

Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research

Annual Report: September, 2013 – August, 2014

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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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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 is focused upon expanding the influence of scholarship on public policy through the promotion of evidence-based criminal justice policies and practices 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 undergraduate and graduate 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. Goal 2: Pursuing Funded Research, 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. 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 for reoccurring funding to support the overall sustainability and general budget needs of the Center.*

Table 1 provides information on contracts pursued. In 2013-2014, the Center was involved in several initiatives to establish long-term contracts including two proposals totaling more than \$500,000. One contract with Merrill Lynch was pursued and an opportunity with G4S is being negotiated.

Table 1: Contracts Pursued		
Funding Agency Name	Funding Agency Type	Amount
FSU – Merrill Lynch Research and Practice Partnership	Private Industry	\$522,076
G4S Bachelors and Masters Security Management Program	Private Industry	Negotiating
Total		\$522,076++

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 2013-2014 academic year ten proposals, totaling more than \$3.7 million were submitted. Nine of the proposals were submitted to federal agencies, including six to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Table 4 shows that three solicited proposals were successfully awarded to the Center in 2013-2014. Two of the three were awarded through state agencies, the Polk County School Board and Florida Department of

Corrections. The other was awarded through NIJ. The awards totaled more than \$500,000 and include a project that operates through 2017.

Table 3: Solicited Proposals Submitted				
Proposal	Funding Source	Source Type	PI(s)	Amount
Partnership for Academic and Socio-behavioral Improvements in Juvenile Justice Settings	Institute for Education Sciences (IES)	Federal	Reed Pesta	\$398,000
An Evaluation of the Educational Services in the Polk County Jail	Polk County School Board	State	Pesta	\$10,000
FSU Campus Victimization Technical Assistance Program	Office of Violence Against Women	Federal	Blomberg Flannigan	\$592,900
Transforming University Libraries in an Age of Educational Reform	Institute of Museum and Library Services	Federal	Kinsley Maier-Katkin	\$484,467
Developing Knowledge About What Makes Schools Safe	NIJ through the School District of Palm Beach County	Federal	Mears Siennick	\$981,481
Elder Financial Exploitation, Life Course and Turning Points	NIJ	Federal	Blomberg	\$433,233
Translational Criminology: Research and Public Policy	NIJ	Federal	Pesta	\$58,545
Public Assistance Fraud: The Development of a Detection and Response Model in Florida	NIJ	Federal	Blomberg	\$395,000
Modeling the Behavioral Impact of the Use of Segregation in Correctional Facilities	NIJ	Federal	Siennick	\$27,708
Effectiveness of Victim Services for Victims of Violence	NIJ	Federal	Bales	\$330,915
Total				\$3,712,249

Table 4: Solicited Proposals Awarded						
Proposal Name	Funding Source	Source Type	PI(s)	Start	End	Amount
An Evaluation of the Educational Services in the Polk County Jail	Polk County School Board	State	Pesta	11/1/2013	7/31/2014	\$10,000
Re-Validation of the Florida Department of Corrections' Correctional Operations Trend Analysis System (COTAS)	Department of Corrections	State	Bales	7/1/2013	9/30/2013	\$57,957
FSU and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Researcher-	NIJ	Federal	Bales	1/1/2014	12/31/2017	\$495,000

Practitioner Partnership						
Total						\$562,957

Table 5 provides information on all of the Center’s active projects during the 2013-2014 academic year. There were five funded projects with operating budgets totaling over \$1 million. Three projects from NIJ, one from Palm Beach County, one from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. The Center also completed a pro-bono project for the Florida Parole Commission.

Table 5: All Funded Research						
Proposal Name	Funding Source	Source Type	PI(s)	Start	End	Amount
Research Partner Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	NIJ	Federal	Bales	5/5/2012	5/31/2015	\$316,000
FSU and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	NIJ	Federal	Bales	1/1/2014	12/31/2017	\$495,000
Evaluation of the Palm Beach County Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative	NIJ	Federal	Blomberg	1/1/2013	9/30/2014	\$138,286
Revising the Florida Objective Parole Guidelines to Improve Prison Release Decisions	Florida Parole Commission	State	Blomberg	1/1/2013	11/30/2013	Pro-bono
Evaluation of the Palm Beach County Family Drug Court	Palm Beach County	State	Blomberg	4/1/2013	8/30/2013	\$15,000
Residential Positive Achievement Change Tool (R-PACT) Validation	Florida Department of Juvenile Justice	State	Hay	2012	2013	\$82,659
Total						\$1,046,945

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 2013-2014, five research publications were generated for funded research projects and submitted to peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and academic encyclopedias. Additionally, two publications were accepted and published. This year's publications included contributions by five different faculty members, six graduate students, and four project partners.

Table 6: Publications Submitted						
Publication Title	Project	Publication	Authors	Faculty	Student	Partner
Delinquency and Education	JJEEP	The Encyclopedia of Juvenile Justice	Blomberg Pesta	2	0	0
Elder Financial Exploitation	Merrill Lynch	The Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect	Blomberg Charness Pesta	3	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
Table 7: Publications Accepted						
A Model and Test of Policymaking as Process	JJEEP	Journal of Politics and Law	Oakley Pesta Ciftci Blomberg	2	1	1
Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships: A Case of the Development of a Long-Term Collaborative Project Between a University and Criminal Justice Agency	Research Partnership Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	Criminal Justice Studies	Bales Scaggs Clark Ensley Coltharp	1	2	2

Table 8 provides information on presentations at academic conferences. In 2013-2014 Center projects were represented by twelve presentations at two different conferences. The presentations were given at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology (ASC)

and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). Presentations represent projects and work done by two faculty members, four graduate students, and three project partners.

Table 8: Presentations at Academic Conferences						
Presentation Title	Project	Conference	Authors	Faculty	Student	Partner
“Assessing the Impact of Post-Prison Release Community Supervision on Employment, Recidivism, and Re-Imprisonment.”	Research Partnership Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	ASC	Clark Ensley Bales Coltharp Scaggs	1	2	2
“Findings from a Randomized Assessment of Prison-Based Substance Abuse Treatment on Re-entry Outcomes.”	Research Partnership Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	ASC	Ensley Coltharp Scaggs Bales Clark	1	2	2
“A Comparison of Estimates of the Effect of Prison-Based Substance Abuse Treatment on Reoffending Using Random Assignment, Multivariate Modeling, and Exact and Approximate Matching Methods.”	Research Partnership Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	ASC	Bales Ensley Coltharp Scaggs Clark	1	2	2
“The Impact of Types of Community Supervision on Recidivism.”	Research Partnership Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	ASC	Clark Scaggs Bales Burkes	1	3	0
Punishment Alternatives: Civil Citations and Juvenile Delinquency in Florida” A Comparison of Methodologies in Criminal Justice”,	FSU and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ASC	Nadel Bales Pesta Greenwald	2	1	1
“Assessing the Impact of Post-Prison Supervision: Preliminary Findings Regarding the Role that Post-Prison Supervision Plays.”	Research Partnership Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	ACJS	Clark Bales Ensley Coltharp Scaggs	1	2	2
“A Researcher-Practitioner Partnership Between The Florida Department of Corrections and Florida State University’s College of Criminology and Criminal Justice.”	Research Partnership Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	ACJS	Ensley Bales Coltharp Clark Scaggs	1	2	2

“A Comparison of Estimates of the Effect of Prison-Based Substance Abuse Treatment on Reoffending Using Random Assignment, Multivariate Modeling, and Exact and Approximate Matching Methods.”	Research Partnership Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	ASC	Bales Ensley Coltharp Scaggs Clark	1	2	2
“The Impact of Types of Community Supervision on Recidivism.”	Research Partnership Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	ASC	Clark Scaggs Bales Burkes	1	3	0
Punishment Alternatives: Civil Citations and Juvenile Delinquency in Florida” A Comparison of Methodologies in Criminal Justice”,	FSU and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Researcher-Practitioner Partnership	ASC	Nadel Bales Pesta Greenwald	2	1	1

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 Department of Corrections (DOC) grew stronger as evidenced by joint publication of research reports between FSU and agency personnel. Throughout its history, the Center has had a strong relationship with Palm Beach County, which continues through an evaluation of Palm Beach County’s Family Drug Court and the Palm Beach County Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative. In addition, a new partnership was formed with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). This partnership created a new project to (1) assess the effectiveness of civil citations as an alternative to arrest among arrested youth, (2) assess the effect of visitation on recidivism of juvenile delinquents in residential facilities, and (3) assess the impact of individual, school, and county level factors on school-based referrals to the department of juvenile justice.

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 2013-2014 academic year Center staff presented twice to practitioner groups. This includes presentations on the role of education in changing in the trajectory of troubled lives and associated strategies for the advancement of correctional education. These presentations were given at the Arizona Correctional Educator’s Professional Development Symposium. Numerous research reports were also created for projects such as the Palm Beach family drug court evaluation, Palm Beach Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative, and a research partnership between FSU and Florida Department of Corrections.

Table 9: Presentations to Policymakers and Practitioners						
Title	Conference	Project	Authors	Faculty	Student	Partner
Education and Change in the Trajectory of Troubled Lives: Today’s Challenges and Opportunities	Arizona Correctional Educators 11 th Annual Professional Development Symposium	JJEEP	Blomberg	1	0	0
Today’s Strategies for the Continuous Advancement of Correctional Education: Lessons from Florida	Arizona Correctional Educators 11 th Annual Professional Development Symposium	JJEEP	Pesta Blomberg	2	0	0

Table 10: Research Reports						
Title	Project	Submitted to	Authors	Faculty	Student	Partner
An Evaluation of the Palm Beach County Drug Court	Palm Beach Family Drug Court Evaluation	Palm Beach County Court	Pesta Bales Blomberg Mestre	3	1	0
Recommended Considerations for the Florida Parole Commission	Revising the Florida Objective Parole Guidelines to Improve Prison Release	Florida Parole Commission	Blomberg Bales Pesta Sweeney	3	1	0

	Decisions					
Palm Beach Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative Baseline Data Code Book	Palm Beach Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative	Office of Violence Against Women	Pesta Bales Blomberg	3	0	0
Palm Beach Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative Evaluability Assessment	Palm Beach Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative	Office of Violence Against Women	Pesta Bales Blomberg	3	0	0
A Randomized Experimental Study of Prison-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Programs in the Florida Department of Corrections	Research Partner Project with the Florida Department of Corrections	Florida Department of Corrections	Bales Ensley Coltharp Scaggs Clark Blomberg	2	2	2
Residential Positive Achievement Change Tool (R-PACT) Validation Study	Florida Department of Juvenile Justice	Department of Juvenile Justice	Hay Widdowson	1	1	0

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 7 graduate research assistants for a total of 17 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 one graduate student and six undergraduate students worked with faculty members on topics such as civil citation, sex offender laws, and gang membership. In addition to

the information provided in Tables 11 and 12, the Center hosted one Entrepreneur in Residence, Raymond Vickers, to implement 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	6
Friendship Networks and Substance Use in Adolescence	1	2
General Center Support	2	3
Total	7	17

Table 12: Directed Independent Studies			
Student	Faculty	DIS Title	Semester
William Casey	Bales, Pesta	Juvenile Civil Citation	Summer
Desiree Puetros	Bales	The Impact of Sex Offender Laws	Summer
Jacob Vance	Bales, Pesta	Research Methods	Spring
Jacob Vance	Bales	Correctional Stress Research	Fall
Addison Preseau	Bales	Gang Membership and Post-Prison Recidivism	Fall
Daniel Mattera	Bales	Predictors of Re-entry Among Female Prisoners	Fall
Sergio Garduno	Bales	Police Research	Fall
Total			7

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

During the 2013-2014 academic year, the Center worked with public relations to create a new website for The Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research. The website 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 amounts, and major research reports and presentations.

Conclusion:

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 2013-2014 academic year, the Center pursued and achieved several strategic initiatives. In 2013-2014, the Center responded to research solicitations and contracts that totaled over \$3 million in funding, was awarded \$562,957 in new research funding, and funded projects for the year totaled \$1,046,945.

The Center's collaborative partnerships with the Florida Department of Corrections grew stronger as evidenced by more joint papers and reports by FSU and agency personnel. A partnership with Palm Beach County also grew with two new projects about drug courts and domestic violence. In addition, a new partnership was formed with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Academic research generated from Center projects included four submitted peer-reviewed publications, two accepted publications, and seven presentations at academic conferences. In addition, Center staff produced six research reports for various agencies and partners, and presented at a practitioner-based conference.

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 2013-2014 academic year the Center funded seven different graduate students for a total of seventeen semesters. The Center also offered directed individual studies to one graduate student and six undergraduate students.