2010 Annual Report

The Center for Applied Community Research and Development

Pamela A. Mischen, Director

Advisory Board

Cassandra Bransford, Social Work
Tom Sinclair, Public Administration
Shelley Dionne, School of Management
Florence Margai, Geography
Hiroki Sayama, Bioengineering
Sue Siebold Simpson, Nursing
David Sloan Wilson, Biology
Leo Wilton, Human Development
Fred Dufour, Family and Children’s Society

Tim Grippen, New York State Dept of Labor
Diane Brown, Comm Found for S Central NY
Claudia Edwards, Broome Co Health Department
Beth Harrington, Broome County Gang Prevention
Cindy Nord, Broome Co Dept of Social Services
Beth Roberts, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Sue McLeod, Union-Endicott School District
David Eggleston, Binghamton Police Department
Phill Ginter, Broome County United Way

Binghamton Faculty/Staff Associated with Center

Laura Bronstein, Social Work
Meredith Coles, Psychology
Madhu Govindaraju, Computer Science
Kristina Lambright, Public Administration
Craig Laramee, Bioengineering
Leann Lesperance, Bioengineering
Michael Hattery, Public Administration
Joann Lindstrom, CACRD

David Campbell, Public Administration
Chris Reiber, Anthropology
Nadia Rubaii-Barrett, Public Administration
Thomas A. P. Sinclair, Public Administration
Brandon Gibb, Psychology
Kevin Heard, GIS Core Facility
Sue Siebold Simpson, Nursing
Ann Merriwether, Psychology

Binghamton Graduate Students Associated with Center

Tirzah Creel, Public Administration
Lai Huynh, Public Administration

Katherine Bronk, Public Administration
Mariela Salazar, 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 directed by Pamela A. Mischen, has an Advisory Board that is comprised of eighteen university and community representatives that meets twice a year, and employs a part-time research assistant 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-disciplinary 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.

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. Through funding from the Community Foundation for South Central New York, CACRD faculty and staff held three full-day workshops for local nonprofit agencies on knowledge management, conducting needs assessments, and conducting evaluations. At the State level, a Center staff member presented at the SUNY Conference in the Technologies. Finally, the Center Director presented at a national and an international conference on innovative modeling techniques for studying interorganizational networks.

II. Sources of Support

The CACRD receives funding from mutiple sources of internal and external support. From internal support, the CACRD received $3,000 from the Research Foundation, and general operating support from the Department of Public Administration in terms of a course reduction for the Center Director. From external support, the CACRD received funds in the amount of $104,609.

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.
## 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2010 General Operating Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$1,263.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>$1,499.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference and Training</td>
<td>$925.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (meeting costs/postage)</td>
<td>$93.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,782.67</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Having a Center designation shows 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. As quoted in the External Review Report, a community member stated that the CACRD is “finally a focal point for the region on pulling together data that can be used across the region . . . BU used to be a place we got interns—now we look to BU as a research resource.”

The $3,000 provided by the Research Foundation represents only a fraction of the CACRD budget. Through external funding, the CACRD supported a half-time staff research assistant, two temporary research assistants over the summer, and three graduate student summer positions. Additionally, the Center Director uses external funding to reimburse her department for one course buy-out per year, allowing her to oversee Center operations.
IV. Future Directions

The long-range plan of the CACRD is to become a nationally recognized center for applied community research. Over the next year, researchers will continue their efforts on the Virtual Communities project—a collaborative effort between public administration, bioengineering, computer science and geography researchers to create a web portal for dissemination and modeling of public data on social services, health, education and crime at the neighborhood level. This project is partially funded by the Broome County Department of Social Services and received an Academic Program and Faculty Development Fund grant.

As a result of contracts completed in 2010, the following activities are underway:

- Preparation of four journal articles for submission based on the research done on H1N1 vaccine uptake in Broome County (funded by Broome County Health Department)
- Development of three presentations on knowledge management, needs assessments, and evaluations. These presentations will be placed on the CACRD website and available for nonprofit and government agencies to download.

Additionally, CACRD researcher and nursing Assistant Professor Sue Siebold-Simpson received an Academic Program and Faculty Development fund grant for analyzing the impact of organized activities on youth achievement and risk reduction. This research will be conducted in collaboration with the KYDS Coalition of Broome County. Data collection for that project is underway and we anticipate producing several journal articles in 2011 from this project.

V. Center Productivity Over Past 12 Months

a. Publications


Isett, K., LeRoux, K., Mergel, I., Mischen, P.A. and Rethemeyer, K. Networks in Public Administration Scholarship: Understanding Where We Are and Where We Need to Go. Forthcoming in *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*.


b. Agency Reports


Lambright, K.T., & Fall 2009 PAFF 510 Students. (2010). Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study bus survey report. Binghamton, NY: Binghamton University, Department of Public Administration. (service learning project)


c. Presentations


Campbell, D. Student Philanthropy in Social Work Education. Accepted for presentation at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Conference, October 2010, Portland, OR.


Mischen, P.A. *Knowledge Management Workshops.* October-December 2010: Binghamton University.