

Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research

Annual Report: September, 2014 – August, 2015

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**COLLEGE OF CRIMINOLOGY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Research Brought to Life.

Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
GOAL 1 - SUSTAINABILITY:.....	3
TABLE 1: CONTRACTS PURSUED	3
TABLE 2: CONTRACTS AWARDED.....	3
GOAL 2 – PURSUING FUNDED RESEARCH:	3
TABLE 3: SOLICITED PROPOSALS SUBMITTED	4
TABLE 4: SOLICITED PROPOSALS AWARDED	4
TABLE 5: ALL FUNDED RESEARCH	5
GOAL 3 – CONDUCTING RESEARCH:	5
TABLE 6: PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED	6
TABLE 7: PUBLICATIONS ACCEPTED	6
TABLE 8: PRESENTATIONS AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES	7
DATA SETS CREATED.....	8
GOAL 4 – COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS:	9
GOAL 5 -- IMPACTING CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY AND PRACTICE:	9
TABLE 9: PRESENTATIONS TO POLICYMAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS.....	10
TABLE 10: RESEARCH REPORTS	10
GOAL 6 – CREATING A UNIQUE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:.....	10
TABLE 11: GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS	11
TABLE 12: DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDIES.....	11
GOAL 7 – MARKETING AND OUTREACH:	11
CONCLUSION:	12

Introduction

The Florida State University (FSU) Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research (Center) is a branch of the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice (College) that focuses on expanding the influence of scholarship on public policy and promoting evidence-based criminal justice policymaking and practice at the local, state, and national levels. The Center is designated as a Type II Research Center by the FSU Office of the Provost and secures and expends both public and private research funds. The Center's primary purpose is to support data collection and crime and justice policy research initiatives that promote social justice.

Specifically, the Center works to achieve the following objectives:

- Obtain and maintain external funding to support policy-relevant research
- Conduct rigorous, policy-relevant empirical research
- Disseminate and promote evidence-based policy and practice at the national, state, and local levels
- Contribute to the field of criminology with theoretically relevant and methodologically sound research
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in research and policy related activities

This annual report presents descriptive statistics and summary information relating to each of the Center's strategic plan goals. Under Goal 1: Sustainability, information about the development and awarding of long-term contracts is reported. Pursuing Funded Research: Goal 2, describes solicited proposals submitted by the Center and those that were successfully awarded. Under Goal 3: Conducting Research, a review of the publications submitted and accepted and the presentations given at academic conferences is provided. Also discussed is an important data set that was created from a funded project. Goal 4: Collaborative Partnerships, describes the current and developing partnerships with the Center. Under Goal 5: Impacting

Criminal Justice Policy and Practice, research reports and presentations to practitioner audiences are listed. Under Goal 6: Learning Environment, the report describes how the Center has worked to create a unique learning experience for both undergraduate and graduate students. Finally, under Goal 7: Marketing and Outreach, the report examines the Center’s initiatives to showcase the Center through traditional and social media sources.

Goal 1 - Sustainability: *Establish base or reoccurring funding to support the overall sustainability and general budget needs of the Center.*

Tables 1 and 2 provide information on contracts pursued and awarded respectively. In 2014-2015, the Center was involved in several initiatives to establish long-term contracts including five proposals totaling more than \$2 million. One contract with Merrill Lynch was successfully awarded and the other two opportunities with private industry are now in negotiations.

Table 1: Contracts Pursued		
Funding Agency Name	Funding Agency Type	Amount
Citigroup Cybersecurity Program	Private Industry	Negotiating
G4S Bachelors and Masters Security Management Program	Private Industry	Negotiating
Homeland Security Degree Program Startup	State	\$485,000
Department of Corrections Legislative IT Evaluation	State	\$1,500,000
Merrill Lynch Villages Elder Financial Exploitation	Private Industry	\$118,000
Total		\$2,103,000++

Table 2: Contracts Awarded						
Proposal	Funding Source	Source Type	PI(s)	Start	End	Amount
Elder Financial Exploitation	Merrill Lynch	Private	Blomberg	1/1/2015	6/30/2016	\$118,000
Total						\$118,000

Goal 2 – Pursuing Funded Research: *Pursue project specific funding that encourages faculty participation in funded research and fulfills the mission of the Center to conduct policy relevant research.*

Tables 3 and 4 provide information on solicited proposals submitted and awarded respectively. As shown in Table 3, during the 2014-2015 academic year seven proposals, totaling

more than \$836,938 were submitted. Six of the proposals were submitted to federal agencies, including four to NIJ. Two of the six were submitted by new faculty member, Jillian Turanovic. Table 4 shows that three solicited proposals were successfully awarded to the Center in 2014-2015. All three were awarded through federal agencies, two from NIJ and one from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The awards totaled more than \$1 million and include two projects that operate through 2017.

Proposal	Funding Source	Source Type	PI(s)	Amount
Research and Evaluation on the Investigation and Adjudication of Campus Sexual Assault	NIJ	Federal	Oehme Flannigan	\$658,738
Assessing the Effects of Public Transit and Community Accessibility on Reentry Outcomes	University of South Florida/NIJ	Federal	Bales Mears	\$38,908
Understanding Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Relationship between Prison Visitation and Recidivism	Arizona State University/NSF	Federal	Turanovic	\$35,000
Individual, Institutional, and Community Sources of School Violence: A Meta-Analysis	University of Cincinnati/NIJ	Federal	Turanovic	\$54,292
Comprehensive Review of the Scientific Literature Relating to Correctional and Juvenile Justice Policies and Practices	NIJ	Federal	Bales	\$50,000
Courts and Corrections Planning Consultant	Lee County	State	Blomberg Bales	Negotiable
Royal Barbados Police Force Study	U.S. Department of State	Federal	Blomberg Bales	Negotiable
Total				\$836,938++

Proposal Name	Funding Source	Source Type	PI(s)	Start	End	Amount
Understanding Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Relationship between Prison Visitation and Recidivism	Arizona State University/NSF	Federal	Turanovic	1/1/2016	6/30/2017	\$35,000
Translational Criminology	NIJ	Federal	Pesta	1/1/2015	12/31/2015	\$58,545
Developing Knowledge About What Makes Schools Safe	NIJ through Palm Beach County Schools	Federal	Mears Siennick	1/1/2015	12/31/2017	\$981,481
Total						\$1,075,026

Table 5 provides information on all of the Center’s projects that received funding during the 2014-2015 academic year. There were seven funded projects with operating budgets totaling \$2,410,623. Five projects from NIJ, one from the National Institute of Health (NIH), and a privately funded project from Merrill Lynch.

Table 5: All Funded Research						
Proposal Name	Funding Source	Source Type	PI(s)	Start	End	Amount
Evaluation of the Palm Beach County Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative	NIJ	Federal	Blomberg	1/1/2013	9/30/2014	\$138,286
Developing Knowledge About What Makes Schools Safe	NIJ through Palm Beach County Schools	Federal	Mears Siennick	1/1/2015	12/31/2017	\$981,481
Friendship Networks and Substance Use in Adolescence	NIH	Federal	Siennick	1/1/2013	12/31/2018	\$303,311
Elder Financial Exploitation	Merrill Lynch	Private	Blomberg	1/1/2015	6/30/2016	\$118,000
The FSU-DOC Researcher Practitioner Partnership	NIJ	Federal	Bales	05/05/2012	05/31/2015	\$316,000
FSU and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	NIJ	Federal	Bales	1/1/2014	12/31/2017	\$495,000
Translational Criminology	NIJ	Federal	Pesta	1/1/2015	12/31/2015	\$58,545
Total						\$2,410,623

Goal 3 – Conducting Research: *Conduct research that is germane to the interests of the College and Center faculty and fulfills the mission of the Center to conduct policy relevant research.*

Tables 6 and 7 provide information on the number of publications that were generated from Center research projects and submitted and accepted for publication. In 2014-2015 four research publications were generated for funded research projects and submitted to peer-review journals, book chapters and academic encyclopedias. Additionally, four publications were accepted and

published. Some submitted publications are awaiting acceptance and, if published, will be captured in next year's annual report. This year's publications included contributions by five different faculty members, six graduate students, and two project partners in more than five different publications.

Table 6: Publications Submitted						
Publication Title	Project	Publication	Authors	Faculty	Student	Partner
Advancing Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy	Center	Book: Routledge	<u>Editors:</u> Blomberg Mestre Brancale Beaver Bales	3	1	0
Delinquency and Education	JJEEP	Encyclopedia of Juvenile Justice	Blomberg Pesta	2	0	0
Juvenile Justice Education	JJEEP	Advancing Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy	Pesta Blomberg	2	0	0
Elder Financial Exploitation	Merrill Lynch	The Journal of Qualitative Inquiry	Blomberg Mestre Brancale Pesta Charness	3	1	1
New Students' Peer Integration and Exposure to Deviant Peers: Spurious Effects of School Moves?	Friendship Networks and Substance Use in Adolescence	Youth & Society	Siennick Widdowson Ragan	1	1	1
Table 7: Publications Accepted						
Advancing Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy	Center	Book: Routledge	<u>Editors:</u> Blomberg Mestre Brancale Beaver Bales	3	1	0
Delinquency and Education	JJEEP	Encyclopedia of Juvenile Justice	Blomberg Pesta	2	0	0
Internalizing Symptoms, Peer Substance Use, and Substance Use Initiation	Friendship Networks and Substance Use in Adolescence	Journal of Research on Adolescence.	Siennick Widdowson Woessner Feinberg	1	2	1
Juvenile Justice Education	JJEEP	Advancing Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy	Pesta Blomberg	2	0	0

Table 8 provides information on presentations at academic conferences. In 2014-2015 Center projects were represented by fourteen presentations at three different conferences. Most presentations were conducted at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and the American Criminal Justice Society (ACJS). Presentations represent projects and work done by three faculty members, nine graduate students and five project partners.

Table 8: Presentations at Academic Conferences						
Presentation Title	Project	Conference	Authors	Faculty	Student	Partner
Penal Reform	Polk Jail	ASC	Pesta	1	0	0
Assessing the Impact of Post-Release Programs on Employment and Recidivism: A Matched Survival Analysis Approach.	FSU & DOC Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ASC	Clark Ensley Coltharp Bales Scaggs	1	2	2
Assessing the Impact of Work-Release Programs on Employment, Recidivism, and Re-Imprisonment.	FSU & DOC Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ASC	Scaggs Ensley Bales Coltharp, Clark	1	2	2
The Effect of a Workplace and Community Transition Training Program on Employment and Recidivism Outcomes	FSU & DOC Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ASC	Hill Bales Scaggs	1	2	0
Assessing the Effectiveness of Work-Release on Recidivism and Employment.	FSU & DOC Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ACJS	Singer Clark Bales Ensley Coltharp Scaggs	1	3	2
Identifying and Correcting Selection Bias in the Consent Process of Randomized Criminal Justice Study.	FSU & DOC Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ACJS	Clark Bales Ensley Coltharp Scaggs	1	2	2
An Evaluation of Florida's Juvenile Civil Citation Program	FSU & DJJ Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ASC	Nadel Bales Pesta	2	1	0
Assessing the School to Prison Pipeline	FSU & DJJ Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ASC	Mestre- Brancale Pesta Bales	2	1	0
An Evaluation of Florida's Juvenile Civil Citation	FSU & DJJ Researcher-	ACJS	Nadel Bales	2	1	0

Program	Practitioner Partnership		Pesta			
Assessing the School to Prison Pipeline	FSU & DJJ Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ACJS	Mestre-Brancale Pesta Greenwald Woodard	1	3	0
Building Effective Partnerships between Researchers and Practitioners	Translational Criminology	ACJS	Pesta Bales	2	0	0
Early Adolescent Depression, Peer Substance Use, and the Onset of Substance Use	Friendship Networks Substance Use in Adolescence	Society for Research on Child Development	Siennick Widdowson Feinberg	1	1	1
Developmental Change in Friendship and Delinquency across Adolescence.	Friendship Networks Substance Use in Adolescence	ASC	Osgood Siennick Ragan	1	0	2
The Structure and Behavioral Content of New Students' Friendship Networks.	Friendship Networks Substance Use in Adolescence	ASC	Widdowson Siennick Ragan	1	1	1

Data Sets Created

During the 2014-2015 academic year the FSU-DOC Researcher Practitioner Partnership began preparing its final reports and data submission for NIJ. The project resulted in the creation of a major corrections and recidivism dataset. The Florida Based Prison Recidivism Dataset contains a host of measures that can be used for prison re-entry and recidivism analysis. The dataset includes over 250,000 records of all inmates released from Florida's prisons between 2004 and 2011. The dataset was created to conduct three major research projects as part of a NIJ Researcher-Practitioner partnership between the DOC and the Center. The dataset contains over 900 variables relating to the released inmates. Inmates' prior criminal history, experiences with the criminal justice system, prison misconduct, involvement in programs, and their arrests, convictions, and re-imprisonments post-release. Additionally, along with the standard

demographic characteristics of the prison releases such as gender, age, and race, the dataset contains information about their educational achievement, substance abuse issues, and mental health condition. It is anticipated that this dataset will result in numerous research presentations, peer-reviewed publications, and student dissertations for years to come.

Goal 4 – Collaborative Partnerships: *Establish and maintain collaborative partnerships with government agencies, professional organizations, and private industry.*

The Center’s collaborative partnerships with the Florida DOC and DJJ grew stronger as evidenced by more interaction between FSU and agency personnel including numerous joint publications and presentations. In addition, new partnerships were formed with Merrill Lynch, the Attorney General’s Office and the state’s Seniors vs. Crime Organization. Throughout its history, the Center has had a strong relationship with Palm Beach County, which continues through a new NIJ funded project that involves Palm Beach County Schools, the Palm Beach County Juvenile Court, and local DJJ probation and diversion offices. Partnerships are also being pursued with G4S, Citi Group, and the Homeland Security Education community.

Goal 5 -- Impacting Criminal Justice Policy and Practice: *Facilitate the use of research to impact criminal justice policy and practice at the federal, state, and local level.*

Tables 9 and 10 provide information regarding presentations to policymakers and practitioners and completed research reports respectively. During the 2014-2015 academic year Center staff presented three times to practitioner groups. This included a presentation on Elder Exploitation to members of Merrill Lynch’s Wealth Management Division and FSU administration including the University President, Provost, and Dean of Faculty. Importantly, this presentation was led primarily by graduate research assistants working in the Center. The Center also presented a contingent of Barbados law enforcement and U.S. State Department

officials based upon the Center’s Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative (DVHPI).

Finally, Center faculty provided a keynote presentation to the Florida Police Chiefs Association.

Table 9: Presentations to Policymakers and Practitioners						
Title	Conference	Project	Authors	Faculty	Student	Partner
Elder Financial Exploitation in The Villages, Florida	Eppes Hall	Elder Financial Exploitation Pilot Project		2	3	0
Building Effective Partnerships between Researchers and Practitioners	Florida Police Chiefs Association	Center	Blomberg Pesta Bales	3	0	0
Domestic Violence Program Evaluation	U.S. Embassy Officials and Barbados and Palm Beach County law enforcement agencies	DVHPI	Blomberg Pesta Bales	3	0	0

Table 10: Research Reports						
Title	Project	Publication	Authors	Faculty	Student	Partner
Assessing the Results of Prison-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Programs on Recidivism and Employment Outcomes among Inmates in the Florida Department of Corrections	FSU & DOC Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	NIJ Final Report	Scaggs Bales Ensley Coltharp Clark	1	2	2
Assessing the Effectiveness of Post-Release Supervision on Recidivism and Employment among State Inmates	FSU & DOC Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	NIJ Final Report	Clark Bales Ensley Scaggs Coltharp	1	2	2
Assessing the Effectiveness of Work Release Programs on Recidivism and Employment among State Inmates	FSU & DOC Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	NIJ Final Report	Bales Ensley Scaggs Coltharp Clark	1	2	2
The Implementation of Randomized Experimental Study of Prison-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Programs in the Florida Department of Corrections	FSU & DOC Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	NIJ Final Report	Bales Ensley Scaggs Clark	1	2	1

Goal 6 – Creating a Unique Learning Environment: *Provide unique learning opportunities for post-graduate, graduate, and undergraduate students.*

Tables 11 and 12 provide information on graduate research assistants funded through the Center and directed individual studies (DIS) offered through the Center. During the 2014-2015 academic year, the Center was able to fund 11 graduate research assistants for a total of 27 semesters.

As presented in Table 12, both graduate and undergraduate students are provided an opportunity to become involved in Center research activities through DIS with PIs and Center faculty. In 2014-2015 two graduate students and five undergraduate students worked with faculty members on topics such as banking fraud, campus sexual assault, and veteran community reentry. In addition to the information provided in Tables 11 and 12, the Center hosted one Entrepreneur in Residence, Raymond Vickers, to lead the Institute for the Prevention of Financial Fraud.

Table 11: Graduate Research Assistants		
Project	Students	Semesters
FSU and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	2	6
Research Partner Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	2	4
Translational Criminology	1	2
Elder Financial Exploitation	2	6
Palm Beach School Based Interventions	2	4
Friendship Networks and Substance Use in Adolescence	1	2
General Center Support	1	3
Total	11	27

Table 12: Directed Independent Studies			
Student	Faculty	DIS Title	Semester
Tracey Woodard	Bales	Gang Membership and Recidivism	Summer
Brae Campion	Bales	Juveniles in Adult Prisons	Summer
Erica Doig	Blomberg, Pesta	Veterans and Community Reentry	Spring
Mackenzie Ligas	Blomberg, Pesta	Campus Sexual Assault	Spring
Taylor Pope	Blomberg, Pesta	History of Dozier School for Boys	Summer
Ethan Clarke	Blomberg, Mestre Brancale	Banking Fraud	Summer
Nicole Childers	Blomberg, Mestre Brancale, Campion	Elder Financial Fraud	Summer
Total			7

Goal 7 – Marketing and Outreach: *Market the Center’s services and research through traditional and social media sources.*

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the website for The Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research was updated with project information about all previous and current awards. Information includes project descriptions, funding agency, PI(s), assigned graduate research assistant(s), funding amount, and major research reports and presentations.

Conclusion:

In sum, the Center continues to seek external funding for the purpose of conducting policy relevant research. The funding, and its related research projects, help support faculty research initiatives and provide students with opportunities for research experience, professional presentations, and publications.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the Center pursued and achieved several strategic initiatives. In 2014-2015, the Center responded to research solicitations and contracts that totaled over \$3 million in funding, was awarded \$1,075,144 in new research funding, and funded projects for the year totaled \$2,410,623.

The Center's collaborative partnerships with the Florida Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice grew stronger as evidenced by more joint papers and presentations by FSU and agency personnel. In addition, new partnerships were formed with Merrill Lynch, the Attorney General's Office and the state's Seniors vs. Crime Organization. Partnerships were also pursued with G4S, Citi Group, and the Homeland Security Education community.

In addition, academic research generated from Center projects included "Advancing Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy" a forthcoming book edited by Center faculty and graduate students, four submitted peer-reviewed publications, three accepted publications, and

fourteen presentations at academic conferences. In addition, Center staff produced four research reports for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and presented at two practitioner-based conferences.

Finally, the Center provided major opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students to gain research experience, earn assistantships, and present and publish research findings. During the 2014-2015 academic year the Center funded eleven different graduate students for a total of twenty-seven semesters. The Center also offered directed individual studies to two graduate students and five undergraduate students.