



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY



***Burruss Institute of
Public Service and Research
2019 Year in Review***



KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

A.L. BURRUSS INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC SERVICE AND RESEARCH

OUR MISSION

The mission of the A L Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research at Kennesaw State University is to mentor students and collaborate with faculty to enhance the ability of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to make informed decisions for the public good by providing relevant data, technical resources and skill development.



IN THESE PAGES

You will read about the wide range of projects the Burruss Institute conducted during the 2019 fiscal year. The work of the Institute provides services to nonprofit organizations and government agencies across the state. The purpose of these projects is to inform officials and administrators with the latest data so that they can better serve the citizens of their jurisdiction or their clients. The Institute assists campus faculty and organizations through research support, grant and proposal development, training, and shared use of equipment, software, and facilities. Many students from KSU and other universities have found rewarding and educational opportunities at the Institute.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

In 1988 the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia established the A L Burruss Institute of Public Service at Kennesaw State to achieve the goal of "commitment to community." Kennesaw State sought to expand, direct and coordinate its activities in public service while at the same time honoring the late State Representative A L Burruss and keeping his legacy of commitment to public service and community affairs in the forefront of the minds of Georgians.

Since 1990, the Burruss Institute has been a member of CUPSO (the Consortium of University Public Service Organizations www.cupso.org). CUPSO represents a network of university based public service institutes in their efforts to inform and work with state and local governments, nonprofits, business organizations and the media on a range of contemporary issues and challenges. University based Public Service Institutes play a vital role in universities throughout the United States. The Burruss Institute is also a founding member of AASRO (the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations www.aasro.org), an organization committed to promoting excellence and integrity in the conduct of survey research. The Burruss Institute has collaborated with a number of prominent organizations and has worked together on joint projects with several other universities, including Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and the University of Georgia.

The Institute's staff has extensive community involvement experience, taking part in many voluntary programs of government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and chambers of commerce often speaking to these groups and advising them in their endeavors. In addition to the professional expertise of the staff, the Institute provides opportunities for faculty from diverse research fields to participate in applied research projects.

Program Evaluation PROJECTS

Evaluation provides organizations with information about whether a program is functioning as intended and if program outcomes have been achieved. Some organizations may not have an evaluator on staff and many funders require or suggest grantees use an external evaluator. Institute staff work with program staff to develop evaluation plans and track progress to ensure that programs are achieving their goals. The Institute provides status reports throughout the year to help programs measure progress and summative evaluation reports that detail a program's success.

Next Level Community Development Center 21st CCLC Evaluation

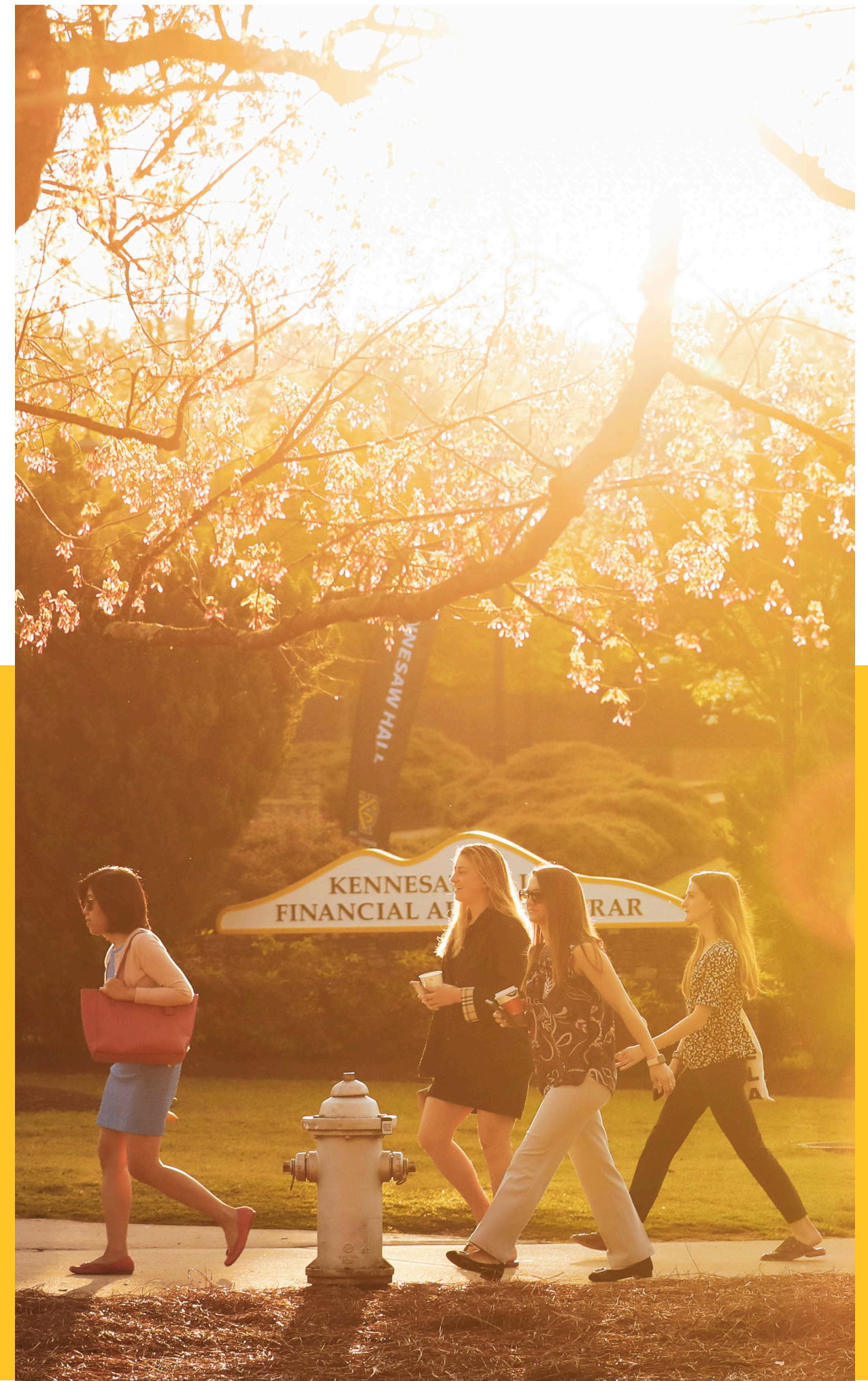
The Burruss Institute evaluated the Camp Zion 21st CCLC program from 2014-2019 and is currently evaluating the newly awarded program. The program serves students in grades K-5 from six elementary schools and is held at the Mount Zion First Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia. The goals of the Next Level program were to improve student academic performance in the areas of math, reading/English/LA, and science, improve achievement levels in enrichment activities, and to foster family involvement. Burruss provided formative and summative evaluations using data from site visits, school records, and youth/parent/teacher surveys. Feedback provided to program staff included recommendations for best practices and professional development.

Marietta 21st CCLC at Youth Empowerment through Learning, Leading, and Service, Inc. (YELLS) Evaluation

The Burruss Institute has evaluated the YELLS 21st CCLC program since it was awarded in 2017. The program serves elementary school students in grades K-5 and high school students in grades 9-12 in the Franklin Gateway community of Marietta, Georgia. The goals of the YELLS program were to help youth achieve academic success, promote youth development (i.e., improve self-efficacy and soft skills), and to promote family engagement. Burruss provided formative and summative evaluations using data from site visits, school records, and youth/parent/teacher surveys. Feedback provided to program staff included recommendations for best practices and professional development.

Cobb County School District 21st CCLC Evaluation

The Burruss Institute evaluated the Reach for the Stars 21st CCLC program from 2016-2019. The program served elementary school students in grades 3-8 from two elementary schools and one middle school in Acworth, Georgia. The goals of the RSP program were to improve academic performance in the areas of math, reading/language arts, science and social studies, to improve classroom behavior, and to enhance family involvement. Burruss provided formative and summative evaluations using data from site visits, school records, and youth/parent/teacher surveys. Feedback provided to program staff included recommendations for best practices and professional development.



Marietta City Schools: 21st CCLC Evaluation

Burruss evaluated the Moving in a "Pod"sitive Direction 21st CCLC program which served elementary school students in grades 2-5 from Dunleith Elementary School from 2014-2019. The goals of the program were to improve student academic achievement in the areas of math, reading, and science and to increase parent involvement in the school community. Burruss provided formative and summative evaluations using data from site visits, school records, and youth/parent/teacher surveys. Feedback provided to program staff included recommendations for best practices and professional development.

Empowered Youth of Columbus 21st CCLC Evaluation

Burruss evaluated the most recently awarded Columbus State University Empowered Youth of Columbus (EYC) grant from 2017-2019. The program serves elementary, middle, and high school students via two elementary schools and two Boys & Girls Clubs. The program exposes students to the arts and provides college and career exploration activities to help raise standardized test scores and increase graduation and attendance rates. The goals of the EYC program are to improve academic achievement for students participating in the program, reduce indicators for future criminal activity, and to have adult family members participate in education activities which encourage planning for their child's future for the long term. Burruss provided formative and summative evaluations using data from site visits, school records, and youth/parent/teacher surveys. Feedback provided to program staff included recommendations for best practices and professional development.

Street Smart Youth Project Program Evaluation

The Institute has worked with Street Smart Youth Project (SSYP) since 2016 to evaluate several programs provided by the nonprofit organization. SSYP works with minority youth in order to involve, prepare and empower them for growth and healthy living as adults, with an emphasis on prevention regarding delinquency, substance use, and HIV. The Institute is currently evaluating a grant funded by Gilead, in addition to two grants funded by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities: Early Intervention Services (EIS) and the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Prevention Project (ASAPP). The data collected during evaluation periods is used to provide SSYP with results of the outcomes of their programs.

Wellspring Living Program Evaluation

The Burruss Institute worked with Wellspring Living, a nonprofit organization that delivers services and provides restoration programs for survivors of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, to assess progress on goals and objectives for the 2019 year-end report to stakeholders. The Burruss Institute is also currently working with Wellspring to update their evaluation plan to assess the impact of their residential and community programs, including logic models for each program. Burruss employs a utilization-focused approach to ensure the evaluation process and findings are useful to program staff and funders.

Douglas County School District 21st CCLC Evaluation

Douglas County School District (DCSS) contracted with the Burruss Institute to evaluate four afterschool grants from August 2018 through June 2019. The goals of these afterschool programs are to improve academic achievement, foster youth development, and improve family engagement. The Burruss Institute's evaluation used paper and online surveys of teachers, staff, parents, and students as well as site visits, grades, and test scores. The Burruss Institute created summative year-end reports for the four grants.

Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition (AHRC) Program Evaluation

The Institute is currently working with the Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition (AHRC) to evaluate two grants. AHRC works with individuals who engage in high-risk behaviors by providing access to wellness and health services. The Healthcare Georgia Foundation grant evaluation will measure whether the project is increasing HIV awareness among African-American women in the Atlanta area, increasing the number of HIV positive African-American women identified and linked to care, and increasing access to HIV prevention knowledge and skills for high risk African-American women. The ViiV Positive Action Community Grants program provides organizations with the means to reach people not currently benefitting from existing HIV support services or programs, such as AHRC's Mobile Health Unit, community events, and drop-in service center.

Drugs Don't Work Program Evaluation

The Drugs Don't Work (DDW) program in Georgia is a statewide effort to reduce drug and alcohol use in the workplace. It is a program of The Council on Alcohol and Drugs, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. DDW provides educational and training services to employers throughout Georgia. In turn, employers are able to become certified drug free workplaces, thus contributing to the reduction of drug and alcohol use. The Burruss Institute evaluated the Drugs Don't Work program throughout 2018 and 2019 by collecting and analyzing data from multiple observations of program presentations, an online survey of chamber of commerce members, and a telephone survey of participating businesses. The Institute has provided evaluation services to the Drugs Don't Work program since 2011.

The Council on Alcohol and Drugs: Evaluation of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Programs

The Council for Alcohol and Drugs (TCAD) contracted with the Burruss Institute to conduct an evaluation of their Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Program (ASAPP) activities in Region 1 and Region 3. The goals of ASAPP include reducing alcohol use and access to alcohol among 9-20 year olds. To accomplish these goals, each community has implemented evidence-based prevention strategies.

Survey Research

PROJECTS

Planning, designing, and conducting surveys is one of the main functions of the Institute. Staff develop surveys based on client input and use best practices to ensure that questions measure what they are intended to measure. Surveys can be administered using several methods including paper and pencil, online, and telephone. A combination of survey methods may be used to increase response or to increase the representativeness of the sample.

Bibb County Civic Culture Telephone Survey

On behalf of Community Partnership, Inc., the Institute conducted a survey of 402 adult residents of Bibb County and the City of Macon to determine the respondents' levels of civic engagement. The survey looked at volunteerism and community activism, interest and involvement in local political issues, family engagement, preferred sources of news about local and national events, and voting.

Atlanta Regional Commission Metro Atlanta Speaks Telephone Survey

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) commissioned the 2018 Metro Atlanta Speaks (MAS) Survey to understand what residents perceive to be the strengths and weaknesses of the Atlanta region. The survey focuses on transportation, the economy, housing and development and other quality of life issues. The Institute was contracted to survey 5,450 adult residents in the metro Atlanta area by telephone. The respondents were stratified by the 13 Metro Atlanta counties included in the survey as well as the City of Atlanta. A breakdown of the results for the region as a whole and the individual counties was provided to the ARC. The Institute also conducted the MAS Survey in 2017, 2016, 2015, and 2013.

Johns Creek Community Online Survey

The City of Johns Creek contracted with the Burruss Institute to conduct an online survey of residents to obtain resident opinions on a number of issues facing city government including transportation, city services and future development. The survey utilized an addressed-based sample of residential addresses in the city to identify potential respondents. Invitations were mailed to each address inviting an adult resident to participate in the online survey. Over 500 completed surveys were received over a four-week period during March and April 2019. The results will be used to update the city's Comprehensive Plan.

MKSK/Greenville County, SC Telephone Survey

The Institute worked with MKSK, an urban planning company, and Greenville County (SC) to design and implement a Citizen Survey to obtain residents' opinions on a series of issues facing the county, including transportation, housing and other quality of life concerns. The telephone survey was conducted in the spring of 2019. The information obtained from the survey will be used to update Greenville County's Comprehensive Plan.

Fulton County Citizen Satisfaction Telephone Survey

In September 2018, Fulton County government partnered with the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research to conduct a survey of its residents as part of its efforts to measure performance on the six Strategic Priority Areas adopted by the Board of Commissioners. The Strategic Priority Areas outline the top-level outcomes that direct Fulton County's efforts, that "All People" are safe, healthy, self-sufficient, have economic, cultural, and recreation opportunities, and trust their government. The survey of 1,222 residents was conducted from September 20, 2018 to November 9, 2018.

Wright State University Comprehensive Needs Assessment Telephone Survey

The Burruss Institute partnered with Wright State University to assist in the data collection for a comprehensive needs assessment for Ohio counties. The results of the survey will be used to develop and implement an action plan pertaining to child abuse and neglect prevention strategies and activities that will serve families within the region. The Burruss Institute conducted 426 surveys between August 2 and October 7, 2018.

Fulton County Senior Citizen Needs Assessment Telephone Survey

In 2018, Fulton County Department of Senior Services partnered with the A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research to conduct a survey of 432 residents ages 55 and older. The survey measured the needs of older adults specifically related to transportation and nutrition. Data collection took place in conjunction with the county-wide satisfaction survey conducted in spring and fall of 2018. Data was collected from February 18, 2018 to March 17, 2018 and from November 12, 2018 to November 18, 2018.

DATA ANALYSIS, RESEARCH SUPPORT, AND TRAINING PROJECTS

Institute Staff are available to assist faculty with their research by providing supplemental services that enhance and support their projects. In addition to assisting university faculty with research projects, the Institute offers external clients access to expert knowledge and skills that may not be available in their organizations. Serving communities with primary and secondary data collection and analyzing the results allows the Burruss Institute to provide insights into changes in the demographics of the community's population and recommend solutions to identified issues.

Politics and Media Online Survey

The A.L. Burruss Institute of Public Service and Research worked with Dr. Ben Taylor in the School of Government and International Affairs at KSU and Dr. Jeffrey Glas from the Department of Political Science at the University of Georgia to conduct an online survey of US residents. The purpose of the study was to explore the relationship between viewing habits (TV and film) and political belief systems. This data was collected as a pilot study with the intention of conducting a larger national study at some point in the coming year.

Sociology and Criminal Justice Alumni and Student Online Survey

The Burruss Institute worked with Dr. Dawn Baunach, Professor and Chair in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at KSU to create and field two separate surveys. The first survey was of KSU alumni who received a degree in criminal justice or sociology at KSU. The second survey was administered to juniors and seniors currently majoring in sociology and/or criminal justice at KSU.

The intent of the alumni survey was to gather opinions and data on how graduates are using their degrees, their satisfaction with the sociology and criminal justice curriculum while they were at the university, and how well they think the program prepared them for their chosen career after leaving KSU.

The intent of the student survey was to gather opinions and data on what current students in the programs think of the curriculum and what they think would make the criminal justice and sociology programs stronger. The Sociology and Criminal Justice Department was also interested in how the students plan to use their degrees and/or if they intend to seek advanced degrees at KSU or other institutions.

South Sudan Aid Worker Attacks Online Survey and Mapping

Over the past several years, the situation in South Sudan has deteriorated into one of the largest humanitarian crises on the planet. The current crisis has negatively affected millions of South Sudanese citizens and has made humanitarian interventions much more challenging. Within this context, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) often work to provide critical assistance to the most vulnerable populations, while also trying to ensure the safety and well-being of their staff.

Burruss worked with Dr. Jerry Herbel and Mr. Nicholas Smith, KSU graduate student, to develop and field an online survey designed to learn more about how, or if, NGOs are collaborating to ensure the safety of their staff and maintain operational security in South Sudan. The goal was to identify and promote best practices and processes to keep NGO staff safe in similar contexts. 204 Senior managers at NGOs in the South Sudan were invited to participate in the survey.

In addition, the Institute created shapefiles for the recently increased number of states in South Sudan by digitizing their boundaries using images obtained from the web. The shapefiles were used to create a map of South Sudan and attacks on aid workers were plotted on the map as points. The map enabled viewers to quickly identify the areas in South Sudan where aid workers had been attacked.

WellStar School of Nursing Research Support

The Burruss Institute provided technical assistance and consulting services to KSU faculty members Dr. Lynn Varagona and Dr. Nancy Ballard to customize three Qualtrics surveys to improve response rates. The purpose of the faculty research was to validate the Perceived Trustworthiness Indicator (PTI), a measure of team trust, within healthcare delivery organizations.

KSU POLS 1101 Class Omnibus Student Survey

The Burruss Institute is working with the School of Government and International Affairs (SGIA) at KSU to field an omnibus survey once per semester to students taking POLS 1101. Students are offered extra credit for participation in the survey. The coordinators of the study are political science faculty members, Ben Taylor and April Johnson. The survey will be conducted each semester and SGIA faculty members will have an opportunity to add questions to the survey and receive the data collected from their questions along with standard demographics. Data from the Spring 2019 Survey Research Pool was presented at the SGIA Inaugural Brown Bag Research Series in September 2019.

Georgia Department of Public Health - Step Up, Step In and Safe Dates Research Support

The Burruss Institute contracted with the Georgia Department of Public Health Rape Prevention and Education Program to assist in the development, formatting, printing, and scanning of completed surveys into a database for the SUSI (Step Up, Step In) and Safe Dates programs. SUSI is designed to conduct activities that raise awareness, improve school climate, and reduce the incidents of sexual bullying and of first-time perpetrations of sexual violence in Georgia. Safe Dates is one of only two evidence-based curricula designed to address violence in teen dating relationships.

Cobb Employee Survey Analysis

The Institute provided analyses for Cobb County's 2019 Employee Survey. The county designed the survey and used the online survey application SurveyMonkey to administer the survey. The county provided the Institute with the completed data at the end of the survey for analyses and reporting. The survey examined employee opinions on a number of topic areas including satisfaction with benefits and pay, recognition and rewards, management and supervision, organizational culture, work environment, professional development opportunities, general satisfaction with work and other issues.

Evaluation Readiness Assessment for Georgia Sexual Violence Prevention Program

The Burruss Institute assisted KSU sociology faculty member Dr. Jennifer McMahon-Howard in conducting a readiness assessment on behalf of the Georgia Sexual Violence Prevention Program as part of a CDC Building Evaluation Capacity grant. The project involved the transcription, analysis, and reporting of interviews with 11 Georgia Sexual Violence Prevention Program stakeholders to gather qualitative data regarding organizational capacity related to evaluation and readiness to select outcome indicators (measures of sexual violence outcomes and/or sexual violence risk and protective factors) that can be tracked over time to evaluate the outcomes of the state-level work for preventing sexual violence.

Cobb County Community Development Block Grant Needs Assessment and Community Profile Project

The Institute conducted a needs assessment and community profile for the Cobb County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Office. Using data from the Census, Georgia Department of Education, various health databases, and other sources, the Institute developed a profile for the county which included variables ranging from health, economics, education, poverty, and demographic changes within the population of Cobb County. As part of the community profile, maps were created with census tract level data related to poverty and demographics in Cobb County. In support of the CDBG's Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program, the Institute also conducted an online survey of officials from organizations that receive CSBG funding. A paper survey was also created for distribution to clients of community service organizations. The surveys collected data about the participants' perception of unmet needs currently facing Cobb County's community.

Columbus Community Schools Personnel Training

The Burruss Institute is currently partnering with KSU faculty in the School of Education and the School of Nursing to design, coordinate, and provide in-service training to personnel within Columbus Community Schools, a program providing scholastic and recreational activities for children in the Muscogee County School District. The training focuses on child and youth development, safety, health and nutrition, and the reporting and identification of children who may be victims of abuse and neglect. Examples of training session topics include active shooter response, medication administration, bloodborne pathogens, mandatory reporting, and health and nutrition.



KSU RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

Since its inception, The Burruss Institute has provided research services to KSU's colleges, departments, and faculty. The Institute has enabled faculty members to conduct research projects that otherwise would be beyond the scope of the infrastructure available within a college or department.

The Burruss Institute serves the wider campus community through several avenues. The Institute often collaborates with faculty members on research projects where a client requires a subject matter expert. Faculty members rely on the Institute for assistance with their own research projects. The Institute supports faculty research by completing large-scale data collection efforts, providing access to resources housed at the Institute, and through assistance with grant proposal development. Through the Institute, faculty members are able to complete projects that are large in scale and require significant amounts of personnel to complete.

8
Departments

Eight different departments utilized the Institute to support their research needs.

17
Professors

The Institute collaborated with seventeen different professors over the course of FY 2019.

10
Projects

Ten funded research projects that included faculty collaboration were completed in FY 2019.

5
Surveys

Five surveys were fielded using online or paper methods to collect data for faculty research projects.

1,738
Completed Surveys

Over 1,700 completed surveys were collected in support of research conducted by faculty.

2,248
Invitations

Over 2,000 email invitations were sent to samples of participants encouraging them to complete an online survey.

KSU STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Burruss Institute provides students with opportunities to engage in real-world research projects. Under the supervision of staff members, students apply the skills they have learned in the classroom while participating in research tasks. Students are able to experience multiple data collection methods, advanced analysis techniques, and what it is like to work on a research team. The Institute provides opportunities to students through several avenues. Students are able to work at the Institute as Student Assistants, complete internships as part of their degree program, and participate in graduate research assistantships.

67
Students

A total of 67 students participated in research projects as student assistants or interns during FY 2019. These students were able to gain hands on experience working on funded research projects enhancing their educational experience.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Ash Scarborough
Former Intern/ Student Assistant

Ash Scarborough first came to the Institute as an undergraduate student with an interest in learning more and gaining hands on experience working as part of a research team. While at the Institute, Ash participated in several research projects, and gained experience in collecting and analyzing data. He was able to hone his skills using advanced features of Microsoft Excel and SPSS. Following his internship, Ash returned to work at the Institute as a student assistant. Ash was accepted into graduate school at SUNY Albany where he will pursue his doctoral degree in Sociology.

The Burruss Institute gave me the experience and guidance that I feel got me into grad school. Burruss gave me the kind of research experience that grad programs look for.



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**A.L. BURRUSS INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC SERVICE AND RESEARCH**

CONTACT US

Address	: 3333 Busbee Dr MD 3302 Kennesaw, Georgia 30144
Tel	: (470) 578-6464
Fax	: (470) 578-9087
Web	: www.burruss.kennesaw.edu
Email	: burrus@kennesaw.edu