A Note from the Director

On behalf of the staff, research fellows, and students of The John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development at Mississippi State University, I welcome you to our new and expanded website. Based at our state’s land grant university, the Institute is often referred to as Mississippi’s think tank, but the Institute is much more. We are frequently called upon to provide technical assistance and consultation to state officials, local governments and community leaders regarding political, governmental, economic and community development matters. Our mission is to enhance the capacities of state and local officials to deal effectively with today’s challenges regarding many issues. If the legislature needs a definitive study on the effects of a change in state law, a municipal government desires a compensation study or salary survey, or an association of government officials requests training on the latest legal or policy issues, the Institute responds with its wide variety of resources and capabilities.

The Institute delivers a wide array of services and technical assistance to municipalities, counties, and government agencies, responding to the ever-changing political and economic environment. Please take a moment to browse through our new website and contact us if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Dr. P. Edward French
Interim Director and Associate Professor
The John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development

Although often referred to as Mississippi's think tank, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government is much more. If the legislature needs a definitive study on the effects of a change in state law, a municipal government desires a salary survey, or an association of government officials requests training on the latest legal issues, the Institute responds with its wide variety of resources.

The Institute is often called on to provide technical assistance and consultation to local governments and community leaders regarding economic and community development matters. Foundations look to Stennis for quality research and study of public policy issues. And the Institute has on staff trained facilitators who can lead community groups through discursive discourse on topics ranging from local issues of genuine public conflict, to land use planning initiatives, to community capacity building, to more ethereal discussions about confidence in government, electing or appointing judges, amendments in ethics legislation and the like.

Based at Mississippi's land grant university, the Institute also focuses on students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences who seek careers in public service.

Mission

The John C. Stennis Institute of Government performs a threefold mission: (1) to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Mississippi state and local governments through basic and applied research, training, technical assistance, and service; (2) to provide technical assistance and research for both rural development in Mississippi and regional activities in the Southeast; and (3) to promote civic education and citizen involvement in the political process.
History

Elected to the United States Senate in 1947 with the promise to "plow a straight furrow to the end of the row," John C. Stennis recognized the need for an organization to assist governments with a wide range of issues and to better equip citizens to participate in the political process. In 1976, Senator Stennis set the mission parameters and ushered in the development of a policy research and assistance institute which was to bear his name as an acknowledgment of his service to the people of Mississippi.

Created as a service and research arm of Mississippi State University, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government was established on February 9, 1976. Announcing its formation during a two-day Forum on Politics honoring U.S. Senators John Stennis and Margaret Chase Smith, MSU President William L. Giles outlined the Institute's mission and goals.

According to Giles, the Institute would seek to integrate research, service, and teaching activities to improve government in the state, as well as promote the training of students who seek careers in public service.

Decades later, the Stennis Institute of Government has remained true to that initial charge. By providing meaningful, applied research to both local and state units of Mississippi government, the Institute brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to bear on real-world issues. Through its executive development programs, training opportunities, and technical assistance programs, the Institute provides support for today's policy-makers from the courthouse to the classroom. And, by playing an active role in the development of tomorrow's governmental leaders, the Institute is working to ensure that Mississippi's future remains strong.

Like the majority of public servants in the State, the staff of the Institute are generalists, bringing the wide range of their experiences and talents to bear on a diverse range of issues. From political analysis and commentary to economic development activities, the topics delineated on any list of
ongoing Institute projects clearly illustrate this diversity. Likewise, projects range in size and scope from specific work with Mississippi’s smallest towns to federally-funded grants with multi-state application.

**Staffing**

**Students**
The Institute is comprised of 14 full- and part-time staff members, many of which either possess, or are pursuing, terminal degrees in their respective fields. The Institute has 3 staff members currently enrolled in the Public Policy and Administration PhD program at Mississippi State University, 1 enrolled in the Urban and Regional Planning PhD program at Jackson State University, 2 graduate assistants in the PhD-level Community College Leadership Program at Mississippi State University, and 1 graduate student in the Sociology PhD Program at Mississippi State University. The Institute also employs a Masters-level student in the MPPA program at Mississippi State University, as well as two undergraduates at the University. The students are funded through external grants and the Institute strives to continue its work promoting education and continued development of students at Mississippi State University.

The Stennis Institute strives to incorporate graduate students, and undergraduate students, in its applied research and outreach projects. The Institute currently employs 4 graduate research assistants, 3 PhD students and 1 MPPA student. The graduate students span multiple disciplines within the College of Arts & Sciences including Sociology, Education (Community College Leadership), and Political Science and Public Administration. The Institute ensures the students are fully immersed in the research process, working to develop their qualitative and quantitative research capabilities with real-world projects.
**Staff**
The Staff of the Stennis Institute is comprised of individuals with a myriad of skills and knowledge, many with varying educational backgrounds and career experience. The Institute employs individuals with degrees in Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Business, Economics, Education, and Mathematics. The staff of the Institute are listed below, in alphabetical order following the director:

- Eddie French, PhD, Interim Director
- J. "Dallas" Breen, ABD, Associate Director
- Tyson Elbert, ABD, Research Associate
- Joe Fratesi, PhD, Project Director
- LeeAnn Funderburg, Business Manager
- Phil Hardwick, Project Manager
- Bonnie Hays, Administrative Assistant
- Claudette Jones, ABD Research Associate
- Jeremy Murdock, Research Associate
- Judith Phillips, ABD Research Associate
- Lydia Quarles, JD, Project Manager
- Frank Riley, MBA, Research Associate
- Nick Wilson, MPPA IT Coordinator
- Joe Young, Project Manager

**Fellows**
The Stennis Institute has incorporated a new pursuit of including faculty from across multiple platforms to serve as Stennis Fellows, creating a more incorporative approach to expanding the capacities and capabilities of the Institute. As of January 1, 2014, there are currently two (2) Stennis Fellows, Ravi Perry, PhD, and Staci Zavattaro, PhD. Both individuals are currently housed in the Political Science and Public Administration department at Mississippi State University. The Institute will continue to expand the list of fellows as it enters the 2014 calendar year.
The Retirement of Dr. William “Marty” Wiseman

The fall of 2013 saw the retirement of the Institute’s long-standing Executive Director, Dr. Marty Wiseman. Dr. Wiseman retired from the Institute and the University after 22 years of tenure as the Executive Director of the Institute. With the retirement of Dr. Wiseman, the College of Arts & Sciences, along with the Vice President of Research and Economic Development and the President of Mississippi State University, named an Interim Director, Dr. P. Edward French, to facilitate the transition from Dr. Wiseman’s retirement and rejuvenate the grant activity the Institute has built its reputation on from the early days of its existence. Under the leadership of Dr. French, the Institute will carry on the mission of the Stennis Institute, while thanking Dr. Wiseman for his service to Institute, the University, and to the State of Mississippi.

Advisory Board

The John C. Stennis Institute Advisory Board answers questions, creates policy, advocates, and otherwise does whatever we can to help John C. Stennis Institute of Government be successful. The Advisory Board is provided monthly updates on the Institute’s activities and is invited, when possible, to a semi-annual meeting series, held once a year in Jackson, MS, and once a year in Starkville, MS, on the Mississippi State University Campus.

The Advisory Members Include:

Dr. Jim Borsig, PhD
Tommie Cardin
Beth Clay
Ben Collins
The Honorable Johnny Dupree
Michael Espy
Haley Fisackerly
Oleta Fitzgerald
The Honorable Nehemiah Flowers

Above: Marty Wiseman, PhD
Active Projects

National Institute for Rural Community College (NIRCC)

As part of an ongoing relationship between the Mississippi Community Colleges and Mississippi State University, the Stennis Institute provides an area of specialty in the facilitation, training, and educating of community college personnel at all levels. The Institute facilitates several programs, each of which creates teaching, service, and learning opportunities for the multitude of community college faculty, staff, and administrators across the State of Mississippi.

- **MCCLA - Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy**
  - Stennis provides funding, resources and support for the program
  - Provides yearly training for 35-40 individuals in the community college field

- **EPFP – Education Policy Fellowship Program**
  - Provides training for the upper administrators and potential leaders in community colleges in education policy
    - Provides a yearly trip to Washington, DC to meet with various political figures
    - Provides networking for MSU across the state community colleges
Civil Rights Bus Tour
- Tour across Mississippi and Alabama
- Provides EPFP participants and the public the opportunity to tour the path along the most infamous civil rights issue locations

Redistricting Activities:
As part of an ongoing effort to reach out and aid the cities, counties, and school districts across the State in areas which these entities may not possess expertise, the Stennis Institute has partnered with many of these entities to provide services to aid in the redistricting of their supervisor, board, polling places, justice courts, and constable districts. The Institute provides this redistricting service at a significantly reduced cost thanks to the ability of the Institute to facilitate its internal resources, providing the State with this expertise for virtually no expense. The Institute has played a pivotal role in many of the redistricting efforts at the municipal and county level, many of which are listed below.

- Counties:
  - Carroll
  - Neshoba
  - Newton
  - Sharkey
  - Pike
  - Coahoma
  - Franklin
  - Yalobusha

- Cities:
  - Biloxi
  - Philadelphia
  - Magnolia
  - Kosciusko
  - McComb
  - Water Valley
  - Tylertown
  - Horn Lake
  - Winona
  - Greenville
  - Rolling Fork
2013 Annual Report

- Shaw
- Mound Bayo

- School Districts:
  - North Pike
  - South Delta
  - Neshoba
  - Water Valley
  - Nettleton
  - Monroe County

- Justice Courts/Sheriffs/Voting Precincts
  - Biloxi
  - Neshoba
  - Pike
  - Coahoma
  - Sharkey

Economic Development and Tax Studies
The Stennis Institute provides expertise and knowledge in the area of economic development, particularly new market tax credit and ad valorem tax studies. The Institute is currently working with a private entity on the New Market Tax Credits available for different entities across the State, including the Cotton Mills project at Mississippi State University.

- New Market Tax Credit Study
  - Approximately $130,000
  - New Market Tax Credit Studies for multiple entities
  - Cotton Mills, Hospital(s), Mall(s), Other entities
  - Equity Plus

- RBOG: Rural Business Opportunity Grant (USDA)
  - Stennis working with Bolivar County on the use of AgriCenter complex and tourism.
    - Economic Analysis, Tourism Studies, etc.
Alternative Fuels
The Institute has been working with various alternative fuels associations in understanding and identifying the key considerations for municipalities, counties, and state agencies in the adoption or inclusion of alternative fuel vehicles into the fleet system. The Institute has delivered one report on the considerations for compressed natural gas, a report on the Oil and Gas industry, and is working on releasing a report on the propane industry.

- Natural Gas/Propane (Alternative Fuels) Conversion Consideration Study
  - Approximately $27,000
  - Report & Presentation to MS Propane Gas Association and MS Natural Gas Association
  - Benefits/Drawback to Converting to Alternative Fuels
  - Governor Bryant issued Memorandum promoting the use of natural gas (March 2013)

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
The Stennis Institute has a long-standing history of working closely with ARC, aiding the ARC communities in Mississippi with a large array of tasks, services, and workshops. The Institute also provides aid to schools through the ARC collaboration.

- Mississippi Higher Education Initiative (MS-HEI)
  - The MSHEI project involves an ongoing effort to promote underserved schools in the ARC region with the opportunity to receive funding to aid in the retention of high school students. The project’s success has been documented in the press for a number of years, and continues to be a prime example of the positive impact that derives from working with and assisting local entities across the State.

- Mississippi Community Action Program (MCAP)
  - Communities Served:
    - Amory
    - Batesville
    - Fulton
    - Iuka
    - New Albany
    - Okolona
    - Plantersville
    - Vardaman
Community-based outreach programs where Stennis Institute worked with the aforementioned entities to expand their capacities in community development, leadership training, and outreach.

- **Selected to Serve**
  Selected to Serve is a two-part program. The first part is a goal-setting retreat and the second is goal achievement. During the retreat, participants work toward developing three specific, measurable, achievable and worthy goals that they want to accomplish in their communities. For elected leaders, the time frame for accomplishing the goals will begin at the conclusion of the retreat and the end of their current term. For other leaders, the time frame will be based on a date certain. During the second part of the program, participants will also serve as mentors to three other participants.
  - Currently serving multiple municipalities and organizations. Is integrated with MCAP to provide funding for program resources.

- **Appalachian Commission Leadership Program**
  New York State-based The Rensselaerville Institute, along with the federal-state Appalachian Regional Commission, began ACLP more than 15 years ago as an initiative to show community volunteers how to improve their towns.
  - During 2013 and 2014, the university’s John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development is working alongside the two organizations to provide ACLP participants with local assistance, leadership and resources.
    - Communities:
      - Brooksville
      - Bruce
      - Columbus
      - Lamar
      - Louisville
      - New Albany
      - Ripley
      - Scooba
      - Shannon
      - Vardaman

- **Curbside Chats/Strong Town**
  The Curbside Chats series is a collaboration between the Strong Towns group and the Stennis Institute, in which a leading expert from the Strong Towns group will discuss items pertaining to community planning and sustaining economic growth in rural states, such as Mississippi, throughout the northern portion of MS over the course of a week.
STENNIS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Collaboration with industry leader in community planning and landscape design.
  - Trip planned around MSU and collaboration with academic departments

National Endowment of the Arts Grant
This project is a collaboration between the Landscape Architecture Department at MSU and the Stennis Institute, and involves the development of a land use plan for the area in Leland, MS. This provides students and staff the opportunity to work through a project from conception to completion, and provides the Institute with the outreach in the local Leland community.

  - Jim Henson (Leland, MS) project
  - Collaborations with Landscape Architecture
  - Students, Professor (Landscape Architecture), and Stennis

Human Resources Compensation and Salary Studies
The Stennis Institute has a long-standing tradition of assisting entities in Mississippi with extensive salary comparisons and compensation studies, to aid the human resources divisions of towns, cities, and counties with items such as internal equity, equal compensation, and to aid in the budgeting process for fiscal year preparations. The Institute is currently working with multiple entities across the State and has had numerous requests to advance this work in the next calendar year.

- Starkville
- Oxford
- Canton
- Aberdeen
- Lafayette Co.
- DeSoto Co.
- ALL planned for completion end of 2013

Hancock County Justice Court Collections
- Analyze the collection rates, court times, etc of Hancock County and four surrounding counties in MS
- Develop efficiency model for collections and increased collection capability
- Collaboration with private data enterprise and multiple coastal counties in Mississippi
Southwest MS: Managing and Mitigating Energy Development Risks in Mississippi

- Southwest MS Energy Summits (Multiple) detailing the mitigation of risk in energy development efforts
- Focused on the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale drilling/fracturing
- Multiple workshops/entities involved

Family Impacts (Kellogg/Kettering)

- Series of Three (3) seminars/workshops on education and family impacts topics
  - First held in 2012. Next two to be held in upcoming months
  - Multiple agencies, legislatures, etc.

Tourism studies

The Institute provides expertise in tourism and natural resource policy through its staff expertise. There have been several festivals in which the Institute has provided insight and analysis into the tourism and economic impacts resulting from these festivals. They include:

- Howlin’ Wolf Festival (West Point, MS)
- Peter Anderson Festival (Ocean Springs, MS)
- Blue Moon Festival
- Horse Park

Survey Research/Polling Center

The Stennis Institute, together with the National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center (nSPARC) at MSU has worked to reinvigorate its polling capabilities. Despite some initial limitations (funding), the Polling Center is poised to begin its public opinion polling series, the Stennis Institute Investigates. The Stennis’ arm of the collaboration currently has multiple online surveys in the field and has published and continues to publish these results in various outlets.

- Collaboration with NSPARC
- 6 web-based surveys currently in field
  - MSU PD upward evaluation survey
  - Livestock survey
  - Equine Survey
  - National Public Service Motivation Study
  - Mayor/Manager Study (Appalachian State)
STENNIS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- E-Government Satisfaction Survey
  - Public Opinion Poll (Stennis Examination of Mississippi Series) [early Nov]

**Capstone Course**
The Stennis Institute provides guidance and instruction for the Masters-level Public Policy and Administration program. The course is the final step for students seeking their MPPA in the program. The Institute serves as the facilitator of the projects for the course, and the instruction is based on the teaching efforts of the individual leading the Capstone Course.

  - Provide projects, guidance, and classroom lectures for the Masters level PPA course at the end of the curriculum
  - Involves the students in a hands-on applied research project involving policy and public administration

**Legislative Briefs**
The Stennis Institute issues multiple technical briefs over the course of a year. The briefs serves as an information tool to various legislative bodies and provides the citizens of the State with insight into topics central to Mississippi.

- Affirmative Action and Pursuing States’ Rights
- The Federalism of the Future: Has the National Government Overreached
- Governmental Takings Receive Another Blow: Exactions are takings under the 5th Amendment: Permitting Dependencies in Jeopardy
- Packing Heat in Mississippi
- Pandemic Planning and MERS-CoV
- Mississippi Castle Doctrine in Light of Zimmerman
- Mississippi’s Future: Voter ID
- The Unconstitutional Voter ID Laws: Georgia, Arizona...Who’s next?
- Dysfunctional State Party Leadership: Where does it lead?
- Party Loyalty
- Mississippi’s Party Re-Alignment: Is it here to stay?
- Above the Party Fray: Are you then a statesman?
- Voter Participation: Where are we headed?
- Is Party Loyalty Un-American?
- Dysfunctional State Party Leadership: Where does it lead?
- Representative Government, Democracy & the Republic
- Walthall County’s Voter Rolls: A Primer on Correction
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center v. Nasser: What does it mean?
- The University of Michigan's Schuette Decision
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- The Open Data Revolution: Civics and Social
- Social Media Has Constitutional Benefits
- Social Media and Governmental Initiatives
- Legislative Prayer vs. Legislated Prayer
- The Fundamental Value of a Liberal Arts Education in a Democracy
- Social Media Statistics and Impact on Government Leadership
- Ethics for Public Officials
- Filibuster: Making a Difference?
- Gender
  - Firms Do Better with Women on Board
  - Gender Quotas: Can Women have more Influence?
  - Gender Non-Conformity
  - Considering Women in Parliament
  - Female Legislators in Latin America and the Low Countries: Promoting Women, Children and Family Policies
  - Legislative Effectiveness of American Women in Congress
  - Women Parliamentarians: Experience and Practice

Financial Report (FY13)

Revenues:

Designated Funds (overhead, etc.) $96,871.67
E&G $385,454.00
E&G Research $120,274.00
State Appropriation $653,053.00
Total Revenue $1,255,652.67

Awards:

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The Stennis Institute applied for a multi-year, multi-million dollar award through the Department of Education ($987,000). The grant application was highly scored and reviewed with a great score, however fell short of funding. The Institute intends to apply for this project next fiscal year as the project has the potential for great success with arts integration. Judy Phillips authored the grant application along with Dallas Breen.

Sponsors/Partners

The Stennis Institute of Government and Community Development works closely with a large number municipalities, counties, and state agencies throughout Mississippi. In addition, the Institute provides training, expertise, and information dissemination to these entities, adding to the wealth of knowledge in the State. Based on the composition and mission of the Institute, much of the work carried on by the Institute is performed as public service, in response to the state appropriation graciously given each year by the legislature. Some of the coordinating partners and agencies the Institute works with follow, however please note, this is simply a brief listing, for simplistic reasons.

- Mississippi Municipal League
- Mississippi Association of Supervisors
- Mississippi Economic Council
- Mississippi State Personnel Board
- Mississippi Department of Transportation
- Mississippi Economic Development Council
- Mississippi Development Authority
- Mississippi Department of Health and Human Services
- Mississippi Natural Gas Association
- Mississippi Propane Gas Association
- Atmos Energy
Significantly, more agencies and individuals could be placed on this list. While this list is not exhaustive, it works to show the expanse of the outreach of the Stennis Institute.

**Recognitions**

Quarles, L. Acceptance speech for the Joan Fiss Bishop Award given for contributions to the advancement of women in public administration by the American Society of Public Administration, 2012.

Breen, D. Distinction, Written Comprehensive Exams (both sections), Political Science and Public Administration Ph.D.

**Publications/Invited Presentations**

While expansive, this list may not be complete or exhaustive. The Institute is called to present to numerous groups, boards, and other entities on a weekly, and often daily basis. This list is a sampling of some of the works provided by the Institute staff, starting with peer-reviewed journal articles.


“Considerations for Converting Municipal Fleets to Alternative Fuels [CNG]”. Presented to the Mississippi Municipal League, July 2013. Biloxi, MS.

“Considerations for Converting Municipal Fleets to Alternative Fuels [Propane]”. Presented to the Mississippi Propane Gas Association, July 2013. Pearl, MS.

“Considerations for Converting Municipal Fleets to Alternative Fuels [CNG]”. Presented to the Mississippi Natural Gas Association, June 2013. Flowood, MS.

Report and presentation to the Secretary of State on Government Agencies and Commissions

Report and presentation to the Governor’s Office on Government Agencies and Commissions

Presentation to the Lt. Governor on Government Agencies and Commission

Study and Analysis of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District for the Mississippi Legislature

Study on the Economic Impact of The Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program for MDA

Study of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale: Estimated Revenues for the State of Mississippi for MDA

Study of the Adoption of Biometric Finger Print Imaging by the Mississippi Department of Health for the Mississippi Low Income Childhood Initiative

Study on Arts Integration and the Whole Schools Initiative in the State of Mississippi for the Mississippi Arts Commission

Study of Mississippi Educational Budget Distribution by Mississippi School Districts for the Mississippi Legislature

Study on the Redevelopment of the Historic Okolona Vocational Center for Omeria Scott and National Association of Colored Women, 4 presentations related to this study, one at the national conference of the NACW

Feasibility Study on Civil Rights Educational Center in Philadelphia, Mississippi and presentation of findings, at request of Dr. Melvin Ray

Longitudinal Analysis of Mississippi Budget 1990 to 2012; presented to MS Black Caucus
2013 Annual Report

Economic Overview of Cleveland and Bolivar County; presented at community planning meeting

Economic Overview of Greenville and Washington County; presented at community planning meeting

Economic Overview of Coahoma and Coahoma County; presented at community planning meeting

Economic Overview of Indianola and Sunflower County; presented at community planning meeting

The Economic Impact of the Outlets of MS for Equity Plus

The Economic Impact of Baptist Hospital - Leake County for Equity Plus

The Economic Impact of Field Memorial Community Hospital - Amite and Wilkinson County for Equity Plus

The Economic Impact of the Waterfront Rescue Mission - Mobile, AL for Equity Plus

First Impressions: Como

Rolling Fork Design Charrette Recommendations (in partnership with Mississippi Main Street Association)
Conceptual Site Plan: Former Garan Manufacturing Property: Eupora, Mississippi Final Presentation (City Council)

Conceptual Site Plan: Former Garan Manufacturing Property: Eupora, Mississippi Final Presentation (Eupora Rotary Club)

Conceptual Site Plan: Renfrow's Corner, Ripley, Mississippi Final Presentation

Conceptual Design Plan: Okolona Confederate Cemetery, Okolona, Mississippi Final Presentation

Conceptual Design Plan: Byhalia Town Park, Byhalia, Mississippi Final Presentation

Belzoni Community Assessment Team: Highway 49 Corridor, Belzoni, Mississippi Final Presentation

"How to Create More Sustainable Commercial Development," Mississippi Municipal League Annual Conference 2013
"Highway Corridor Planning," Guest Lecture, Mississippi State University Department of Landscape Architecture

Natchez Community Planning Update (Natchez, Mississippi)

Leland Community Design Project (Leland, Mississippi)

Water Valley Community Design Project (Water Valley, Mississippi)

Chickasaw Development Foundation Strategic Planning (Houston, Mississippi)

“Rural Community and Economic Development Strategies” – MS Power Developers Roundtable Workshop (Gulfport, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment (Amory, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment (Poplarville, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment (Crystal Springs, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment (Iuka, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment (Plantersville, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment (Vardaman, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment (Okolona, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment (New Albany, Mississippi)

Highway Commercial Corridor Improvement Strategies (Belzoni, Mississippi)

Ole Brook Festival Analysis (Brookhaven, Mississippi)

Jefferson Davis County Economic Organizations Overview (Prentiss, Mississippi)

“Local Economic Development Strategies” – Union County Development Association Annual Banquet (New Albany, Mississippi)

Corinth / Alcorn County Strategic Planning (Corinth, Mississippi)

“Community Development Strategies for Small Towns” – Southeast Mississippi Mayor’s Association (Quitman, Mississippi)
“Community Development 101” – join presentation with the Mississippi Main Street Association – MML Mid-Winter Conference (Jackson, Mississippi)

“Keys to Community Revitalization Success” – Mississippi Municipal League Annual Conference (Biloxi, Mississippi)

Downtown Revitalization in Gulfport, Mississippi: A case study of downtown redevelopment efforts following Hurricane Katrina (A study for the MS Legislature).

Chickasaw Development Foundation Strategic Plan Report (Houston, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment Report (Amory, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment Report (Poplarville, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment Report (Crystal Springs, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment Report (Iuka, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment Report (Plantersville, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment Report (Vardaman, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment Report (Okolona, Mississippi)

First Impressions Community Assessment Report (New Albany, Mississippi)

Highway Commercial Corridor Improvement Strategies Report (Belzoni, Mississippi)

Corinth / Alcorn County Strategic Plan Report (Corinth, Mississippi)


Redistricting and proposed legislation for Mississippi Supreme Court

Neshoba County Bar meeting re sponsorship of Ready 2 Run for 2013

Revision of Magnolia, MS current zoning regulations and zoning map presentation

Presentation to Miz-Lou Tourism Association Board; assisting with decisions about merits of 501 (c) (3).
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi training various county employees at request of Board of Supervisors of Hancock County

Training and consulting on moving county law library to Columbus Lowndes Public Library facility

Presentation to Board of Supervisors’ attorney about moving county law library to the Starkville Public Library facility

Presentation to municipal attorneys at MML mid-winter meeting, Jackson, MS

New Website

As part of the transition into the 2014 calendar year, the Institute has developed a new, and modernized, website to adhere to the Mississippi State University web principles. The website will undergo updates, changes, and tweaks over the next four months, and will be reported in the following year’s annual report. The Institute is excited about this wonderful opportunity.

The website will contain information on all staff, fellows, students, as well as a publications database, a list of helpful links, and additional information for municipalities, counties, and the State. The website also contains a weekly, occasionally bi-weekly, poll for the general public to submit their feedback. In addition, the Institute will remain active in its updating procedures by working with the PSPA department and the College of Arts and Sciences to ensure news, information, publications, and links are current and working.

The new Stennis Institute website, available 2014.