2008 Report

The Center for Applied Community Research and Development

Pamela A. Mischen, Co-Director
Allison Alden, Co-Director

Advisory Board:

Cassandra Bransford, Social Work
David Campbell, Public Administration
Sue Crowley, Human Development
Shelley Dionne, School of Management
Mark Reisinger, Geography
Hiroki Sayama, Bioengineering
Gale Spencer, Nursing
David Sloan Wilson, Biology
Diane Brown, Community Foundation for South Central New York
Fred Dufour, Family and Children’s Society
Claudia Edwards, Broome County Health Department
Beth Harrington, Broome County Gang Prevention
Jennifer Lesko, Broome County Urban League
Cindy Nord, Broome County Department of Social Services
Beth Saxton, Broome County Youth Bureau
David Tanenhaus, Binghamton Housing Authority
David Eggleston, Binghamton Police Department
Peggy Wozniak, Binghamton City School District

Binghamton Faculty/Staff Associated with Center

Laura Bronstein, Social Work
Meredith Coles, Psychology
Madhu Govindaraju, Computer Science
Kristina Lambright, Public Administration
Craig Laramée, Bioengineering
Leann Lesperance, Bioengineering
Michael Hattery, Public Administration
Joann Lindstrom, CACRD
Yi Lu, Public Administration
Chris Reiber, Anthropology
Nadia Rubaii-Barrett, Public Administration
Thomas A. P. Sinclair, Public Administration
Brandon Gibb, Psychology
Kevin Heard, GIS Core Facility
Ann Merriweeter, Psychology
Stephen Jackson, CACRD

Binghamton Graduate Students Associated with Center

Andrew Gallup, Biology
Justin Garcia, Anthropology
Daniel O’Brien, Biology
Duncan Martin, Geography
Michael Myers, Public Administration
I. Center for Applied Community Research and Development (CACRD)

The CACRD facilitates university-community research partnerships that are mutually beneficial in that they result in both publishable research for the academic researcher and usable information and/or action for the community partner. The CACRD is Co-Directed by Pamela A. Mischen and Allison Alden, has an Advisory Board that is comprised of university and community representatives that meets twice a year, employs two full-time research assistants, three graduate assistants, and a volunteer grant writer, Dan McCormack. The CACRD focuses its research in four areas: civic engagement, governance and management, nonprofit capacity building, and network development.

Cross-displinary research is critical when engaging in community-based research. The issues of concern at a community level of analysis are complex: crime, youth development, gang prevention, mental health services, among others. The problems faced by communities have behavioral, social, political, economic, and biological causes that are inherently intertwined. The CACRD encourages the formation of multi-disciplinary teams to address such community issues. For example, the CACRD is currently spearheading a project called Virtual Binghamton with faculty from Public Administration, Bioengineering, Computer Science and the GIS Core Facility. The project is designed to create a web-based data analysis platform to enhance the decision making capacity of local government officials and increase civic engagement. The Virtual Binghamton Research group is partnering with many local agencies including the City of Binghamton Police Department, Broome County Departments of Health and Social Services, and interorganizational networks such as the City of Binghamton Blight Prevention Task Force and the Broome County Integrated County Planning group. We have identified several research projects and are pursuing multiple sources of grant funding.

The goals of the CACRD are three:

1) To produce high quality, generalizable, applied community research that advances understanding in its appropriate academic discipline.

2) To have a positive impact at the community level by engaging in research that is important to community partners.

3) To promote applied community research throughout the University by facilitating research partnerships and providing technical assistance and research support for scholars.

These goals reflect the belief that research and service can not only coexist in an academic environment, but that they can inform one another resulting in research that does more than have the potential to inform action, but results in direct benefits at the community level. Service enhances the quality of the research; research improves the quality of service that is provided.

The CACRD has brought visibility to Binghamton University in several ways. Through our community connections (see Advisory Board list on cover) we have shown to the Greater Binghamton area that we are an integral part of this community and concerned about its welfare. We hosted the Binghamton Neighborhood Project Symposium with a grant from the Office of the Provost and had over 150 university faculty and community members in attendance. Our Organizational Lifecycles Community Forum was attended by approximately 50 members of the nonprofit community as well as students and faculty. We hosted a Youth Program Quality Assessment training that was attended by 75 representatives from four New York County Youth Bureaus, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and eight local youth serving organizations.
II. Sources of Support

The CACRD receives funding from multiple sources of internal and external support. From internal support, the CACRD received $3,000 from the Research Foundation, $7,000 from the Office of the Provost for the Binghamton Neighborhood Project Symposium, and general operating support from the Department of Public Administration in terms of a course reduction for the Center Director and funding for a half-time research assistant. From external support, the CACRD received funds from three grants brought in through the Research Foundation ($112,000), three grants brought in through the Binghamton University Foundation ($94,000), two contracts through our external chargeback account ($20,700), and three workshops/symposia through our multiple sponsor account ($3,052) for a total of $229,752.

Without the support from the Research Foundation and the Department of Public Administration, the CACRD would not have the resources to devote to proposal development, host workshops and symposia, and manage fee for service contracts.

2008 Grants, Contracts, and Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Foundation Grants</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broome County Youth Bureau</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Social Services</td>
<td>$18,664</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Morristown</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binghamton University Foundation Grants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klee Foundation</td>
<td>$71,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casella Foundation</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Compact</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>External Contracts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
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<td>Alliance for Children and Families</td>
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<td>Workshops</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binghamton Neighborhood Project Symposium</td>
<td>$360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Lifecycles</td>
<td>$2,692</td>
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<tr>
<td>YPQA Training</td>
<td>$1,725</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

III. New Budget Request and Justification

Current funds are used to support operational costs of the CACRD including phones and office supplies, travel to conferences, meeting costs, computer software and publications. Our initial balance was $5,340.36 due to carry over from the previous fiscal year. Our expenses through December 31, 2008 and anticipated expenses through the end of the fiscal year are provided in the following table.

2008-09 Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>6/1/08 - 12/31/08</th>
<th>1/1/09 – 6/30/09</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$2,344.10</td>
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<td>Campus Recharges (phone)</td>
<td>$632.39</td>
<td>$632.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference and Training</td>
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<td>$104.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (software and publications)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3,081.45</td>
<td>$1,832.39</td>
<td>$4,913.84</td>
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</table>
To reduce the reliance on internal support, the CACRD is writing administrative support into grants as well as academic year effort for faculty engaging in research. The IFR funds resulting from College of Community and Public Affairs faculty academic year effort will be split between the CACRD, Department of Public Administration and the College of Community and Public Affairs. We are also able to decrease our reliance on internal support through the contracts received through our external chargeback and multiple sponsor accounts. Our goal is to become self-sustaining through these mechanisms by the end of 2009 to cover a half-time administrative assistant, a full-time research assistant/project coordinator, and operating costs.

Having a Center designation shows to funding agencies that we have institutional support for multi-/inter-disciplinary community based research. For many foundations and federal agencies, this designation will help us secure the funding necessary to achieve our long-term goals. Furthermore, the funds received from the Research Foundation allow us to continue our efforts in developing relationships with community partners and working with university faculty interested in community-based research.

### 2008-09 Budget Request

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Campus Recharges (phone)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference and Training</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Other (software and publications)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3000</strong></td>
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### IV. Future Directions

The long-range plan of the CACRD is to become a nationally recognized center for applied community research. To that end, CACRD has launched a bold new initiative to enhance civic engagement using both traditional and virtual means. *CoNECT: Community Networks Engaging Citizens with Technology* brings together people, issues and technology in creative ways. This initiative will not only harness the civic spirit of the community, but will also bring national attention to the City of Binghamton as a model for the next generation of civic engagement in small to mid-sized cities across the country. This project is an umbrella for four separate but related research efforts: Virtual Binghamton, Community Asset Mapping, Linking Youth to Community through Technology, and Analysis of Information Sharing Networks. We are currently have preproposals in at the National Science Foundation funding (Virtual Binghaton, $1,200,000) and William T. Grant Foundation (Analysis of Information Sharing Networks, $300,000) to fund these projects and will be preparing proposals to the Ford Foundation and an additional National Science Foundation grant for other aspects of the project.

In addition to this umbrella proposal, we continue to foster university-community partnerships. The CACRD is currently looking for funding for the following projects:

- Teen Pregnancy in Rural Broome County (with Ann Merriwether, Psychology; Harpursville School District)
- Bullying in Schools (with Brandon Gibb & Meredith Coles, Psychology and Laura Bronstein Social Work; Union-Endicott School District)
- Preventing Mental Health Issues due to Transition to High School (with Meredith Coles & Brandon Gibb, Psychology; Binghamton High School)
- Neighborhood Impacts on Perinatal Outcomes (with Chris Reiber, Anthropology; Broome County Health Department)
V. Center Productivity Over Past 12 Months

a. Publications


b. Presentations

Jackson, S.K. Social Networks in Youth and Youth-Serving Organizations, presentation at The 38th Annual Association of New York State Youth Bureaus Conference, October 29, 2008: Syracuse, NY.

Jackson, S.K. For Youth to be Ready by 21 – Quality Counts! Panel Presentation at The 38th Annual Association of New York State Youth Bureaus Conference, October 27, 2008: Syracuse, NY.


Jackson, S.K. Using Social Network Analysis to Strengthen Community-Based Action Research, presentation at the American Society of Public Administration Annual Conference, Saturday, March 8, 2008 in Dallas, TX.

c. Symposia and meetings


Youth Program Quality Assessment Training Workshop. April ???, Binghamton University Downtown Center.

d. Other activities


Jackson, S.K. & Lambright, K. (February, 2008). *Binghamton Police Department community survey report*. (Available from the Center for Applied Community Research and Development, Binghamton University Downtown Center, P.O. Box 6000, Binghamton, New York, 13902-600.)