



Annual Report FY 2015-2016

RUTGERS

Senator Walter Rand Institute
for Public Affairs

The Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, Rutgers University–Camden addresses public policy issues impacting Southern New Jersey through applied research, community engagement and organizational development.



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Letter from the Executive Director



I am very proud of the Institute's accomplishments this past year. We have added new projects, expanded projects and made significant strides toward disseminating our work at conferences on and off campus. I commend and thank our staff and students for their very diligent work. Our seminal achievement this year, of which I am most proud, is amassing the funds necessary to start an endowed graduate scholarship. For this, I thank our Advisory Board.

Programmatically we extended our Southern New Jersey footprint to include Burlington County by kicking off the Burlington County Juvenile Delinquency Prevention initiative in February with a focus on Pemberton, Willingboro and Burlington City. This is significant given WRI began its work with Juvenile Delinquency

Prevention boards in 2009 in Vineland, New Jersey. That effort has grown adding the municipalities of Millville and Bridgeton as well as a Cumberland County-wide focus.

WRI sponsored a symposium, Involving Youth in Local Government Decision Making on March 24, 2016 with the Institute for Effective Education, and the Office of Civic Engagement, convening high school students from across the state to explore current and potential methods of involving youth in government decision making at the municipal level. We also worked with the Chancellor's Office to plan Bright Futures: Improving Education and Transforming Outcomes for Girls of Color, a conference held on campus in collaboration with the Educational Testing Service; WRI took responsibility for pulling together data and bibliographies which were used as resource materials for the conference.

We completed two projects this year that allowed us to establish our interest in population health. One project was a Legal Needs Assessment for the Rutgers Law School to determine the legal needs of patients being seen by the Cooper Rowan Clinic (CRC) and Camden Coalition of Healthcare providers (CCHP) Link2Care Initiative. This report will assist the Law School in identifying staffing needs for a law clinic geared to respond to legal issues that impede patients' compliance with medical plans. The other project was Live Healthy Salem County which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) as part of their New Jersey Health Initiative: Building a Culture of Health in New Jersey. WRI facilitated the creation of their Blueprint for Action, a strategic plan to 'Build a Healthier Salem County'.

Dissemination has been an area of emphasis this year; on April 18th I participated as a panelist at the Chancellor's Research Symposium on Population Health and Wellness, providing an overview of projects the Institute conducts which contribute to the health and wellness of the Southern New Jersey region. The South Jersey Strengthening Families Initiative presented posters at two conferences, the 28th Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science in Chicago on May 28th and the 46th Annual Meeting of the Jean Piaget Society for the Study of Knowledge and Development on June 9th. The posters provided insight into the influence of economic context on adolescents' dietary behaviors. Overall, preliminary results suggest that poverty equally affects the dietary behaviors of adolescents living in non-urban and urban areas.

Additionally, WRI presented at the 2016 New Jersey State Data Center (NJSDC) Annual Network Meeting on June 15th. As last year's poster award winner, WRI was asked to describe the development and design of our South Jersey Infographics project which is published on our website. This past year saw the database for the Infographics expand to include all Ocean County municipalities in addition to the other seven counties' municipalities. WRI this year also added brief papers summarizing education test scores, health data, and property tax changes across Southern New Jersey.

We had a very successful mixer in the fall for WRI Advisory Board members, staff and students to provide an opportunity for students to network and expand their horizons. WRI employed 22 students over the year to work on active projects and support ongoing research. Five of those students, one undergraduate and four graduate students, graduated in May.

The Advisory Board sponsored the 15th Annual Walter and Leah Rand Awards and Scholarship Dinner, held on April 28th at the Campbell Soup World Headquarters, and all of the proceeds went to establish an endowed graduate scholarship. The South Jerseyans of the Year awardees – Private Sector, Denise Morrison, President and CEO Campbell Soup Company, Non-Profit Sector Honoree, Donna Bennett, President and CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties, Public Sector Honoree, Honorable Louis Greenwald, Assemblyman, Sixth Legislative District Majority Leader, New Jersey General Assembly, were key to the success of the event.

This Annual Report reflects the hard work and continuous growth of the Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs. We thank you for your support in helping us stay true to our mission addressing issues that impact upon the lives of people in Southern New Jersey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwendolyn L. Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "H".

Gwendolyn L Harris, Ph.D.
Executive Director

This Year's Concluded Projects

The work of The Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs stretches across geographic and topical boundaries. With specialization in neutral convening and facilitation, community engagement, research, evaluation, and non-profit capacity building, WRI is an exemplar in applied policy research. The projects detailed below showcase the best efforts of the employees of WRI, its organizational collaborations, and the wide body of stakeholders WRI partners with in South Jersey. Only projects or programs that saw their completion or final evaluation during FY 15-16 are included in this section.

Camden Medical-Legal Needs Assessment

October 2014 – June 2016

In conjunction with Rutgers Law School in Camden, WRI recently concluded a legal needs assessment of patients at the Cooper Rowan Clinic (CRC) and Camden Coalition of Healthcare providers (CCHP) Link2Care Initiative. WRI was contracted to determine the legal needs of a sample of patients at these locations. Through focus groups and surveys conducted with staff members at both sites as well short surveys targeted at better understanding medical patients' needs and research into national trends, WRI developed a robust report, the findings of which are summarized below:

Key Finding and Conclusions

- Patients at both locations had similar needs, which included: assistance paying for medical bills, access to health/medical care, and securing stable housing
- Legal problems can impede a patient's ability to follow medical directives, especially in vulnerable and disadvantaged regions
- Camden City and neighboring areas would benefit from the development of a Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP), a national model of care backed by theoretical research and documented success. MLPs work to detect and address legal issues that impact the health and well-being of individuals



*Principal Investigator: Gwendolyn L. Harris
Project Coordinators: Kristin M. Curtis & Tracy A. Swan*



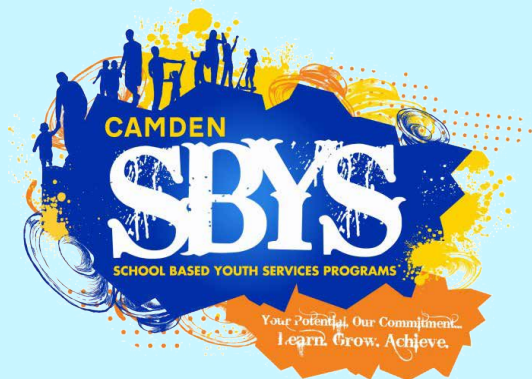
Camden School District Counseling Education Evaluation

September 2012 – August 2015

WRI conducted a mixed-methods outcome and process evaluation of Camden City School District's School Based Youth Services (SBYS) Counseling Education Program. The program aimed to 1) provide therapeutic services necessary for all children to attend school healthily and ready to learn, in order to increase academic achievement, and 2) partner with and enable parents to support their children's learning processes. The evaluation consisted of qualitative methods (e.g., focus groups) to measure attitudes toward behavioral health services and quantitative methods (e.g., grades, disciplinary referrals, and attendance at SBYS trainings and events) to measure the program's expected outcomes. Five key areas were examined in the evaluation: 1) provision of adequate mental health services 2) reduction in the number of student disciplinary referrals at participating schools, 2) improvement in student academic achievement, 4) increase in parental engagement in children's education, and 5) increase in parents' knowledge about their own mental health and that of their children.

Key Findings

- Each year the program operated, at least one third of the program's students saw grade improvements in reading, math, and science
- One-hundred percent of parents who had students involved with the program were engaged in their child's/children's education
- The program was not able to achieve a consistent decrease in disciplinary grievances amongst the larger student body



*Principal Investigator: Gwendolyn L. Harris
Project Coordinator: Tracy A. Swan*

Center for Family Services Program Evaluation

January 2013 – June 2015

WRI was contracted to provide a robust program evaluation—both process and outcome—on the Center for Family Services' Living Proof Recovery Center (LPRC) for its first three years of operation. The LPRC aims to help people find, maintain, and enhance their recovery from alcohol, drug, and other addictions through a full array of peer-driven support, sober recreation and educational opportunities. Specifically, the Center intends to: 1) increase abstinence outcomes, 2) prevent lapses in sobriety from escalating to relapse, 3) reduce attrition in affiliation rates of sobriety-based support groups, and 4) enhance participants' recovery capital (e.g., employment, school enrollment, stable housing, healthy family and extended family involvement, sobriety-based hobbies, financial resources) and self-defined quality of life. The Center also provides specialized services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, as well as women with children.

Due to an extremely small sample of clients, WRI focused on process evaluation through record/report reviews, meeting observations, staff interviews, and client focus groups. WRI also examined the Center's operations, policies and practices, and work processes. Though not included in this report because of confidentiality, WRI identified barriers the Center faces in achieving its outcomes and ways these challenges might be managed.

Key Findings

- The Center has a 'sense of family' environment between staff, peer-recovery coaches and specialists, and volunteers that makes them approachable and friendly
- Peer recovery coaches/specialists are viewed as highly valuable resources who go above and beyond meeting the needs of those in recovery
- The Center engages in meaningful, life-changing work and has a positive effect on those who regularly attend and avail themselves of the services provided



Principal Investigator & Project Coordinator: Tracy A. Swan

Jean Krauss Career Education Forums

October 2015 – September 2016

For a second year, WRI planned and implemented the Jean Krauss Career Education Forums for Southern and Central New Jersey. The New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission contracted WRI for this program based on its track record of designing and implementing public safety collaboratives that assist in reducing juvenile crime and increase communication between law enforcement, nonprofits, government, faith-based institutions and residents.

The Southern Forum was held at Cumberland County College in Vineland, NJ on August 16, 2016 and the Central Forum was held at Mercer County Community College in Trenton, NJ on August 17, 2016. In total, 243 youth and 123 staff attended the forums.

This year's forums centered on two critical obstacles—post-high school employment and educational opportunities—and targeted court-involved or at-risk of juvenile justice system involvement youths (ages 15-21) and the staff members who work and support them. WRI facilitated meetings of a planning committee comprised of representatives from: the State of New Jersey, Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC); New Jersey Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP); New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development; New Jersey Department of Children and Families and New Jersey Department of Education. Both forums' agendas were based upon the expertise of this committee and served as a recruitment base for the events' attendees.

Key accomplishments

- Developed pre- and post-surveys and other evaluative tools to measure outcomes and outputs from the forums, which showed significant increase in youths' knowledge and found a high percentage of attendees found the events to be very beneficial
- Recruited former court-involved youth who managed to overcome obstacles and attain degrees from reputable institutions of higher learning as keynote speakers; recruited guest speakers with expertise in: expungement, vital documents (e.g. identification cards, birth certificates, and social security cards), college applications, financial aid, technical schools, and apprenticeships
- Recruited specialists for closer interaction and follow-up with youth, including but not limited to: ombudsmen, community colleges, temp agencies, employment counselors; technical schools, unions, libraries, the Military, social service providers, and financial institutions
- Organized college tours for youth and staff

Principal Investigator: Gwendolyn L. Harris

Project Coordinator: Karen Rosado

Live Healthy Salem County Coalition

July 2015 – June 2016

WRI facilitated and provided technical assistance to the Live Healthy Salem County Coalition, a collaboration between the United Way of Salem County (lead agency) and 19 other organizations and agencies across the county. The Coalition's mission is "...to inspire residents to live healthy, productive lives by enhancing opportunities that lead to a sustainable culture of wellness." Funding for the Coalition comes from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) as part of their New Jersey Health Initiative: Building a Culture of Health in New Jersey.

Two primary assessments were utilized alongside data provided by RWJF's County Health rankings, the 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment funded by Inspira Health Network and United Way of Salem County's Needs Assessment, which was prepared by WRI in 2014.

Key Accomplishments

- Three health areas were identified as needing improvement: 1) mental and behavioral health, 2) obesity and chronic diseases, and 3) substance abuse
- A strategic plan entitled The Blueprint for Action was completed and identifies programs, practices and policies needing implementation in order to address the aforementioned health areas
- The Blueprint for Action identified short and long term goals, as well as tasks and resources needed to reach Coalition-established benchmarks

*Principal Investigator: Gwendolyn L. Harris
Project Coordinators: Kristin M. Curtis & Paul Smith*



ACNJ Kids Count Report – South Jersey

Based on a 2016 report from Advocates for Children of New Jersey's, WRI reviewed and localized data relating to the eight South Jersey counties, revealing a strikingly different profile from the state at large. This publication covers factors based on demographics of economics, health & safety, early care, and education.

South Jersey Highlights

Poverty Dynamics in South Jersey: Trends and Determinants, 1970–2012

Christopher Wheeler, a PhD Candidate in the Department of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers University–Camden tracked significant changes in levels of poverty across the region and examined the economic and population shifts that influenced such change.

South Jersey PARCC Results for the 2014-2015 School Year

The New Jersey Department of Education has replaced the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) with a test from the Partnership for Assessment and Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). This report focuses on fourth and eighth graders across all eight counties in South Jersey. Because the 2014-2015 school year was the first year PARCC tests were administered, this report does not focus on comparisons across years. The region's scores are also compared to North and Central Jersey in the report.

Smart Growth Forecast for the Counties of Southern New Jersey

WRI completed a Smart Growth Forecast for the counties of Southern New Jersey to assess the effects of urban sprawl in the region. This assessment involves the collection of data and creation of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps to illustrate possible development scenarios in the region.

Changes in Property Value and Property Tax in South Jersey from 2013 to 2014

The United States Census Bureau has issued the 2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. WRI Graduate Assistant Spencer T. Clayton summarized the data and provided a public analysis of what it might mean for communities.

This Year's Ongoing Projects

From new efforts in research and evaluation to existing projects that continue to foster development in South Jersey, the programs below represent WRI's current endeavors. With programs assisting six counties across the region, the work of WRI enables stakeholders from a wide cross-section of specializations, including but not limited to: health-care professionals, law enforcement, municipal employees and volunteers, academics, policy makers, and teachers to realize local community goals. Projects or programs that began in or will continue past FY 15-16 are included in this section.

COPS Community Policing Crime Analysis & Consultation

Project duration: February 2015 –December 2016

WRI is providing technical assistance, training, mapping, and other analysis, as well as the developed tools and templates designed for such to the crime analysts within the Camden County Police Department (CCPD). In addition to these tasks, WRI is also creating an impact evaluation of a variety of CCPD community policing efforts (e.g., foot patrols and police-community events), crime reduction practices (i.e., multi-agency task force dismantling of criminal organizations), and technology uses (e.g., CCTV cameras) within the department. While analysis and evaluation are still under way, early examination has shown all of the multi-agency criminal organization task force operations have increased arrests and provided short-term gains in lowering crime and violence. Three different research models analyzing the effects of foot patrols have also indicated positive results, with the greatest impacts associated with violent crime rates.



*Principal Investigator: Gwendolyn L. Harris
Project Coordinator: Tracy A. Swan*

Health Coalition of Bridgeton

Project duration: July 2016 – June 2017

WRI is serving as a neutral convener, facilitator, and technical assistance provider for the Bridgeton Health Coalition and will support the coalition with data for identifying gaps in service, regional duplications of efforts, and health and wellness areas in need of attention in Bridgeton. Additional tools and resources for research will be provided to assist the Coalition in its development of a Blueprint for Action, a strategic plan intended to incorporate short- and long-term goals to improve health outcomes in the City of Bridgeton. WRI will work with members of the public, non-profit, and for-profit sectors as well as residents to strengthen the development of the Blueprint for Action. The Bridgeton Health Coalition will work with existing partnerships in the community and foster city- and county-wide relationships.

This Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI) grant encourages communities to approach health from a broad and inclusive standpoint meaning health is only one factor among many to be considered. Poverty, income, environmental issues, access to education, employment, and safe, stable, affordable housing are just a few of the factors the Coalition will consider in the development of its strategic plan.



Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation

Principal Investigator: Gwendolyn L. Harris
Project Coordinators: Kristin M. Curtis & Paul Smith

Municipal Planning & Prevention – Juvenile Delinquency

Project duration: September 2009 – Ongoing

The Office of the Attorney General in New Jersey partners with WRI to staff and provide technical assistance to municipal juvenile delinquency prevention efforts in select cities—including Bridgeton, Millville, and Vineland—as part of the State’s crime prevention efforts. WRI has been working in Cumberland County for the past seven years and saw an overall decrease of 41% in juvenile arrests between 2012 and 2015, as well as a low recidivism rate of 12.9% for youth involved in Stationhouse Adjustment. Cumberland County’s effort is also funded by the Freeholders of Cumberland County. In October 2015, WRI’s expanded its services to Burlington County where it works with three municipalities: Burlington City, Pemberton Township and Willingboro. WRI helps collect, analyze, map and present census, education, child welfare, and crime data, and presents evidence-based best practices from across the country.

The projects’ main function is organizing coalitions of stakeholders from each municipality and county to analyze and identify trends which may reduce and prevent juvenile crime. Stakeholders include representatives from education, law enforcement, social services, faith-based institutions, and youth-serving organizations. These coalitions review risk-based and protective factors in their respective municipalities then plan how to best protect against juvenile delinquency and implement potential solutions alongside field experts and practitioners. The end goal of each municipality and county is to prevent youth from getting into legal troubles which lead to involvement in the juvenile justice system. WRI supports these efforts by assisting in the implementation of identified solutions, the tracking of results, and the evaluation of outcomes.

Principal Investigator: Tracy A. Swan

Project Coordinators: Karen Rosado & Luke McKetta

South Jersey Community Data Access Program

Project duration: January 2014 – Ongoing

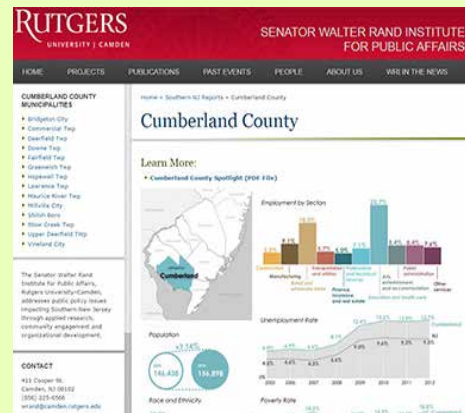
An important component of WRI's mission is to provide stakeholders with the information and analysis necessary to better understand and address policy issues impacting the region. To that end, WRI began developing its South Jersey Community Data Access Initiative (aka Infographics) in 2014. The central outputs from the initiative are county and municipal digital digests of publically available data. These infographics are publically available on WRI's website and capture recent data and trends in areas including education, income, land use, housing, crime, and poverty in user-friendly charts and graphs. WRI has developed 199 municipal infographics covering Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem and Ocean counties, as well as 8 county-wide infographics.

The infographics are intended to provide valuable information for stakeholders and citizens across the region, many of whom serve communities and local governments with limited access to the data and resources necessary for planning and implementing development projects. WRI also publishes its infographics as a resource for undergraduate, master, and doctoral level students attempting to hone their research skills and increase their understanding of local and regional policy issues.

The infographics will continue to receive updates as new data is released. WRI also plans to include other areas of public interest over the coming year, giving special attention to those areas of information that most affect the people of South Jersey.

Partial funding for the project is provided by TD Bank.

*Principal Investigator: Gwendolyn L. Harris
Project Coordinator: Paul Smith
Project Assistant: Spencer T. Clayton*



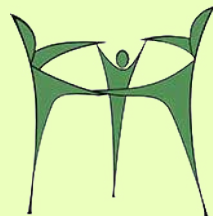
South Jersey Strengthening Families Initiative Evaluation

Project duration: May 2012 – April 2020

Under a contract with the Pascale Sykes Foundation, WRI is the evaluator of The South Jersey Strengthening Families Initiative, which seeks to understand the impact of interagency collaboration on child-wellbeing, family relationships, and financial mobility. Through the use of focus groups, naturalistic observations, questionnaires, and surveys, WRI is exploring the attributes of interagency collaboration that are most effective in 1) mitigating the negative impact of service fragmentation and 2) strengthening families in resource-deprived environments. Because of the breadth of the initiative, we have been able to use our findings to address public policy issues impacting children and families in Southern New Jersey.

The representation of work focused on adolescent diversity in economic contexts is uneven. Economic diversity investigations commonly focus on the experiences of adolescents living in cities and, to a lesser extent, rural communities. Our understanding of adolescents from economically disadvantaged backgrounds is incomplete because less is known about the health-risk behaviors, relationships, and youth culture of adolescents raised in rural poverty. In response to this, we at WRI, have been using preliminary results from our South Jersey Strengthening Families Initiative surveys to understand the health and wellness needs of adolescents in South Jersey.

We have been using our youth surveys to investigate the influence of economic context on adolescents' dietary behaviors. Health perceptions and food intake behaviors of adolescents living in rural poverty were compared to that of those living in urban poverty. Although adolescents living in rural and urban poverty describe their general health as good and weight as about right, they report eating salads and vegetables only one to three times per week. Moreover, fruit juice and whole fruits seem to be consumed more frequently, at a rate of four to six times per week. Overall, adolescents living in rural and urban poverty do not appear to consider meeting the recommended fruit and vegetable intake amounts when assessing their wellness. With research initiatives, like this, we hope to contribute to the general understanding of poverty's impact on youth and adolescent development.



PASCALE SYKES
FOUNDATION

Principal Investigator: James D. Morgante

Co-Investigators: Gwendolyn L. Harris, Stacia Gillard-Matthews, & Robin Stevens

*Research Staff: Kristin M. Kurtis, Jessica McConnell, Dennis Pelaez-Robles,
Paul Smith, Angelyce Purnell, Kurt Schmenger*

Youth for Success Initiative Evaluation

Project duration: June 2015 – Ongoing

WRI is evaluating the implementation and impact of the Youth for Success (YFS) Initiative and is gathering data on youth and families involved with the program. The Institute will conduct focus groups with youth and agency staff to assess the process and implementation of the program, as well as recommendations for improvement. Funding for the initiative is provided by the New Jersey Office of Community Justice.

The YFS Initiative in Cumberland County was created to help at-risk youth overcome below-average test scores, high dropout rates, poverty, and gang violence. YFS is a two-year program intended to keep at-risk youth out of the juvenile justice system. The initiative is working with approximately 50 at-risk middle and high school youths from Bridgeton, Millville, and Vineland. The Boys and Girls Club of Vineland is spearheading the initiative and is working with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Family Success Centers in Bridgeton and Vineland, as well as schools and law enforcement agencies from each municipality. The program is designed to connect participating youths and their families with services such as counseling, tutoring, and substance abuse treatment. The initiative aims to 1) keep youths in school, 2) reduce future negative interactions with law enforcement, and 3) enhance positive social behaviors.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF VINELAND

Principal Investigator: Gwendolyn L. Harris
Project Coordinator: Kristin M. Curtis

This Year's Events

From fundraisers to forums, celebrations to presentations, WRI involves itself in the public life of South Jersey residents through a wide variety of events. Program Year 2016 saw the successful continuation of annual traditions and the emergence of new, exciting opportunities as well. Though this is not an all-encompassing list of all public engagements WRI participated in, the events below serve as a snapshot of the many ways WRI expanded its presence in the local community this past year.

Symposium: Involving Youth in Local Government Decision Making

On March 24, 2016 – in conjunction with the Institute for Effective Education and the Rutgers University Camden Office of Civic Engagement – WRI convened high schools students as well as local government officials from across the state to explore current and potential methods of involving youth in government decision making at the municipal level. Over 130 individuals attended the event, representing municipalities from across the state, including Bernards Township, Sussex, Pine Hill, Bridgeton, Salem, Palmyra, Burlington, North Bergen, and Bloomfield.

The event emanated from concern that New Jersey residents are voting at historically low rates and an effort to identify how to increase voting rates. In the November 2015 general election, registered voter participation was 22%, the lowest in the state's history. One reason for low voter turnout may stem from a lack of opportunities for youth to become civically engaged, which negatively impacts lifelong voting behavior.

Moderated by Gwendolyn L. Harris, the event opened with remarks from Dean Kris Lindenmeyer, who spoke about youth involvement in government from a historical perspective. Also featured was a panel discussion on why youth should be involved in local government decision making. Albert Kelly, Mayor of Bridgeton, began by discussing current voter participation in New Jersey's general election. Daniel Hart, Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University–Camden, then discussed the developmental readiness of youth in local government decision making. He spoke of youths' readiness and optimism, and their openness to different political perspectives, volunteering, and desire for social engagement. Additional panel members focused on topics such as: why youth should have the right to vote, factors that limit authentic youth civic engagement, and ways youth can bring involvement in local government decision making.

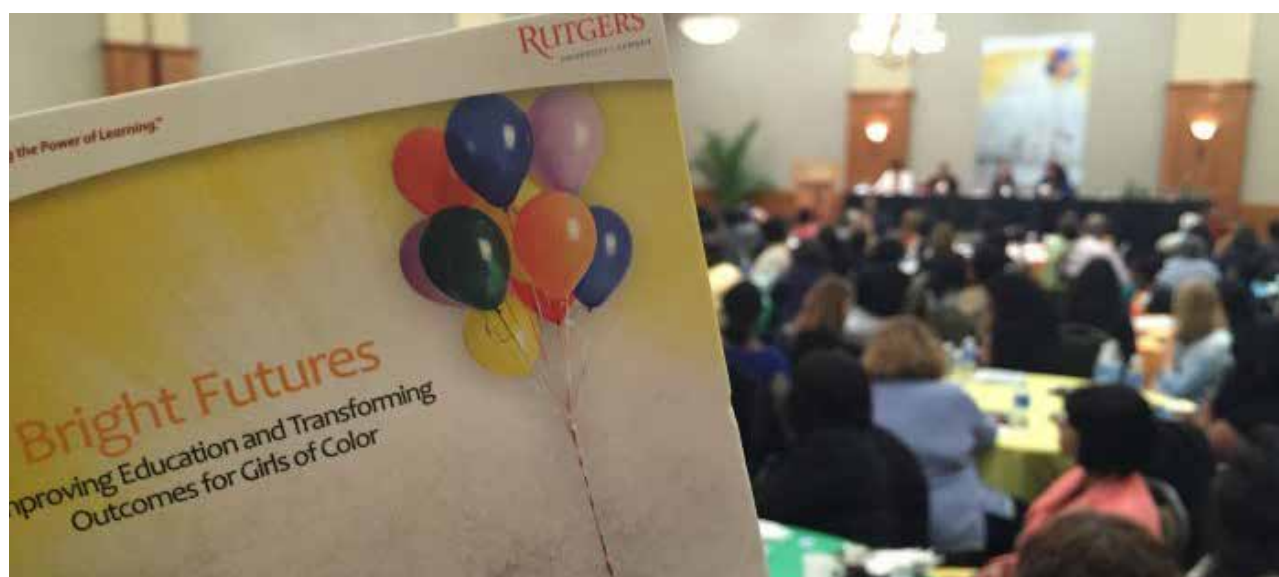
After the panel discussion, attendees worked together within their respective communities to complete community assessments facilitated by the Rutgers University-Camden Civic Scholars. The assessments helped attendees visualize their communities' strengths and weaknesses in regards to authentic youth civic engagement. The discussion groups helped communities identify different strategies to engage youth in public policy, planning, and decision making. The event was incredibly successful.



Bright Futures: Improving Education for Girls of Color Conference

Under direction from Rutgers University-Camden and Educational Testing Services (ETS), WRI developed a statistical profile for girls of color which presented outcomes and experiences for five broad ethnic classifications: Hispanic, Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian American, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander specific to education, socioeconomic status, environment, sexuality and juvenile justice involvement. The profile also disaggregated data for these ethnic groupings into their respective ethnic subgroups to further understand how gender role identification, child rearing patterns, and career aspirations are shaped. WRI also created an accompanying annotated bibliography with articles examining: college access, stereotypes and implicit bias, trauma, domestic violence, and mental health.

Bright Futures: Improving Education and Transforming Outcomes for Girls of Color Conference – an event designed to explore how discrimination, structural and institutional barriers, and disparities in education disproportionately affect girls of color – was held on April 14th and 15th. The conference featured a host of accomplished keynote speakers, including: Ramatu Bangura (NoVo Foundation), Maria Hinojosa (Award-winning producer, journalist, and host of NPR's Latino USA), Debra Joy Pérez (The Annie E. Casey Foundation), Kiersten Marek (LICSW, Senior Editor and Social Media Strategist for Inside Philanthropy), Melissa Mark-Viverito (Speaker of the New York City Council), Danielle Moss Lee (President and CEO YWCA – New York City), Dara Richardson-Heron (M.D., Chief Executive Officer YWCA), Joanne Smith (Founder and Executive Director of Girls for Gender Equity), and Helen Zia (Award-winning author, community activist, and former Executive Editor of Ms. Magazine). Dr. Gwendolyn L. Harris led the closing Plenary Session, From Data to Doing: Tools for Using Data to Transform Outcomes for Girls of Color, which showcased WRI's statistical profile. Her session was both an examination of data reflective of these girls' standing in communities across the country and a call to action for educators, policy makers, practitioners, and parents to create comprehensive and collaborative programs improve the lives of girls of color.



Chancellor's Research Symposium: Population Health & Wellness

WRI participated in the Chancellor's Research Symposium on Population Health and Wellness, held April 18, 2016 in the Campus Center Multi-Purpose Room. The Symposium featured Rutgers University–Camden faculty members who presented their research on topics pertaining to this area. In addition to an account by Gwendolyn L. Harris of the range of population health and wellness projects managed by the Institute, Rand Faculty Fellow, Janice Beitz (professor, nursing) described her WRI supported research on diabetes in Southern New Jersey; and Carol Wallinger (clinical professor, law and nursing) presented the medical-legal needs assessment WRI conducted on behalf of the Rutgers Law School. Other Symposium panelists included Carol Kaufman-Scarborough (marketing), Charlotte Marky (psychology), Margaret Marsh (University Professor, history), and Dawn Wiest (Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers). Following the presentations was a panel discussion focusing on key population health issues and strategies for Rutgers University-Camden to address them.

15th Annual Walter & Leah Rand Awards and Scholarship Dinner

WRI held its 15th Annual Walter and Leah Rand Awards and Scholarship Dinner on April 28th, 2016. With over 140 people in attendance, the event was held at the Campbell Soup World Headquarters. The annual Awards Dinner has two primary purposes: 1) acknowledging and awarding South Jerseyans who have made a positive impact in the region and 2) raising funds to support the work of students on WRI projects.

This year's awardees for South Jerseyans of the Year included: Private Sector Honoree, Denise Morrison, President and CEO Campbell Soup Company (award presented by Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno), Non-Profit Sector Honoree, Donna Bennett, President and CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cumberland & Salem Counties (award presented by BBSCS board chairperson, Michael Testa, Jr., Esquire), and Public Sector Honoree, the Honorable Louis Greenwald, Assemblyman, Sixth Legislative District Majority Leader, New Jersey General Assembly (award presented by the Honorable Patricia Egan Jones).

As a result of the Advisory Board's efforts over the last year and the proceeds from the event, sufficient funds were secured to create an Endowed Graduate Scholarship. The Graduate Scholarship for Southern New Jersey Initiatives at The Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs will provide a contribution toward a graduate student's tuition, while supporting the awardee's research on an issue impacting Southern New Jersey. This scholarship will continue to support graduate students in perpetuity working at WRI and will be open to one full-time graduate student in good standing, matriculating at Rutgers University-Camden. Each year, WRI will select a Graduate Scholar who exemplifies interest and a growing expertise in public affairs that impact Southern New Jersey.



'Stand Up' Gun Safety & Violence Awareness Event

The Cumberland County Positive Youth Development Coalition (CCPYDC), a juvenile delinquency prevention effort staffed by WRI, held a Gun Safety and Violence Awareness Initiative at its Stand Up for Gun Safety Event at Cumberland County College. The June 8th event highlighted CCPYDC's three part awareness campaign, including: Gun Safety Education, the designation of June as Gun Safety and Violence Awareness Month, and the student Gun Safety Public Service Announcement Contest.

CCPYDC, in collaboration with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, and Cumberland Empowerment Zone's 21st Century Community Learning Centers, adapted a gun safety program for use with area middle school students. Students in the program learn the importance of gun safety and important actions to take when encountering a gun. The program has been rolled out at the following 21st Century Community Learning sites: Cherry Street School (Bridgeton), Landis Middle School (Vineland), Lakeside Middle School (Millville), and Port Norris School (Port Norris). A series of youth-developed, gun safety PSAs were screened at the event, and involved teams received prizes as well. The videos were later aired on local television stations.

The event also celebrated the designation of June as Gun safety and Violence Awareness Month in Cumberland County – a New Jersey state first – and the following municipalities participated: Bridgeton, Commercial, Deerfield, Fairfield, Greenwich, Hopewell, Lawrence, Maurice River, Millville, and Vineland, as well as Cumberland County. Individuals involved in bringing gun safety education to fruition were honored at the event, including Sheriff Officer Craig Johnson, Sheriff Officer Ryan Riley and Cindy Angelo, Education Programs Director at Cumberland Empowerment Zone.

New Jersey State Data Center Infographics Presentation

As the winner of the best poster award at the 2015 New Jersey State Data Center (NJSDC) Annual Network Meeting, WRI was invited to give a presentation on the development and design of its South Jersey Infographics at the June 15, 2016 event. Paul Smith, Research Project Coordinator and Spencer T. Clayton, Graduate Assistant, presented to a diverse group from across the State, including representatives from the US Census Bureau, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, US Department of Agriculture, as well as government administrators representing counties and municipalities throughout the state of New Jersey.

The purpose of the NJSDC Annual Networking Meeting is for relevant stakeholders to present different methods in which US Census Data can be utilized to display important socioeconomic data and trends. It also provides the opportunity for the US Census Bureau to communicate new strategies for collecting data that will be released to the public through their website. WRI's infographics served as an exemplar of data presentation.

The Forum About South Jersey

On Thursday, September 15th, over 60 people from across South Jersey gathered at the Mullica Hill Branch of the Gloucester County Library for WRI's Forum About South Jersey. The forums are a semi-annual event where distinguished Rutgers–Camden Faculty present research on pertinent regional topics. Those topics are then analyzed and discussed by a panel of experts and the South Jersey community at large. This year's Faculty Fellow report and presentation, *Don't Sugarcoat It: Diabetes Prevention Services in Southern New Jersey, Current Realities, Future Opportunities*, were developed by Janice M. Beitz. The full report and presentation are available on WRI's website.

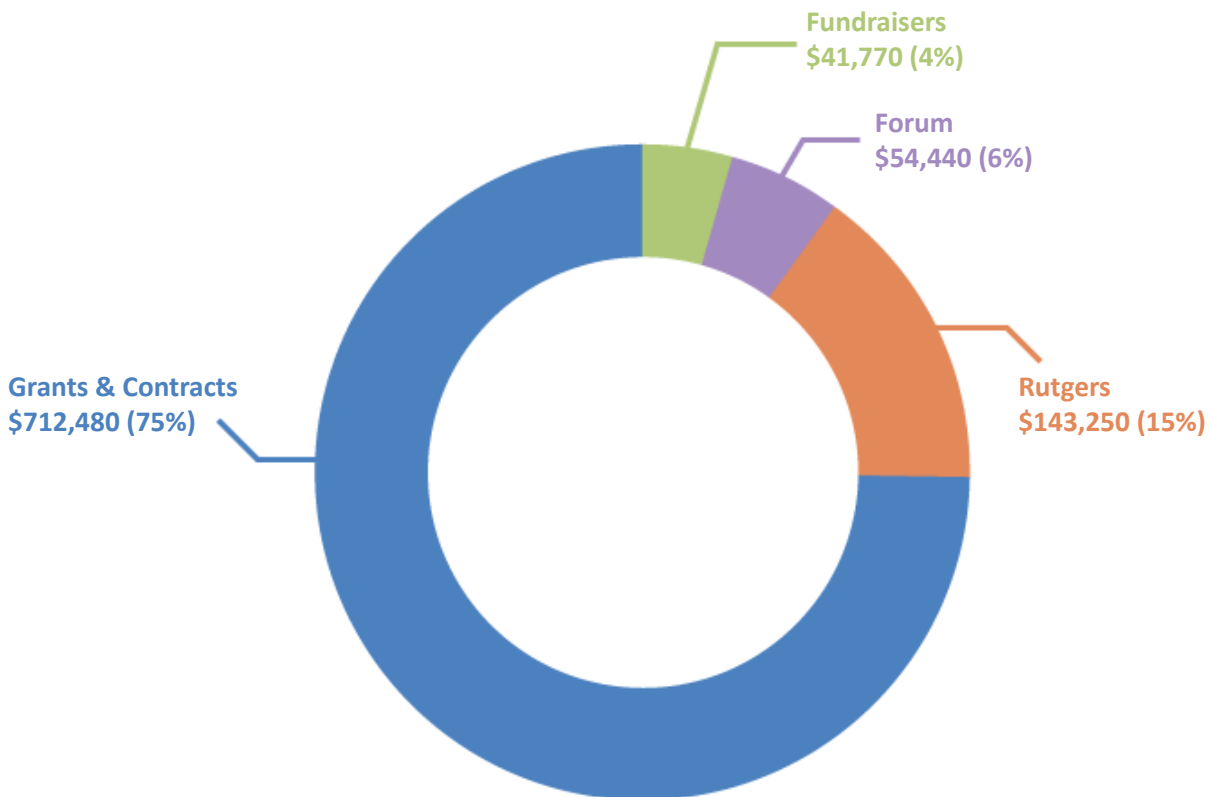
Professor Beitz's report began with a strong exhortation, "New Jersey, especially Southern New Jersey, and the United States are facing a tsunami of diabetes mellitus type 2 development in the next decade. If preventive strategies are not increased and coordinated in an efficient, meaningful manner, the counties of Southern New Jersey will become a diabetes disaster zone that is out of control and irreparable." This immediacy and urgency carried through the whole of the forum and was echoed by attendees. In order to combat such developments, Beitz gathered together and assessed private, county, state, federal, and health care system resources available to primary health care providers in the region. This practical distillation of diabetes prevention and management resources is not a solution to the concerns facing society, but a galvanizing assessment intended to guide practitioners, academics, and businesswomen and men forward toward constructive and comprehensive partnership.

The Forum featured distinguished panelists with cross-sector expertise and included: Meena S Murthy, MD, Board President (American Diabetes Association-North Jersey), Colette Lamothe-Galette, MPH, Director, Population Health (New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services), Carol Laws-Krause, RN, CDE, Senior Medical Liaison, South Jersey (Novo Nordisk Inc.), and Lisa Scheetz, Director of Operations/COO (Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA). Each panelist spoke to her specialties and discussed the strengths of the report and their particular institution's interaction with the prevalence of diabetes in South Jersey. Audience members were also given opportunity to raise concerns for discussion with the panelists and presenter.



Our efforts to combine practical and real-world experiences for our student employees while simultaneously working to better local communities is best achieved through our grants and contracts, which make up 75% of our revenue. Of particular note, our Advisory Board is to be applauded as the primary source of our Fundraising capital. Their effort allowed us to establish the Endowed Graduate Scholarship for Southern New Jersey Initiatives at the Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs. Money received directly from Rutgers is utilized for direct administrative personnel. Finally, funds tied to our Forum are specifically used to address our mission of public service programming and information.

FY '16 Revenue Sources



Note: Though percentages remained constant from last year, WRI did show a modest growth of 6.5% in revenue over FY '15.



WRI Staff at Work





Faculty Fellow, Janice M. Beitz

*PhD, RN, CS, CNOR, CWOCN, CRNP, ANEF, FAAN, Professor of Nursing,
Director: Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nursing Education Program (WOCNEP)*

This year's Fellow, Dr. Janice M. Beitz, has broad experience in nursing practice with a background in perioperative, medical-surgical, cardiopulmonary critical care, and wound, ostomy, continence (WOC) nursing; national certifications in four specialties of adult health including adult nurse practitioner; substantive experience in teaching students in basic and RN-completion baccalaureate, graduate, and doctoral (DNP) nursing programs. She is a Professor of Nursing at Rutgers University School of Nursing-Camden (SONC), teaching basic and RN-

BSN students Undergraduate Nursing Research, Adult Health, and Pharmacology. She received her PhD at Temple University in Educational Psychology, having completed an MSN at Villanova University, and her BSN at LaSalle University.

Dr. Beitz's report: **Don't Sugarcoat It: Diabetes Prevention Services in Southern New Jersey, Current Realities, Future Opportunities** and corresponding presentation are available on WRI's website and are an invaluable resource for anyone with an interest in public health in South Jersey, be they researchers, concerned citizens, or professional care providers.

WRI annually funds Faculty Fellows: distinguished Rutgers-Camden faculty who focus their research on topics pertaining to Southern New Jersey. Their research is then presented as part of 'The Forum About South Jersey' lecture series. WRI reintroduced this program in 2013 in an effort to encourage regionally focused, applied research. Since its revival, the program has fostered many discussions regarding the economy, ecology and equity of Southern New Jersey and its individual communities.

WRI Advisory Board

Comprised of experts from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, WRI's Advisory Board provides support through fundraising, networking, policy guidance, and promotion of the Institute's mission and vision. Members serve at least one term of three years and may also provide council for one of four subcommittees: executive, outreach and engagement, student support, and board development.

Executive Committee

Michael Moynihan (chair)
The Honorable Patricia Egan Jones
The Honorable Charles Rand

James H. Rhodes (co-chair)
Jane Massey Licata, Esq.
Vincent Sarubbi, Esq.

Carolyn Heckman
Chris Perks

General Members

Nicholas Asselta
The Honorable Louis Cappelli, Jr.
Megan Griffault
James Kehoe
Daniel Lombardo

Susan Bass Levin
Michael Egenton
Sidney Hargro
The Honorable Albert Kelly

Robert Curley, III
Jack Fisher
Mark Hodges
The Honorable Ian Leonard



WRI Faculty Council

WRI's Faculty Council affords insight into academic research and guidance for WRI's staff and student employees. The Council plays an active role in linking the Institute to Rutgers-Camden's three-fold mission of education, research, and service and provides an academic bedrock upon which WRI crafts programs and services for the South Jersey community at large.

Robert L. Atkins
Victoria Chase
Richard A. Harris
Michelle Meloy

DuWayne Battle
Noha Emara
Philip L. Harvey
Julie Ruth

Alok Baveja
Gwendolyn L. Harris
Paul Jargowsky
Jane A. Siegel

WRI Staff

Executive Director

Gwendolyn L. Harris, Ph.D.

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James Morgante, Ph.D.

Project Coordinators

Karen Cruz-Rosado
Luke McKetta
Kurt Schmenger, MA
Angelyce Purnell

Administrative Coordinator

Monica Rears

Senior Project Administrator

Tracy A. Swan, MPA, MCJ

Research Project Coordinator

Paul Smith, MPA

Research Project Assistants

Jessica McConnell, MA
Dennis Pelaez-Robles

Administrative Assistant

Tina Sok

WRI Student Employees & AmeriCorps Members

The development of citizens well-versed in policy research, implementation, and evaluation is fundamental to the continued work of WRI. In light of this imperative, WRI employs students from Rutgers-Camden to work alongside staff on varied projects and administrative tasks, and are involved in every facet of the organization. The Institute also has AmeriCorps VISTA positions for select programs.

The Forum About South Jersey

Darleen Garcia

Live Healthy Salem County Coalition

Celestina Anino

Jean Krauss Career Education Forums

Celestina Anino
Brian Slusarz
Lauren Snow
Nikira Young

Municipal Planning & Prevention

Caitlin Boehmcke
Athena Choyce (VISTA)
Matt Galey
Katie Johnston
Kaila LeSchack
Nicole McCann
Brianna McKenzie (VISTA)
Brian Slusarz
Lauren Snow
Thomas Strube

South Jersey Community Data Access Program

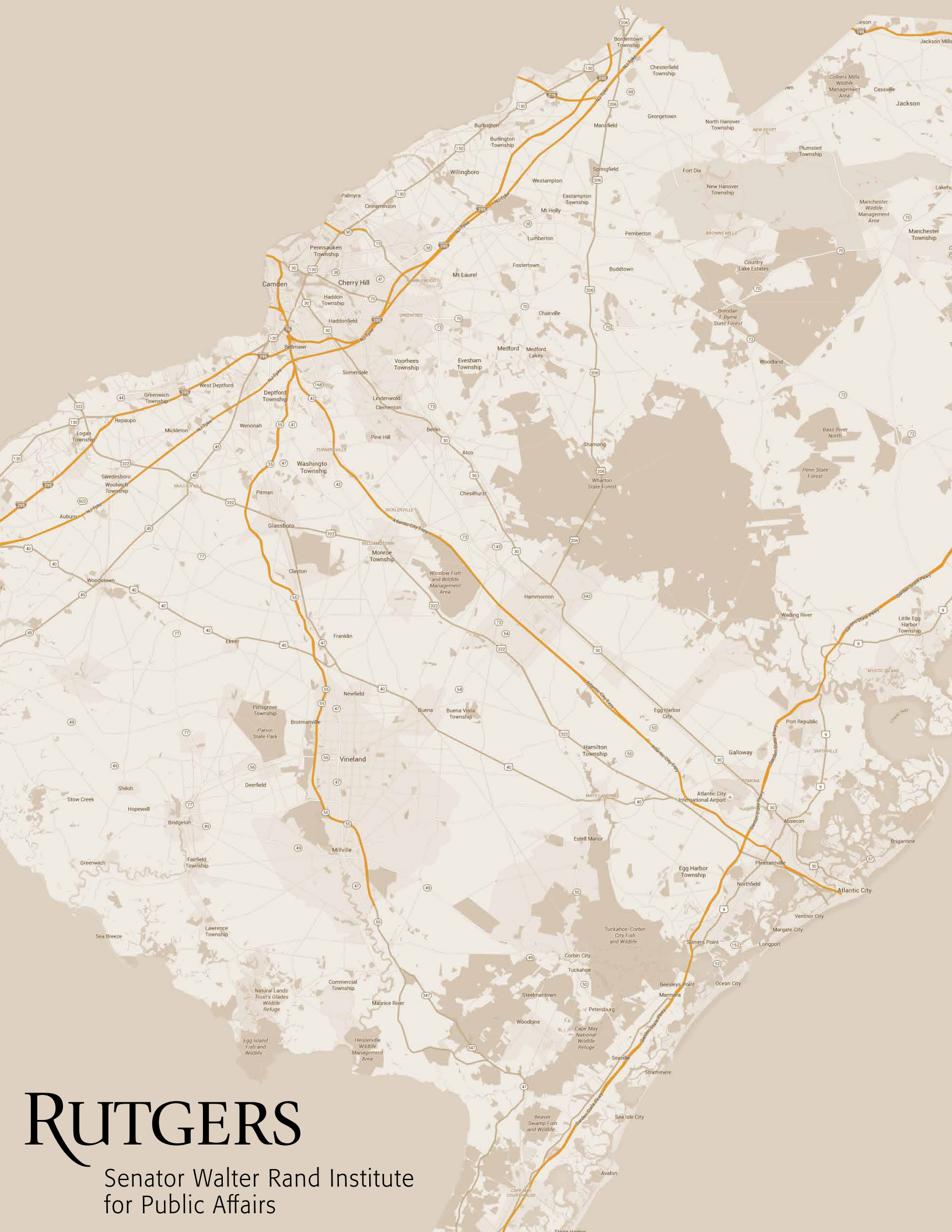
Spencer T. Clayton
Bryana Foxx-Parham
Straso Jovanovski
Corynn Smith
Shelby Tucker

Strengthening Families Initiative Evaluation

Jorge Carvalho Pereira
Reid Hlavka
Straso Jovanovski
Taylor Kates
Michael Medina
Alex Titus

WRI Website & Media Development

Alex Ruiz
Michael Zier



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