

# SENATOR WALTER RAND INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**RUTGERS**  
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## WRI ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

### New Project: South Jersey Strengthening Families Initiative



An exciting new project arrived here at WRI, as we have been recently contracted by the Pascale Sykes Foundation to examine the impact of social service organization collaboration on child well-being, financial stability of families, and relationships between children and their caregivers. Robin Stevens, Ph.D., is the principal investigator. Stacia Gilliard-Matthews, Ph.D., Gwendolyn L. Harris, Ph.D. and Paul Jargowsky, Ph.D. join in as co-investigators, and Kristin Curtis, M.A. is coordinating the study.

### Three Committees Have Been Formed Within the Advisory Board

On October 1st, WRI's Executive Board hosted a reception for the Advisory Board, past awardees, and other esteemed members of the community and unveiled three new committees. The Outreach and Engagement Committee will spread the word of our work among the region's stakeholders. The Student Support Committee will create opportunities for students to work at WRI. In addition, the Public Affairs/Public Policy Committee will help us identify key issues of concern to the South Jersey region.



WRI Executive Director, Dr. Gwendolyn Harris (left); member of the Advisory Board Executive Committee and co-chair of the newly formed Student Support Committee, the Honorable Patricia Egan Jones (center); Rutgers - Camden Chancellor, Wendell Pritchett (right)

### WRI Welcomes Its First Visiting Scholar



This Fall, we extend our enthusiastic welcome to Dr. Uday Desai, Director of the School of Public Administration at the University of New Mexico. We are delighted that Dr. Desai has decided to join us as a Visiting Scholar for this academic year, and are hoping for an exchange of ideas.

"I am looking forward to a year of interesting research collaborations and stimulating conversations with colleagues at WRI and Rutgers," — Dr. Desai told The Newsletter.

Dr. Desai is not a stranger to the area — he graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburg in 1973, and taught at Glassboro State College (presently Rowan University) in the 1970s. Welcome to Rutgers!

### SPOTLIGHT

- Alyssa Yackle joined WRI as a Project Research Assistant. Alyssa recently graduated from Rutgers-Camden with a Master of Public Administration degree in International Public Service and Development. She received her BA from Franklin & Marshall College, where she studied Business and Spanish.
- Jezenia Borges is the newest arrival at the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs as our Administrative Assistant. She studied Health Sciences at Camden County College and Burlington County College.
- Olga Childs is our new Graduate Assistant for 2012-2013. Olga earned an MBA from Baruch College, City University of New York, and is currently a Ph.D. student in Public Affairs - Community Development program at Rutgers-Camden.

Check out these and more news at our updated website: [HTTP://WRAND.RUTGERS.EDU/](http://wrand.rutgers.edu/)

Questions or comments, please contact us at [wrand@camden.rutgers.edu](mailto:wrand@camden.rutgers.edu) or call 856-225-6566.