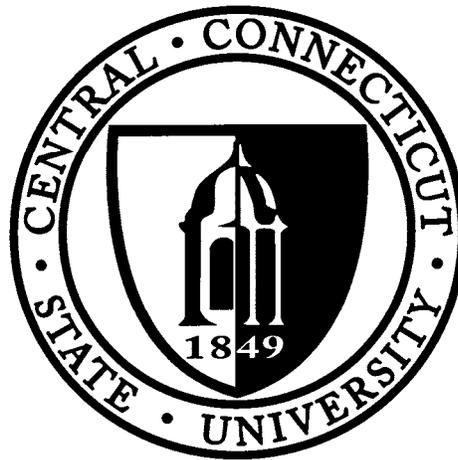


Fifth Year Report

2002 - 2007

Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy
Central Connecticut State University



Prepared by Maria R. Simao, J.D. and John Radacsi
Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy
Revised by Steven Kliger, J.D.
Center for Public Policy and Social Research
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**INSTITUTE FOR MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL POLICY (IMRP)
AT CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY**

**FIFTH YEAR REPORT
2002 – 2007**

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Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy

Fifth Year Report: 2002 - 2007

I. Overview and Request for Continuance

Background

The Connecticut State University System Board of Trustees established by Resolution # 02-25 on April 4, 2002, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP or Institute) at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). The IMRP assumed the functions of the Connecticut Institute for Municipal Studies (CIMS), a legislatively established institute. Legislative and executive leaders wished to pursue CIMS' basic mission but at an academic setting and transferred CIMS' remaining assets and provided initial operational funding to the newly created Institute at CCSU.

Resolution # 02-25 granted the President of CCSU the authority to appoint an advisory board for the Institute. Advisory board members include leaders of the General Assembly and representatives from the fields of education, labor, regional organizations and municipal officials (see Appendix).

As from its inception, the IMRP continues to be funded through a yearly legislative appropriation of \$125,000.00.

Mission and Goals

The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy uses the resources of CCSU students, staff and faculty to develop, shape and improve public policy on issues of municipal and regional concern through public education, research, planning, and collaborations between the University, government and private organizations. The goals of the Institute are to:

- Provide a forum for study, research and discussion of regional problems of mutual interest to state and local governments, grassroots and community organizations, and the business sector.
- Ensure through cooperation and the pooling of common resources maximum efficiency and economy in governmental operations.
- Identify and comprehensively plan for the solution of regional problems that require federal, state and inter-municipal cooperation.
- Facilitate adoption of common policies and agreements among the governmental units for projects or other interrelated developmental actions that resolve problems common throughout the state.
- Attain the greatest degree of intergovernmental cooperation possible in order to prepare for future growth and development of the region.

Request for Continuance

By submission of this report, the IMRP formally requests continuance from the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System.

II. IMRP Organization

The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy reports organizationally to the Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy and Social Research (CPPSR or Center), which is designated a Connecticut Higher Education Center of Excellence by the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees. The Executive Director of CPPSR reports to the President of Central Connecticut State University.

The IMRP was directed by a full-time administrative faculty member, Maria R. Simao, J.D., from February 2003 to May 2007. CPPSR is currently seeking a new director. In addition, the IMRP has employed university assistants, student research assistants and currently coordinates the assignments of John Radacsi, formerly a director within the Policy Development and Planning Division of the state Office of Policy and Management with 35 years of broad-based experience in the areas of transportation, the environment and land use planning.

The IMRP leverages benefits from the collaborative nature of its mission. Partnerships with advisory board members, state legislative and executive branch leaders, regional and statewide organizations and others have provided opportunities to share expertise and resources to more effectively develop and implement common policy initiatives.

At CCSU, a close working partnership between the Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics and the Institute has enhanced the work of the IMRP. The Chair's Distinguished Professorship in Public Policy (recently held by former Secretary of the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Anthony V. Milano) has served to link the Institute's activities with students and faculty at CCSU.

III. Notable Accomplishments 2002 – 2007

A) State and Local Tax Reform

The IMRP has been a key player in the development of educational forums and symposia that have laid the foundation for local, regional and state public policy initiatives. Through applied research, engagement of national, state and local experts, focused discourse, and media exposure, the Institute has affected state and local tax reform:

1) The IMRP chaired and coordinated a six month planning effort that resulted in the creation of a major symposium on tax reform, "Shaping State and Local Tax Reform," held on October 1, 2004, at CCSU. Members of the planning group included representatives of regional, municipal, advocacy groups, unions, U.S. Congresspersons, the CCSU Center for Public Policy and Social Research/Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair and Yale University, among others. The IMRP invited guest speakers and panelists, structured the panel discussions, briefed guest speakers and moderators, made travel arrangements for out-of-state guests and organized the media coverage, symposium luncheon and other details involved in implementing the six-hour symposium.

Featured speaker Dr. LeAnn Luna of University of North Carolina, Wilmington, created an IMRP commissioned presentation that focused on the strengths and weaknesses of the current tax system in Connecticut in comparison to other states. Douglas Roberts, the architect of the Michigan reforms that eliminated the property tax as a source for funding of public education, offered his unique perspective on tax

reform. In addition, four groups of panelists provided legislative, business and community perspectives on Connecticut state and local tax systems and provided recommendations for change. The symposium attracted 175 guests, including 14 legislators, 30 chief elected municipal officials, representatives from the business community, members of academia and a host of other stakeholders.

2) Drawing upon IMRP's expertise on taxation, the New Britain/Berlin League of Women Voters asked the IMRP to co-sponsor a panel discussion for their regional forum entitled "Property Tax and Education" held in New Britain, Connecticut, on April 25, 2005. The IMRP solicited panelists, developed the program format and served as moderator for the forum. Panelists included local political leaders, CCSU faculty and educational finance advocates. The forum was attended by 50 persons representing city aldermen, legislators and citizens from the Greater New Britain area.

3) The IMRP conducted research and provided extensive background information to the Legislative Program Review and Investigations (LPRI) Committee staff when they initiated a study of Connecticut's state and local tax system in March 2005, to assess the overall performance of Connecticut's system relative to other states and in relation to nationally recognized criteria. The IMRP recommended benchmark states throughout the United States that should be reviewed by staff and knowledgeable persons that the Committee should consult. This advice, along with financial support for program related expenses, resulted in an informational hearing sponsored by the LPRI Committee, the Center for Public Policy and Social Research, and the IMRP, at the Legislative Office Building, October 26, 2005. In turn, an extensive report by the LPRI Committee was presented to the Connecticut General Assembly entitled, Connecticut's Tax System, in January of 2006. In 2007, Governor Rell's budget proposed a substantial change in the state funding of public education. The Governor's proposal addressed several of the criteria (balanced, equitable, complementary) that the LPRI report used to evaluate Connecticut's tax structure. As a result of changing forecasts of state revenues and expenditures, this proposal was not enacted and further assessments of these criteria remain.

4) On January 30, 2007, the IMRP, the Citizens Network of the Capital Region and several other regional and statewide organizations sponsored the "Connecticut Summit on School Funding Reform" held on January 30, 2007, at CCSU with approximately 150 interested members of the public and stakeholders in attendance. The summit was a conversation with legislators, executive branch representatives and local and national experts on education funding and alternatives to the local property tax as a way to fund public education. CCSU President Jack Miller delivered opening remarks to the gathering.

Shortly after the summit, Governor Rell proposed the above-mentioned public education funding plan to increase the income tax rate by 10% over the next five years to raise \$2.9 billion. As noted above, this proposal was not enacted by the legislature in 2007.

B) Regionalism and Responsible Growth

While regional concerns and issues infuse all of the IMRP's activities, the IMRP developed and hosted several conferences, lectured and presented on the rewards of regional cooperation, and played significant roles in promulgating regional collaborations of a varied nature.

Symposiums and Conferences

1) On March 6, 2003, the IMRP co-sponsored and hosted the unveiling of Connecticut Metropatterns, A Regional Agenda for Community and Prosperity in Connecticut, a report commissioned by the CenterEdge Coalition (of which the IMRP was a member) on the social and fiscal effects of Connecticut's lack of regional planning for land use, education, environment and taxation. Myron Orfield, nationally renowned

author and professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, directed the study. The report has been a tool for the education of Connecticut legislators, businesses, community organizations and citizens, and has been widely acknowledged as a groundbreaking work. Excerpts from the study supported recommendations in the September 2003, Report of the State of Connecticut Blue Ribbon Commission on Property Tax Burdens and Smart Growth Incentives.

2) Building upon the success of the Coalition report, the Institute garnered bi-partisan support from the Connecticut state legislature to co-sponsor a presentation by Mr. Orfield at the Legislative Office Building on September 18, 2004. With 125 persons present, including numerous legislators and policymakers, the half-day event featured a distinguished panel of legislators and municipal officials who debated the value of “smart growth” concepts. Tom Condon, editor of the Hartford Courant’s Place commentary feature, which is devoted to the same issues, moderated the panel.

The IMRP, the Connecticut Senate staff and the American Federation of Teachers produced a videotape for the event featuring municipal leaders discussing the difficulty of governing responsibly when there were few incentives or support for regional decision-making. A videotape of the conference was distributed widely for use by organizations represented on the IMRP advisory board and CCSU professors in the Communication and Economics departments.

3) To provide CCSU students with an understanding of the IMRP’s mission and goals, the IMRP held a panel discussion entitled “Is Regionalism Still a Dirty Word?” on the CCSU campus on October 26, 2006. Over 100 students and 25 faculty and area dignitaries attended the mid-day conference. A distinguished and experienced group of panelists provided the students their perspectives on the history, status and future of regionalism and regional cooperation in Connecticut. They were: David LeVasseur, undersecretary of the Intergovernmental Policy Division of the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Susan Mendenhall, mayor of Ledyard and chair of the IMRP Advisory Board; Dr. Brian Sommers, professor of urban planning and chair of the Geography department at CCSU; Timothy Stewart, mayor of the City of New Britain, and Lyle Wray, executive director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments. Anthony Milano, the O’Neill Endowed Chair’s distinguished professor of public policy and former secretary of OPM, moderated the panel.

Presentations and Lectures on Regionalism

IMRP staff has played an important educational role in promulgating the benefits of municipal cooperation and efficiencies of regional planning through public speaking engagements and development of research and materials tailored to those audiences.

Organizations to which the IMRP has presented include:

- the Bristol Chamber of Commerce
- the Mid-State Collaborative of municipal officials and staff in Berlin, Newington, Wethersfield and Rocky Hill
- the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee
- the CenterEdge Coalition hearing for the Town of Newington on Connecticut Metropatterns, A Regional Agenda for Community and Prosperity in Connecticut
- Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency as guest speaker for their Annual Meeting
- CCSU’s U.S.-China Business Center - annual lecture on regional challenges facing Connecticut to a delegation of Chinese government officials participating in a six-month educational program
- Rotary Club of New Britain
- Lion’s Club of New Britain

- Rotary Club of Ledyard

Leveraging of IMRP Resources for Planning, Problem Solving and Collaboration

The IMRP staff expertise and its access to CCSU faculty, staff, students, faculty and other outreach centers has made the IMRP a sought-after resource for government, regional and private entities that share the mission of effective state and regional planning, cooperation and problem solving. Examples include:

- 1) In May 2003, the Senate President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House of Representatives invited then CCSU Vice President for External Affairs, Joseph H. Harper, Jr. to chair a legislative task force called Operation Ace: Task Force on Accountability, Creativity and Efficiency. The task force was created in response to the state's economic downturn and the consequent cuts in services and layoffs of more than 2,000 state employees. The IMRP provided staff support for the project, helped develop the format for its presentation and drafted significant portions of the report. The study made recommendations for in-depth study of ten areas of government that could benefit from creative review and investigation, and recommended the formation of a bi-partisan, joint executive and legislative branch commission to conduct the study.
- 2) Drawing upon CCSU's technical expertise with satellite video casting, the IMRP collaborated with the MetroHartford Alliance and Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) to host municipal officials and community development directors at CCSU to hear first-hand the affects of proposed changes to federal economic development programs as proposed by President George W. Bush in his satellite Videocast of March 18, 2005. In order to shape federal policy to better serve towns, representatives from Congressman Larson and Congresswoman Johnson's office were invited to the conference to hear and to relay the concerns of municipalities.
- 3) In 2004, IMRP staff provided the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, which includes New Britain, with critical information about CCSU's economic development impact on the region. In addition, the IMRP assisted the Agency in the development of the planning process and application for a federal economic development grant.
- 4) The IMRP hosted economic development officials and real estate brokers from the surrounding towns to a CCSU basketball game during the 2004-05 season, to promote CCSU and the region as an attractive investment area.
- 5) In October 2005, the Mid-State Collaborative, a coalition of town managers and professional staff from Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield, asked the IMRP to guide them in an exploration of ways to more closely integrate their municipally provided Dial-a-Ride services for the elderly. The IMRP examined several scenarios: 1) maintaining the status quo, 2) centralizing selected aspects of the dial-a-ride service, and 3) complete integration and consolidation under a single operator. IMRP conducted a survey of local dial-a-ride services, consulted with the regional planning agency and interviewed municipal officials responsible for dial-a-ride services. Before the project was completed, the State of Connecticut published a request for proposals to fund regional transportation needs. The IMRP's extensive work with the Collaborative members formed the foundation for their joint transportation proposal for funding.
- 6) At the request of the Connecticut Office of Policy Management chairman of the Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup, IMRP staff participated in weekly meetings with various state and federal agencies during September/October 2005, to ensure actions were being taken: 1) to adequately evaluate and communicate the increasingly dry conditions to the media and to drought response personnel at the municipal level, 2) to foresee and to prepare for state, regional, and municipal responses should conditions

worsen, and 3) to test the assessments and recommendations of the recently prepared Connecticut Drought Response Plan. Fortunately, October 2005, was the second wettest month in the one hundred year history of record keeping by the U.S. Weather Bureau and as a result further weekly Workgroup meetings became unnecessary.

7) IMRP staff has represented CCSU on the Hartford Springfield Economic Partnership (HSEP) Advisory Board since 2005. HSEP has been responsible for public acceptance and media acknowledgement of the Hartford/Springfield region as the “Knowledge Corridor,” a tribute to the region’s rich educational resources that include 32 higher education institutions and 110,000 students. The HSEP markets the Hartford/Springfield area to businesses at national tradeshows, develops and maintains a website, InternHere.com, to match students and business internships in the Hartford/Springfield area, and holds a yearly public policy forum entitled the “State of the Region.”

8) In 2006, the United Way of New Britain/Berlin established the Food Policy Council, a working group organized to develop a long-range plan to address the New Britain region’s growing demand for emergency food assistance. IMRP manager Maria Simao coordinated collaboration between the CCSU Department of Social Work and United Way to provide a student intern for the project.

9) In 2005/6 IMRP staff assisted the Connecticut Legislature’s Planning and Development and Judiciary Committees on the issue of eminent domain. To maintain familiarity with the specific legal aspects and the potential state and national responses to this issue of condemnation for economic development purposes, IMRP reviewed the decisions and dissenting opinions of both the U.S. Supreme Court and the Connecticut Supreme Court. In addition, staff attended hearings conducted jointly by the Planning and Development and Judiciary Committees and reviewed the research reports produced by the Connecticut Office of Legislative Research, made recommendations for proposed legislation in discussions with committee staff, and monitored actions contemplated by other states. In 2007, legislation was enacted that added additional safeguards to municipal condemnation procedures.

10) The IMRP was a founding member of *1,000 Friends of Connecticut*, a statewide coalition of groups interested in advancing “smart growth” issues organized in 2005. The IMRP will continue to work with the coalition directly on smart growth policy initiatives that are of interest to both organizations.

11) The IMRP manager placed several Chinese public officials, enrolled in the U.S.-China Business Center’s professional development programs, in internships in non-profit and quasi-public regional organizations such the Capitol Regional Council of Governments in 2006.

12) In 2006, the police departments in the Capitol region, including CCSU’s Police Department, requested IMRP’s assistance with a communications initiative mandated by the federal Department of Homeland Security. A CCSU faculty and a student research assistant surveyed emergency response responsibilities in 39 municipalities to identify the radio communication systems of each. The information was used to facilitate the capacity of state and federal departments and municipalities to communicate with each other in a regional emergency.

13) In 2006, the IMRP invited all Connecticut municipalities to participate in a “Walk A Mile Exchange” program that was modeled on a Minnesota program featured in Governing Magazine. Municipal officials would spend a day with their peers in another town or city, unlike their own. Agendas are pre-determined by the host and visiting officials. Stated benefits of the Minnesota program include: shared problem solving, newfound understanding of common problems, and newly recognized mutual self-interest that led to cooperation on statewide issues. To date, 30 municipalities have agreed to participate. However, despite sustained IMRP efforts, participants’ scheduling conflicts have prevented the execution of this program. If this impediment cannot be successfully addressed in the near future, the program will be terminated.

14) In 2007, the IMRP facilitated a meeting between Trinity-On-Main (TOM), a New Britain cultural arts institution and the chairperson of the Management Information Systems (MIS) department at CCSU. As a result, an MIS professor and her students will provide Trinity-On-Main a multi-use database that will assist in tracking membership for attendance, public relations and fundraising.

15) The Connecticut Legislature's Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI) is undertaking a number of studies during 2007, two studies are of importance to the Institute: "State's Long-term Planning Efforts" and "Connecticut's Regional Planning Organizations". Staff has met with PRI study managers concerning strategic planning, evaluating progress through benchmarks, intergovernmental coordination, and staff and informational resources needs as related to these studies. IMRP will continue to work with PRI and involve CCSU faculty and students as the studies progress.

C) Transportation

From 2005 to the present, the IMRP has identified, researched and promoted transportation initiatives that would broaden potential public policy options and would influence legislative discourse:

1) The "2005 Transportation Finance Summit: Building on New Foundations" was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), the Regional Plan Association of Connecticut, the Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair and the IMRP. The Summit was held at Central Connecticut State University on November 14, 2005. The purpose of this Summit was to highlight the financial burdens of providing adequate transportation, the level of federal dollars, the difficulty of continued state bonding and therefore the need to begin to address and to evaluate long-term public policies supportive of alternative financing mechanisms.

Conference participants included several national and regional experts in the area of transportation financing as well as Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management Robert Genuario, CCSU President Jack Miller, Professor Anthony Milano of the Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair at CCSU, Senate President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams, Jr., and the chairs and members of the Connecticut General Assembly Finance, Revenue and Bonding and Transportation Committees. As a member of the steering committee, the IMRP:

- Coordinated the details of the program and the selection and invitation of participants.
- Authored an extensive background research paper on innovative state financing mechanisms entitled, Resource Report Summaries for the Transportation Finance Summit.
- Coordinated and administered all duties and responsibilities associated with hosting a large conference.
- Collaborated in the drafting and editing of a whitepaper defining the issues and funding alternatives for transportation strategies in Connecticut prepared to inform summit participants and attendees, the members of the Connecticut General Assembly, and the Governor.
- Provided financial support for the summit.

The legislature addressed several recommendations of the Summit's whitepaper in the 2006 legislative session bill entitled, "The Roadmap for Connecticut's Economic Future." The subsequent Act allocated over \$2 billion for Connecticut's infrastructure, including funding for the New Britain-Hartford Busway and the New Haven, Hartford, Springfield Rail Line.

One alternative financing mechanism that received considerable discussion at the conference was the possibility of reinstating tolls. The rapidly improving technology of electronic tolling makes this an excellent method not only to raise revenues but also to reduce congestion through variable time-of-day pricing. In 2006, the State of Connecticut applied for federal funding to study tolls as a funding alternative. Connecticut's application was rejected, but Transportation Committee leadership intends to seek state funds to advance the project, which should enhance the prospects for federal funding in the future.

2) On January 29, 2007, a conference was held at CCSU on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) entitled "How Can Connecticut Communities Take Advantage of TOD?" It was sponsored by the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, The Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair at CCSU, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the Regional Plan Association (RPA). The conference explored the opportunities and difficulties of making TOD a reality in Connecticut. CCSU President Jack Miller delivered opening remarks.

Following an address by CCSU President Jack Miller, Senator Donald Williams, President Pro Tempore of the State Senate, and Representative James Amann, Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives, addressed the conference to set the stage for the TOD conversation. Conference speakers included persons with TOD experience at a scale relevant to the relatively small Connecticut municipalities. CPPSR Executive Director Steve Klinger moderated; panelists included Senator Donald DeFronzo and Representative Antonio Guerrero, co-chairmen of the General Assembly's Transportation Committee, Commissioner Gina McCarthy of the Department of Environmental Protection, Mayor Jim Malley of Collingswood, New Jersey, Rob Lane, Director of Urban Design, Regional Plan Association, John Simone, Executive Director of Connecticut Main Street, and Steve Soler, CEO of the Georgetown Land Development Company based in Connecticut.

The second part of the conference was entitled "A Conversation – The Way Forward for Transit-Oriented Development in Connecticut." Mayors, select persons and others were invited to share their first hand experiences and the issues and opportunities that face Connecticut municipalities in pursuing TOD.

The IMRP collaborated in drafting and editing of a whitepaper entitled Growing with the Flow: How Connecticut Communities Can Take Advantage of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD). The IMRP printed and distributed the whitepaper to conference participants to provide them with a working knowledge of how TOD can be used in their community. The IMRP undertook all the duties of coordinating and managing the conference at CCSU.

Following the conference the IMRP and CPPSR consulted with the staff of the Capitol Region Council of Governments and worked with Senator DeFronzo to develop a concept for a new funding program devoted to assisting towns with detailed planning and early implementation of TOD along Connecticut's transit corridors, including the Hartford/New Britain rapid transit bus route that could benefit CCSU. During the regular 2007, legislative session a bill was introduced but not enacted that would have provided funding to promote TOD planning, design and land acquisition. It is anticipated the follow-up special session may still provide some funds as part of the capital budget.

D) Education

The IMRP explored the barriers to educating Connecticut's citizens, the special challenges that the new global "knowledge" economy imposes on the educational system, and the opportunities for CCSU to engage in a regional educational initiative in the following ways:

Education and Housing

The IMRP and The Partnership for Strong Communities co-sponsored a panel discussion entitled “Education and Housing: The Missing Link” at the Lyceum, Hartford, Connecticut, March 22, 2005. The IMRP assembled six panelists, including Dr. Jesse Turner of CCSU, to highlight the need for the education community to understand the negative effect that inadequate and unsafe housing can have on educational achievement. Other panelists included a national advocate for homeless children, the Director of Connecticut’s Head Start programs, a Professor of Economics at UConn, and the director of a state-wide housing and community development organization. About 60 persons, including representatives from the philanthropic community, non-profit community, municipal and state government and the business communities were present.

The creation of additional supportive and affordable housing was the main goal of the discussion and of The Partnership for Strong Communities. The Partnership played a key role in several historic pieces of legislation in 2005, including the creation of a \$100 million Housing Trust Fund, support for 500 units of supportive housing and an approximate \$27 million preservation fund that would support farmland preservation, historic preservation, and open space acquisition as well as affordable housing.

Education and the Achievement Gap

The IMRP co-sponsored “Education & the Achievement Gap,” a By the People and Greater New Haven Citizens’ Forum on Education, at Gateway Community College, Long Wharf Campus, October 22, 2005. Dr. Cynthia Farrar, Director of Urban Academic Initiatives at Yale University and an IMRP Advisory Board member, in conjunction with MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, and other national and local funders, has produced a series of “Citizens’ Forums.” Dr. Farrar invited the IMRP manager to actively participate in a broad-based advisory board that planned the October 22, 2005, forum dedicated to the achievement gap in greater New Haven schools, including the role of Charter Schools in closing the achievement gap. The IMRP assisted in framing the agenda for the day, invited a select group of legislators to the event, helped coordinate the planning group that developed the event materials, attended a press conference for the event, and attended and helped staff the daylong meeting of greater New Haven community residents chosen by random sample to participate. The IMRP collaborated in the planning and development of additional programs to be televised on CPTV on the subject of the achievement gap.

The IMRP participated in strategic planning for the integration of the “Citizens’ Forums” process with the legislative process. Follow up meetings with key legislative staff took place before the 2006 and 2007 legislative sessions that emphasized the need to address educational inequities.

Education and Economic Development

The O’Neill Endowed Chair, CPPSR and IMRP became active collaborators in the Governor’s Workforce Competitiveness Symposia, (*Talent, Innovation and Economic Competitiveness: Planning for Connecticut’s Future in the Knowledge Economy*) in 2005 and 2006 at the request of the Governor’s Office for Workforce Competitiveness and the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System. The goals of the symposium series were to enlist the support of business, government and educational leaders to strengthen Connecticut’s ability to globally compete technologically through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) practices and to develop recommendations for the Governor and the General Assembly.

Governor Rell launched the symposium series at CCSU on September 27, 2005, with a “Call to Action.” At the Governor’s invitation, the heads of the governing boards of Connecticut’s public and private

educational institutions led a conversation before 80 invited guests. Governor Rell proposed that business and education leaders in Connecticut chart a course to secure the state's economic future and quality of life.

A second symposium, entitled "CONNvene: a Platform to Advance a Statewide STEM Dialogue and Strategy," was held October 26, 2005, at the Legislative Office Building, and was coordinated by the Connecticut Academy for Education. This symposium's findings were incorporated into the final recommendations for the Governor's office.

The third symposium, entitled "Learning From Others: Ideas, Strategies and Models," was hosted on November 17, 2005, at Central Connecticut State University. It was devoted to "best practice models of university/private/public partnerships". IMRP invited leaders from North Carolina, Georgia and Oklahoma, three states with nationally recognized STEM programs.

The IMRP helped develop and define all aspects of the planning and implementation of the symposium series; researched other state programs; edited background materials for each symposium; and was a major author of the draft whitepaper that summarized the symposia and made recommendations to the Governor.

A legislative initiative proposed by the Governor and passed during the 2006 legislative session, *An Act Concerning Jobs for the Twenty-First Century*, addressed many of the issues raised by the symposia.

CCSU Magnet School (Exploratory Phase)

In 2006, CCSU President Jack Miller and a CCSU faculty committee began deliberations on the merits of a CCSU affiliated primary or secondary school located on or near the campus. To assist this effort, the IMRP conducted extensive interviews of personnel in existing college-affiliated schools (Manchester Community College and the Great Path Academy magnet high school; University of Hartford and University High School of Science and Engineering; Trinity College and the Greater Hartford Academy of Mathematics and Science) concerning the administrative structure, operations plan, and educational coordination between the college and high school. In addition, interviews were conducted with State Department of Education personnel and CCSU officials who were participants in an earlier attempt to place a magnet school on the CCSU campus.

CPPSR and the IMRP produced several documents for President Miller and the faculty committee to assist in their decision-making on the feasibility and best alternatives for a CCSU-affiliated school. They were: 1) a list of charter schools and interdistrict magnet schools in the greater Hartford area, 2) a list of charter Schools state-wide, 3) a comparison of public charter schools and inter-district magnet schools regarding their purpose, eligible applicants, state approval processes, governance, student admission criteria, construction and operating costs, among other items, 4) a memo addressing governance issues, site acquisition, property ownership rights, and funding for magnet versus charter schools, and 5) a memo devoted to governance issues related to college-affiliate interdistrict magnet high schools, specifically the Manchester Community College magnet high school, which is a "middle college-early college high school model" strongly supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The IMRP monitored the year-long investigations and recommendations of Governor Rell's Task Force on Education Cost-Sharing in order to anticipate possible legislative changes in funding formulas that could influence CCSU or local decisions. The evolving discussion of Governor Rell's dramatic 2007 legislative proposal for increased educational funding will continue to be evaluated for potential impact on this project.

IV. Looking Ahead: IMRP Goals and Objectives

- 1) The IMRP plans to continue its highly successful transportation conferences and collaborations on new transportation initiatives. A proposed conference for 2007 will explore innovative ways to provide clean and efficient bus service that will entice more users and provide a relatively inexpensive mass transit option for large numbers of people. In addition, the IMRP will help to implement any legislation that may provide funding for transit-oriented development including stations along the proposed Hartford/New Britain Busway.
- 2) It is anticipated the IMRP will play a role in the implementation of Governor Rell's Executive Order 15 that created the Office of Responsible Growth within the Office of Policy and Management's Intergovernmental Policy Division. Executive Director of the Center for Public Policy and Social Research and IMRP supervisor Steve Klinger will assist in the implementation of the Executive Order's goal to build the capacity of municipal staff, boards and agencies that make land use decisions, and has been named to the advisory board of the newly established Connecticut Land Use Academy. CPPSR already promotes professional land use practices through its collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Zoning Enforcement Officials (CAZEO) to provide education, professional development and credentialing to zoning officials. The IMRP's municipal and regional expertise will be a valuable resource for this project.
- 3) The IMRP is developing a marketing plan that focuses on integrating faculty and students into all aspects of the IMRP mission. The IMRP took several steps this past year towards meeting this goal. Students were the primary audience of a major conference and collaborations with the departments of social work, management information systems and the campus police resulted in student and faculty involvement in community-oriented projects. A marketing plan will provide a blueprint for more comprehensive and systematic alliances between the IMRP and CCSU faculty and students.
- 4) IMRP will increase the number of faculty and students working on research & outreach projects by collaborating in the further development of *Service Learning* at CCSU: CPPSR has long been involved in the "scholarship of engagement" as defined by Ernest Boyer and the Kellogg Commission and has fostered the creation of meaningful partnerships with state and local agencies and communities. Recognizing the value of service learning to students, faculty, the university and the wider community, CPPSR and the policy/outreach entities organizationally reporting to it, including the IMRP, are committed to helping CCSU become an "engaged" university and to working toward increased community outreach. To accomplish this, CPPSR, the IMRP and the other policy/outreach entities will collaborate with the Provost and Office of Academic Affairs to develop and implement a formal service learning program, to be housed in Academic Affairs. These efforts will serve to more systemically integrate CPPSR's applied research/public policy institutes with the University's academic departments.
- 5) The IMRP will assist the CCSU President's office in the development and implementation of magnet school programs as needed.
- 6) IMRP, the O'Neill Endowed Chair and CPPSR and will continue an active role in the Governor's Workforce Competitiveness efforts, in collaboration with the Governor's Office for Workforce Development, to produce further recommendations to the legislature to ensure that Connecticut remains competitive in the global knowledge economy.
- 7) IMRP will explore with the Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice more successful reentry of past offenders into society through incentives that provide greater supportive housing for these persons, and expand its collaboration with the Partnership for Strong Communities.

8) IMRP will continue to work with Legislature’s Program Review and Investigations Committee and involve CCSU faculty and students in the legislative studies concerning the “State’s Long-term Planning Efforts” and “Connecticut’s Regional Planning Organizations” as these studies progress.

VII. Revenue and Expenditures: Fiscal Years 2002-2007

Revenue:

FY 02-03 FY 03-04 FY 04-05 FY 05-06 FY 06-07

200,010.08	125,000.00	125,550.00	125,675.00	125,225.00
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Expenditures:

FY 02-03 FY 03-04 FY 04-05 FY 05-06 FY 06-07

15,208.66	60,642.98	106,732.39	118,730.39	119,409.02
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Appendix: IMRP Advisory Board (July 2007)

Mr. Phil Abruzzese
President
Connecticut Education Association

Mr. Christopher Bruhl
President
SACIA
The Business Council of Fairfield County, CT

Mr. Leo Canty
2nd Vice President
CT Federation of Educational and Professional
Employees

Mr. Howard T. Dean, Jr
Rome Smith & Associates
East Haddam, Connecticut

Dr. Cynthia Farrar
Director of Urban Academic Initiatives
Yale University

Mr. James Finley, Jr.
Executive Director
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Ms. Mary Glassman
West Simsbury, Connecticut

Mr. Steven J. Gorss
Middlesex Chamber of Commerce
Businessman
Super 8 Motel

The Honorable Toni Nathaniel Harp
State Senate Chair,
Appropriations Committee

Mr. Steven Kliger
Executive Director, Center for Public Policy
and Social Research
Central Connecticut State University

Mr. Sal Luciano
Executive Director
AFSCME Council 4

Ms. Antonia Moran
Professor of Political Science
Central Connecticut State University

Mr. Robert J. Rader
Executive Director
Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

Dr. Susan Westa
Co-Director, Green Valley Institute
Windham County Cooperative Extension

Ms. Patricia M. Wallace
Director of Programs
Office of Urban Affairs
Archdiocese of Hartford

Dr. Armand Zottola
Professor of Economics
Central Connecticut State University

Dr. Lyle Wray
Executive Director
Capitol Regional Council of Government

Leadership of the Planning and Development
Committee of the Connecticut General
Assembly (TBA)

Leadership of the Finance, Revenue and
Bonding Committee of the Connecticut General
Assembly (TBA)