Environmental groups in southern Illinois, where most of the oil and gas deposits are located, continued to raise concerns, even after the bill became law, about the possibilities of groundwater contamination and other environmental hazards. Scientific investigations of the consequences of fracking have produced mixed findings.

In a series of stories for WUIS’ Harvest Desk in 2013, Bill Wheelhouse painted a nuanced picture of what change really looks like in rural Illinois. In May, he talked with rural officials who were concerned that in working out a farm bill, the Congress might do away with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Program, which provides loans for non-farm projects, such as libraries and water towers, in rural communities. “The farm economy is more than just simply farms,” Chris Merrett of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs told Wheelhouse,

### Doing It Her Way



Dawn Clark Netsch

Historic political figure Dawn Clark Netsch, a long-time Illinois Issues Advisory Board member, died at 86 on March 5, 2013. Netsch, whose 17-year tenure on the advisory board included serving as vice chair, was the first woman to hold a constitutional office in Illinois, when she was elected comptroller. In 1994, Netsch, a Democrat, ran unsuccessfully for governor against popular Republican incumbent Jim Edgar, who now serves on the magazine’s advisory board as well. The 16-year

state senator from Chicago was a champion of such diverse causes as tax reform, good government, and gay and lesbian rights. She was also a professor of law emerita at Northwestern University. Her biographer, Cynthia Grant Bowman, described Netsch as a “warm and charming woman of many contradictions – a schoolmarm who drinks and smokes, a powerful woman who never learned to drive, a feminist who thought of herself as one of the boys, a well-to-do woman who is frugal to a fault.” Among Netsch’s achievements was having served as a delegate to the 1970 constitutional convention, in which she led the move to modernize the Illinois Constitution.



“...a healthy agricultural sector needs a healthy rural non-farm sector.” Wheelhouse later broke an important story that aired nationally on the large federal crop insurance payouts some counties in Illinois received following the drought in 2012. The biggest payout in the country went to Livingston County, Illinois, which was in the “heart of the drought.” Though the population of rural Illinois has been declining and getting older, Wheelhouse found in doing a story about rural civic life in July that the downstate exodus described by Kevin McDermott in *Illinois Issues* (see above) may not be quite as dramatic as some believe. Very small towns of a few hundred people have been losing population, Wheelhouse reported, but some of those people are ending up in nearby larger towns, such as county seats, that can support a local hospital and a sound school district.

## Pensions and Taxes

2013 may become known as the year that Illinois finally and successfully tackled its **public pension debt**, as the General Assembly and the governor, during a special session of the legislature, agreed on a bill. Whether the courts will uphold the new law remains to be seen, however. In early December, shortly after passage, WUIS Statehouse reporter Brian Mackey described the unusual efforts of House Speaker Michael Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton to garner the necessary votes. “House Speaker Madigan is rarely in the House chamber,” reported Mackey. “But there he was, patiently answering questions for nearly three hours, forcefully arguing for his pension overhaul.” The measure passed over fierce objections from labor unions who

contend the state Constitution prohibits reducing employee pensions. Earlier, Mackey reported on arguments before the state Supreme Court in September on the constitutionality of legislation enacted in 2012 that makes state retirees pay premiums for their health insurance. A lower court had upheld the law. During the arguments in the Supreme Court, the justices gave no clear signal of how they might decide the case and on what grounds, making it difficult to predict what they might do with the legal challenge unions were expected to bring to the new pension law. Discerning the likely will of the court was muddled by the decision to leave judges’ pensions out of the bill, the topic of a report by WUIS’ Amanda Vinicky at the end of the spring legislative session.

As the year wound down, solving the pension problem was not the only “fiscal question mark looming over Illinois’ political landscape,” as Kurt Erickson put it in an article for the November *Illinois Issues*. The expiration in January 2015 of the temporary state income tax increase pushed through by Democratic majorities after the 2010 election was also beginning to galvanize interest on both sides of the issue. If the increase is not renewed, said Erickson, state projections showed that it would reduce revenues by \$2.2 billion. Neither House Speaker Madigan nor Senate President Cullerton was willing to “float ideas on the potential bombshell.” Instead, the leaders were waiting to hear from the candidates for governor about their plans for spending and taxes. “But getting the candidates...to talk about the politically toxic issue of massive cuts in education, public safety, and other state services,” wrote Erickson, “remains a tough sell.”



Downtown Pittsfield Courthouse in rural Illinois

## PUBLIC HISTORY

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,” wrote American philosopher George Santayana in 1905. Though perhaps overused, the quotation’s essential truth has not lost any of its power. History matters, not just as an evidentiary record of what happened, but as a source of understanding that can guide choices in the present. The Center’s commitment to public history – to the preservation and analysis of the past for the benefit of the public – has been part of its mission from the beginning. It is completely sensible that this commitment has been anchored in the study of Abraham Lincoln, whose life and work have served as a virtually endless source of insights not just into the person, but into the time in which he lived and, more fundamentally, into the character of the American people. This held true in 2013, although Lincoln was not the only history topic to draw the Center’s attention.

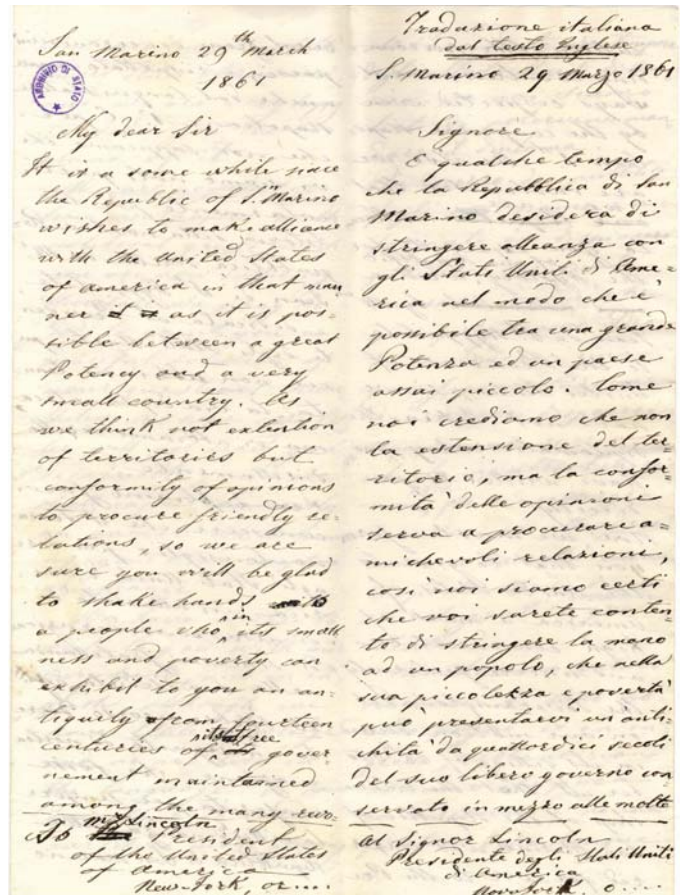
### The Papers of Abraham Lincoln

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln is a long-term, digital documentary editing project to locate, image, transcribe, and annotate every document written by or to Lincoln. The project’s production statistics for 2013 were as impressive as ever: 4,761 documents located and scanned at the National Archives, Library of Congress, other repositories, and private collections; 1,352 documents transcribed; 3,149 documents proofed; and 74 documents annotated for historical context. As of the end of the year, the project had collected more than 97,000 of Lincoln’s legal papers, 20,000 other papers from his time in Illinois, and more than 75,000 presidential papers.

Project researchers at the National Archives found a nearly unique document bearing the signatures of Lincoln and all three of his law partners. Only two other documents are known to have the signatures of all four men. The project also received images of two documents from the archives of the tiny republic of San Marino. One document is dated March 29, 1861, just a few weeks after Lincoln’s inauguration as the 16th president. In parallel English and Italian columns, the document conferred San Marino citizenship on Lincoln. In his response on May 7, 1861, Lincoln thanked the Council of San Marino and assured them that “although your dominion is small, your State is nevertheless one of the most honored in all of history.” In 2011, San Marino sent a letter to President Barack Obama, assuring him of the continued “relations of sincere friendship” between San Marino and the United States and relating that Lincoln’s response to their letter from 150 years ago had become one of the most cherished historical documents in the republic.

As part of the commemoration in Illinois of the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, the editors of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln produced a well-received small edition of letters Lincoln received in the weeks leading up to his speech. The volume includes transcriptions of and historical context for more than

two dozen letters, capturing many of the issues on Lincoln’s mind in the late summer and early fall of 1863. *On Lincoln’s Mind* was given without charge to all visitors to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield during the week of November 18-24. Portions were also serialized in *The State Journal-Register*.



Regent Captains of the Republic of San Marino to Abraham Lincoln 29 March 1861. The letter, in parallel English and Italian columns, is located at the Archivio di Stato della Repubblica di San Marino in San Marino, San Mario.”



Volunteer transcribers Joan Walters and Amy Henrikson

## The Lincoln Legacy Lectures

The 11th Annual Lincoln Legacy Lectures were held on November 19, 2013, the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. 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 cosponsored by the university's Engaged Citizenship Common Experience (ECCE) speaker series. This year's event drew record attendance: 470 plus another 97 viewed the live webcast. A total of 165 UIS students participated for ECCE credit.

In opening remarks, Burlingame described the relevance of the Gettysburg Address for our era, suggesting that America remains "what Lincoln deemed 'a nation worth fighting for' because it's a nation that strives, however imperfectly, to uphold the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence and reaffirmed in the Gettysburg Address." In his lecture, Dr. Martin P. Johnson of Miami University, Hamilton, Ohio reconstructed Lincoln's physical and philosophical journey to the Address. He described how Lincoln, after visiting the Battlefield that morning before the dedication ceremony, revised the draft of his speech to underscore the sacrifices made by the soldiers. Lincoln's statesmanship was the topic of the lecture by Dr. Joseph R. Fornieri of the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. He argued that in the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln affirmed, defended, and extended the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the proposition that "all men are created equal."

The 2013 lectures were cosponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Illinois State Library, the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, the ECCE Speaker Series, *Illinois Issues*, WUIS, the UIS College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of

Public Affairs and Administration, and the University of Illinois Alumni Association. The link to the video of the lectures can be found on the Center's website: <http://cspl.uis.edu>.

## Illinois History

In the March 2013 *Illinois Issues*, executive editor Dana Heupel devoted his regular column to describing the value of the Illinois Statecraft oral history project. The project captures interviews with modern-day political and civic leaders in Illinois in great detail. For example, noted Heupel, "there are 26 interview sessions with former Governor Jim Edgar, along with recordings of more than 30 of his aides, political opponents, and journalists. Mark DePue, director of oral history at the Lincoln Presidential Library, told Heupel that the Edgar series is the only complete portion of the project. Other series were in the works, focusing on Governor Dan Walker and the ERA fight in Illinois, and there are plans to cover Governor Richard Ogilvie, Governor Jim Thompson, and Illinois Supreme Court Justices. DePue said he hoped also to be able to do interviews with and about former Governors George Ryan and Rod Blagojevich.

WUIS did a story in October on the oral history project's upcoming conference on former Governor Otto Kerner. Kerner was successfully prosecuted, after he left office, by future governor Jim Thompson for taking racetrack stock in exchange for political favors. But, as WUIS' Sean Crawford observed, though "few people these days can tell you much about ...Otto Kerner, other than he spent time in prison...there was more to the man who oversaw state government from 1961 to 1968." The Illinois Departments of Public Aid and Children and Family Services were established during Kerner's administration, and he chaired the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, which became known as the Kerner Commission.



© Gettysburg September 2012. Image courtesy of Robert Shaw, from the book *A Day Long To Be Remembered—Lincoln in Gettysburg*, published by Firelight Publishing, 2013.

## THE WAY FORWARD

While 2013 was a good year for the Center for State Policy and Leadership, it would be a mistake to regard last year's success as a reliable harbinger of things to come. Striving always to do better is generally sound advice. But, it gains additional force from the necessity of adapting to the changing opportunities and challenges present in the larger environment on which the Center depends for most of its resources. In the foreseeable future, the Center will respond to this reality by continuing to deepen and broaden its engagement with evidence-based policy and practice in the public sector.

### Public Research

Currently, the research and evaluation agenda of the Center is not developed strategically. It is largely opportunistic. This approach has been effective up to a point, but it has limited the cumulative impact of the Center's research and evaluation activities and the opportunity for collaborative, cross-disciplinary work, which, today, represents the best potential for making a difference.

Beginning this fall, the Center's research units – the Institute and Survey Research Office – will launch an annual process of prioritizing issues in public policy and practice to guide the allocation of the Center's research and evaluation efforts. The list of issues will be derived from existing projects and research interests of faculty and staff, as well as from discussions with public sector experts. For the highest priority issues that are not already the subject of existing work, the Center will invite and commission faculty to prepare white papers summarizing the extant research on an issue and identifying the key unanswered questions that could be addressed through further investigation. This more strategic approach is expected to give the Center's research more coherence and focus and the potential for greater impact through cumulative effort.

### Public Service

Public service – in the forms of graduate student internships and professional development opportunities for public and nonprofit actors – has long represented the largest commitment of Center resources. These activities have produced some of the Center's most impressive success stories. While they perform a common function for the Center and the university, there have been limited opportunities created for these different activities to learn from one another and possibly realize a larger impact on the capacity and quality of the public and nonprofit workforces. In 2014, this will change.

#### Celebrating 40 Years of GPSI

Looking ahead to 2014, we will be marking the 40th anniversary of the Graduate Public Service Internship Program. Since 1974, the program has grown from a handful of students, all pursuing MPA degrees, placed in a few agencies, to today, with over 300 interns placed in more than 20 state agencies, representing 18 different graduate majors. GPSI graduates have gone on to distinguished careers in the public and nonprofit sectors, serving, for example, as agency directors, bureau chiefs, city planners, city managers, and CEOs of nonprofit agencies. We are proud of the stellar reputation the program has built over its history, and appreciate the high quality work and commitment of the interns, agency supervisors, and program staff who have made the program one of the finest of its kind in the country.

The Center will begin this year convening on a regular basis the staffs of the Graduate Public Service Internship Program, the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program, the Certified Public Manager Program of Illinois, and the Office of Electronic Media. The meetings will have a threefold purpose: 1) to compare and



Katie Hollenbeck, GPSI Intern at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

contrast the different pedagogies used by these programs and units, 2) to examine the research evidence on learning and training for insights and ideas that can inform pedagogical improvements, and 3) to develop a common discipline around evaluating the Center's internships and professional development programs and related activities.

The other dimension of public service is the Center's direct engagement in public problem solving through the Illinois Innocence Project and the Sangamon County Continuum of Learning. The Innocence Project is already underway with implementing a fundraising campaign and the further development of innocence-related educational opportunities for students and professional training opportunities for lawyers, judges, and others in the criminal justice system on the current state of the art in forensic science. The pace of this effort will accelerate throughout 2014. The planning initiative the Center has undertaken with local partners in the Continuum of Learning will likely wrap up by the fall, with the issuance of a report containing recommendations on how to further evidence-based practice in child development.

## Public Journalism

Both WUIS and *Illinois Issues* face the challenge of competing for public attention in a congested news media market being transformed by the digitization of content. They have each created a substantial web presence in the past few years. But, this move alone is not likely to be sufficient in a news environment which is changing rapidly and unpredictably.

Recognizing the challenge, WUIS began two years ago to develop journalism desks that specialize in covering topics of high interest to the station's regional listeners. The first desk, established in 2012, is devoted to health. The second desk, launched a year ago, is Harvest Media which covers food, agriculture, and rural life. The third desk, begun this year, focuses

exclusively on education. In all three cases, resources to fund the desks have been obtained from diverse external sources. The aim of the WUIS "desk initiative" is to look at the issues of the day more deeply, objectively, and creatively.

*Illinois Issues* devoted the better part of 2013 to engaging its advisory board and interested members of the UIS campus community in a strategic planning process. The purpose of the process was to examine how content, distribution and marketing, and magazine operations will need to be changed for *Illinois Issues* to thrive in a more competitive news environment. The resulting plan, which we will start implementing this year, calls for a stronger and more dynamic digital media presence, use of partnerships with like-minded organizations to reach a larger and more diverse audience, and creation of more special publications on highly relevant topics.

## Public History

The top priorities of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln this year focus on resources and public education. The project has seen its state funding decline and further reductions are yet possible. This has increased the need to develop other funding sources to enable the project to continue to make progress locating, transcribing, and annotating all documents by and to Lincoln. An additional resource concern has been digital storage for the project's large and growing collection of digital document images. Records had been stored on servers at the University of Illinois' National Center for Supercomputing Applications, but these servers have been shut down. While the files are being temporarily stored by a private entity, the search for a long-term storage solution is underway. The project has also begun ratcheting up its efforts to make the Lincoln collection useful for public education purposes. The booklet, *On Lincoln's Mind*, produced last year for the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address was a step in this direction. Ways to engage the public more directly in the work of the project are also being explored.



Kevin Kulavic, Senate Republicans Intern, ILSIP



Illinois Issues magazine, September 2013

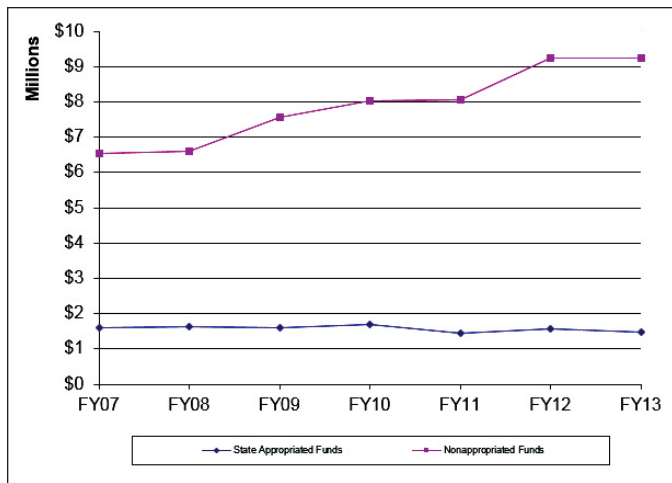
# FINANCES

The Center concluded fiscal 2013 last June without losing appreciable ground financially, despite the worrisome condition of the state budget. Just as the year before, it received around 86 percent of its income from external sources (grants, contracts, fees, contributions) and around 14 percent from state appropriations provided through the university.

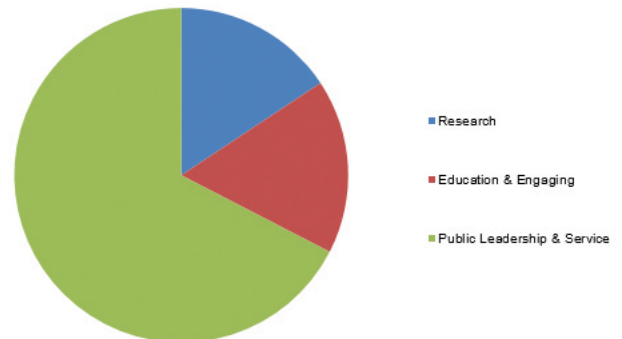
The largest share of the Center's budget, 67 percent, went to public service and leadership, which was a slight decline from 2012. The budgets for research and education and engaging each rose modestly over the prior year.

## FY07-FY13 Appropriated vs Non Appropriated Funding Comparison

	Appropriated		NonAppropriated		Ratio of NonAppropriated to Appropriated
	Dollars	Percentage	Dollars	Percentage	
FY07	\$1,611,832	19.80%	\$6,527,266	80.20%	\$4.050
FY08	\$1,626,041	19.78%	\$6,594,690	80.22%	\$4.056
FY09	\$1,587,987	17.37%	\$7,552,190	82.63%	\$4.756
FY10	\$1,696,478	17.44%	\$8,028,639	82.56%	\$4.733
FY11	\$1,436,415	15.12%	\$8,064,199	84.88%	\$5.614
FY12	\$1,579,127	14.58%	\$9,251,057	85.42%	\$5.858
FY13	\$1,487,637	13.88%	\$9,226,833	86.12%	\$6.202



## Income by Priority FY 2013



(About \$4500 or 0.04% of the total income fell outside of these three functions.)

	Research	Education & Engaging	Public Leadership & Service	Undesignated	Total
Office of the Executive Director	57,786.87	137,079.96	197,618.72	4,469.61	396,955.16
Papers of Abraham Lincoln	809,726.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	809,726.97
Inst. for Legal, Legislative & Policy Studies	535,983.68	3,080.95	3,007,308.41	0.00	3,546,373.04
Office of Graduate Intern Programs	0.00	0.00	3,720,370.15	0.00	3,720,370.15
Center Publications	0.00	407,765.87	950.00	0.00	408,715.87
Survey Research	277,677.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	277,677.58
Office of Electronic Media	0.00	0.00	295,067.47	0.00	295,067.47
WUIS/WIPA	0.00	1,259,583.35	0.00	0.00	1,259,583.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,681,175.10</b>	<b>1,807,510.13</b>	<b>7,221,314.75</b>	<b>4,469.61</b>	<b>10,714,469.59</b>
	15.69%	16.87%	67.40%	0.04%	

# STUDENTS

## Center-funded Faculty Research Projects

Barreto, Keisha  
Craig, Christina

## Graduate Public Service Internship Program

Abaidoo-Asiedu, Kofi  
Abatova, Sayora  
Abbott, Courtney  
Ackles, Joshua  
Adhi Reddy, Santosh  
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Agbesola, Yetunde  
Akkineni, Venkat  
Ala, Monica  
Anbazhagan, Vaishali  
Anderson, Michael  
Andoh, Jennifer  
Andrew, Brie-Anna  
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Ayorinde, Omonike  
Bair, Libby  
Bala Krishnan, Aswin  
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Ball, Catherine  
Bandela, Vinith  
Baragiola, Dustin  
Barker, Ross  
Barnes, Caitlyn  
Barrow, Mallory  
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Batsios, Thomas  
Beathea, Ronnie  
Benedict, Logan  
Benedict, Melissa  
Bennett, Andrea  
Bergen, Stacy  
Bernardy, Johanna  
Beyers (Downs), Charlee  
Bofah, Cecilia  
Bonala, Padmavathi  
Bonner, Marie  
Boston, Emily  
Breyer, Melissa  
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Bruce, Heidi  
Buchanan, Ashley  
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Camarano, Kathleen  
Campbell, Olivia  
Cao, Yixin  
Caramagno, Ashley  
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Carlin, Justin  
Cascio, Vittorio

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Cawley, Megan  
Cawley, Robin  
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Charles, Philbert  
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Clark, Chelsea  
Cline (Davis), Abigail  
Clow, Kristina  
Coad, Samantha  
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Colmenares, Bianca  
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Cornell, Justin  
Coultas, Ann  
Crone, Heather  
Cross, Emily  
Dale, Nels  
Daniels, Simon  
Davidsmeyer, Kirk  
Davis, Cierra  
Davis, Keena  
DeFauw, Jacob  
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DeSuno, Nicholas  
Dias, Bertrand  
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Dixon, Richard  
Dodson, Kristi  
Dolbeare, Zachary  
Drea, Thomas  
Dsouza, Clyde  
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Elliott, Kari  
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Erude, Sarah  
Essig, Katelynn  
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Geng, Hong  
Gentili, Susan  
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Goodwin-Corley, Ramele  
Green, Kathryn  
Grider, Nathan  
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Hill, America  
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Hlavach, Laura  
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Howard, Michael  
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Jacobs, Keith  
James, Omege  
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Kambli, Sonam  
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Mai, Sinh  
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Nombre, Cheick  
Nuguri, Rohith  
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Nwaogwugwu, Ahunna  
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Pabba, Nitin  
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Park, Megan  
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Peddagolla, Prashanth  
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Sharma, Nitika  
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Solomon, Shijin  
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Stock (Elliott), Crystal  
Strutz, Patricia  
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Sweatman, Christian  
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Umesegeha, Chidinma

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 Zhou, Haoran  
 Zhou, Shiyang

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Andrade, Luis  
 Besler, Patrick  
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 Copi, Tucker  
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 Simon, Brett  
 Slana, Michael  
 Smith, Kurtis  
 Stamp, Nathan

Stovall, Elizabeth  
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 Williams, Samantha

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 Dobill, Matt  
 Goodwin-Corley, Ramele  
 Hameetman, Tim  
 Hanson, Michelle  
 Hardge, Preston  
 Holm, Matt  
 Jenkins, Jason  
 Kelly, Elizabeth  
 Laegeler, Charlie  
 Luke, Rebecca  
 Prisco, Monica  
 Tuma, Michelle  
 Vayr, Bryan

**Institute for Legal, Legislative and Policy Studies**

Craig, Christina  
 Geng, Hong  
 Itulya, Aaron  
 Keisha, Barreto  
 Luke, Rebecca  
 Moshage, Scott  
 Scott, Ashley  
 Skaggs, Brianna  
 Staley, Emily  
 Stapleton, Julia

**Office of Electronic Media**

Agbabiaka, Ola Olu  
 Alexander, Bradley  
 Bolling, Shayna

Burns, Dexter  
 Cintron, Edwin  
 Devlin, Kaitlin  
 Dixon, Matthew  
 Dow, Nicholas  
 Freeman, Akeem  
 Havemeyer, Kadylyn  
 Hoke, Rebecca  
 Jackson, Jazmane  
 Madduri, Vishnupriya  
 McColpin, Mike  
 Nagraj  
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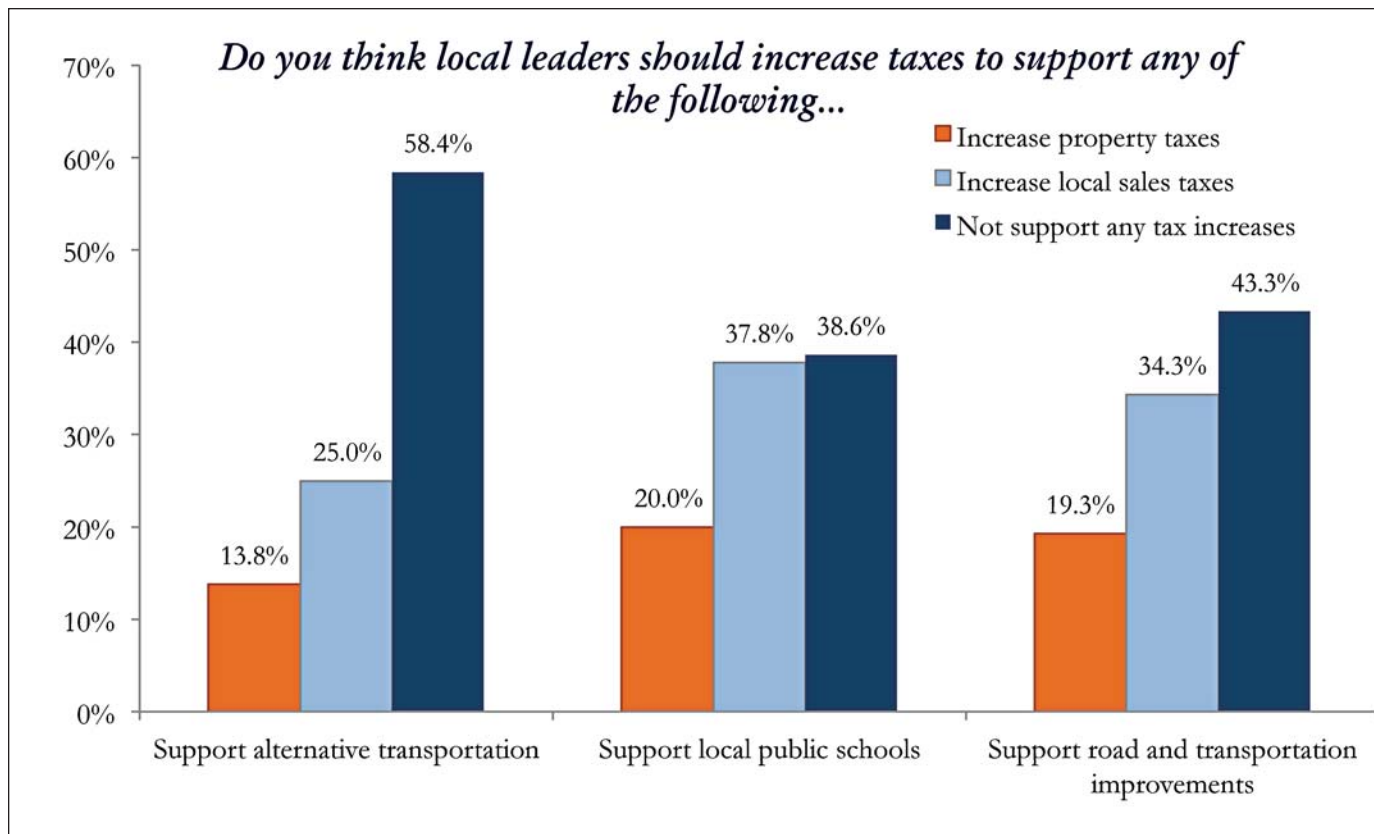
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**Dr. Kent Redfield**, Professor Emeritus, Political Studies, UIS

**Ms. Kathryn Saltmarsh**, Executive Director, Sentencing Policy Advisory Council,  
Criminal Justice Information Authority, State of Illinois

**Ms. Lisa Stott**, Owner, Edgewise Consulting

**Adm. Ron Thunman**, US Navy (Ret) – Naval Affairs

**Dr. Pinky Wassenberg**, Dean, College of Public Affairs and Administration and Professor,  
Political Science, UIS



Brook Bell, Justin Blandford, Naomi Lynn, David Racine, Mike Jones, Dana Heupel and Kent Redfield at the Center Advisory Board meeting, December 6, 2013

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Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here, have, thus far, so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before

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us— that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion— that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain— that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom— and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

The Gettysburg Address  
by Abraham Lincoln  
November 19, 1863

Image courtesy of the Abraham  
Lincoln Presidential Library,  
Springfield, Illinois.



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