Fifth Year Report
2002 - 2007

Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice
At Central Connecticut State University

Submitted by Andrew J. Clark
Administrator
Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice
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Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice (ISCJ) at Central Connecticut State University

FIFTH YEAR REPORT:
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I. Overview and Request for Continuance

Overview

From its establishment on February 1, 2002 by the Connecticut State University Board of Trustees, Resolution #02-04, the Henry C. Lee Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice (ISCJ) at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) has been dedicated to enriching the quality of public policy, public service, University outreach and applied research in Connecticut. The ISCJ provides a wide range of information, training, research, evaluation and consulting services to communities, municipal and state government and nonprofit organizations. In conjunction with these activities, the ISCJ develops, facilitates and supports faculty and student programs and projects which advance their academic scholarship and applied research and provide the opportunity to gain exposure, work experience and develop professional relationships in their field of study.

The University’s applied research/outreach programs provide opportunity for the practical application of the skills and knowledge of faculty and staff, make academic resources available to the greater community outside the University, and result in a far-reaching extension of the University’s influence.

The ISCJ also serves the State of Connecticut by providing a forum for the framing and debate of a myriad of critical public policy issues. Often working in collaboration with the Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics, the ISCJ serves to link its criminal justice public policy work with students and faculty at CCSU.

From FY 06-07, in recognition of its value as a public policy resource, the ISCJ has been funded by the Connecticut General Assembly with a yearly appropriation of $100,000.

Effectively managed and judiciously targeted, applied research/outreach programs allow the University to create new, sometimes unexpected partnerships with both short and long term benefit. A respected and visible presence throughout Connecticut’s many constituencies and communities can lend the University new strengths and institutional vitality.

Request for Continuance

By submission of this report, the Center formally requests continuance from the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System.
II. Rationale for Continuance

In the five years of its existence, the ISCJ has proven a valuable resource to the communities of both CCSU and Connecticut at large. In doing so, it has consistently strived to fulfill its core mission and goals, as well as the overall goals of both the university and entire CSU system. The following is a description of both the ISCJ’s structure and overall objectives, followed by an account of how the ISCJ has met these objectives over the past five years.

ISCJ: An Organizational Background

Brief History

In 2001, faculty members in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at CCSU identified the need for an outreach institute that would work closely with faculty in meeting the research, training, and technical assistance requests by state and local criminal justice agencies throughout Connecticut. They envisioned an institute that would also serve as an educational vehicle for students by providing avenues for working with these agencies.

The Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice was approved by a CSU Board of Trustees resolution on February 1, 2002. In its first year, Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty began applying for research grants and contracts that could provide staff to the ISCJ. A part-time University Assistant (19 hours per week) was hired in February of 2003 to oversee the ISCJ’s first external grant - a $50,000 award to the ISCJ from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics. The funds were to establish the Connecticut Statistical Analysis Center (CTSAC) at CCSU (see full description on page 6).

In December of 2003, the University Assistant position was replaced by an appointed, full-time Administrator (AFSCME-SUOAF) of the ISCJ. This position was externally funded. One of the primary responsibilities of the ISCJ Administrator was to continue to generate external funding sources. In December 2004, this appointment was not renewed.

The ISCJ was not staffed again until Andrew Clark accepted the temporary appointment as Administrator in July of 2005. Following a full search for the position, he was offered a one-year appointment to the grant-funded position of Administrator in December 2005. In December 2006 this appointment was renewed.

Since 2005, the ISCJ has grown substantially and is fast becoming a well recognized and highly utilized resource at CCSU, as well as within the greater criminal justice community. An indication of this success is the increased level at which the ISCJ, along with Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty, have been able to procure grants and contracts. In addition, in FY06 the ISCJ began receiving an annual allocation of $100,000 from the Connecticut General Assembly in recognition of its value to the legislature as a criminal justice state resource. The funding attained from these sources has resulted in the recent hiring of more professional staff within the ISCJ. The addition of these new staff members became necessary as project load increased and Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty, along with
the ISCJ Administrator, required additional assistance to 1) meet both contract and grant obligations and 2) to continue to fulfill the overall mission of the ISCJ.

Structure

The ISCJ 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.

Personnel

The ISCJ is headed by Andrew Clark, its Administrator. The ISCJ is also staffed by a Program Administrator, and will soon hire a Research Specialist, as well as another Program Administrator. In addition, the ISCJ employs the services of a number of CCSU Faculty, Graduate Assistants, Student Workers and University Assistants (see Appendix for full organizational chart).

Mission Statement

The Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice (ISCJ) is dedicated to enriching the quality of public policy, public service, University outreach and applied research in the criminal justice field in Connecticut. The ISCJ is a non-partisan, university-based resource providing a wide range of information, training, research, program evaluation and consulting services to communities, municipal and state government and non-profit organizations.

The ISCJ functions as a centralized clearinghouse for the exchange and dissemination of criminal justice data and statistics, the training of criminal justice personnel, and the development, implementation, evaluation and enhancement of criminal justice policy initiatives. The ISCJ develops, facilitates and supports faculty and student programs and projects which advance their academic scholarship and applied research and provide the opportunity to gain exposure, work experience and develop professional relationships in their field of study.

The ISCJ also serves the people of the State of Connecticut by providing a forum for the framing and debate of a myriad of critical public policy issues in the criminal justice arena.

Goals

The goals of the Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice are:

- Provide opportunities for students, faculty, and practitioners to collaborate in a variety of professional settings;
• Train criminal justice personnel, perform applied research and evaluate criminal justice initiatives for governmental clients, and perform national criminal justice research to develop state of the art models and best practices;
• Promote awareness of criminal justice issues by sponsoring conferences and workshops for the public and criminal justice community;
• Promote evidence-based practices within criminal justice and social service agencies through the dissemination of scientific research on criminal justice issues and initiatives;
• Seek local, state, and federal external funding sources for research and training.
• Collaborate with entities within the executive, legislative and judicial branches to develop and implement policies aimed at promoting a just, effective and efficient criminal justice system.

ISCJ: Meeting its Objectives

The Connecticut Statistical Analysis Center at the ISCJ

The Connecticut Statistical Analysis Center (CTSAC) is part of a network supported by the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), a national nonprofit organization of state Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) directors, and other researchers and practitioners throughout government, academia, and criminal justice organizations. JRSA conducts and publishes policy-relevant research on justice issues, provides training and technical assistance, and maintains a clearinghouse of state criminal justice activities.

The CTSAC is a collaborative venture between the Office of Policy and Management, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Central Connecticut State University and the ISCJ. It is located within the ISCJ. On July 1, 2006 legislation went into effect creating the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management’s Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPAC) with the intent to promote a more effective and cohesive criminal justice system. Given its new statutory mandate regarding forecasting and tracking of factors related to prison and jail overcrowding, CJPAC has convened a work group to help collect data and supply resources for CTSAC publications. The workgroup consists of the CTSAC researchers, ISCJ staff, representatives from the Department of Correction, Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Judicial Branch, Department of Public Safety and the Office of Policy and Management. This agency collaboration has provided the CTSAC with consistent knowledge and expertise, thereby aiding in the successful completion of all recent publications.

The CTSAC functions as a clearinghouse for justice related information, serves as a liaison in assisting the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) at the U.S. Department of Justice in gathering state data, and conducts research. CCSU graduate assistants and student workers assist the CTSAC researchers with the preparation and dissemination of publications and related research projects. The CTSAC provides an opportunity for Criminology and Criminal Justice students to gain pertinent research experience and work closely with both the ISCJ and the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Recent CTSAC activities such as the Family Violence Case Flow Analysis Report and the Revalidation of Connecticut’s Salient Risk Factor Score Report have allowed university students the opportunity to work off site with representatives from both the Judicial Branch and the Board of Pardons and Paroles. In addition, students involved with
any CTSAC related projects have the opportunity to attend presentations, conferences, symposiums and trainings with the ISCJ staff and the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department faculty.

CT Criminal Justice Policy and the ISCJ: The Justice Reinvestment Initiative

Since its inception in 2002, most of the ISCJ’s academic, applied research and outreach efforts aside from the work of the CTSAC have focused on partnering with state and local entities to support the development, implementation, evaluation and enhancement of Connecticut’s landmark “justice reinvestment” initiative. This nationally recognized strategic initiative is the result of collaborative efforts between many of Connecticut’s criminal justice entities (including the ISCJ), key policymakers and recognized national experts. These efforts derived from the context of Connecticut’s criminal justice system over the past twenty-five years, in particular the issue of prison overcrowding. The following description details this nuanced history and is intended to foster understanding of and appreciation for the ISCJ’s unique role in the initiative, especially with regard to the fulfillment of its mission and the overall goals of the Connecticut State University System.

Despite a steady decrease in crime and arrests rates, Connecticut has had to struggle with the persistent growth of the inmate population. Like nearly every state across the nation, for most of the past twenty-five years, Connecticut’s correction system has operated at or over prison bed capacity. Further, Connecticut also holds the ignominious distinction of having the highest incarceration rate in the Northeast, coupled with one of the highest levels of racial disparity in its correctional facilities of any state in the nation. About 80 percent of the inmate population identifies within a minority group (e.g., African American, Hispanic/Latino).

Many factors have impacted prison overcrowding. These factors include the nation’s twenty-year “war on drugs” that focused policing and prosecution efforts and resources on drug offenses and increased sanctions for those crimes such as mandatory minimum penalties. Increased prison bed space allowed the courts to sentence offenders to prison from adult probation and parole in order to return offenders to prison for a technical violation rather than use other alternative sanctions and programs. The high rate of recidivism among criminal offenders -- over 50 percent re-arrest rate in Connecticut -- impacts the prison population. In fact, more than 25 percent of the inmate population has traditionally been persons returned to prison for technical violations of parole and probation. The driving force behind prison overcrowding, however, is the aggressive “tough on crime” approach taken by policymakers, criminal justice administrators, and the courts since the mid-1990s. A series of laws - including “truth in sentencing” and mandatory minimum sentences - aimed at increasing penalties and reducing the discrepancy between the court-imposed prison term and the actual time served by an inmate.

Sources: Building Bridges: From Conviction to Employment report issued by the Council of State Governments, January 15, 2003, and Uneven Justice: State Rates of Incarceration by Race and Ethnicity report issued by The Sentencing Project, July 2007. (This new analysis provides a regional examination of the racial and ethnic dynamics of incarceration in the U.S., and finds broad variations in racial disparity among the 50 states. The report finds that African Americans are incarcerated at nearly six (5.6) times the rate of whites and Hispanics nearly double (1.8) the rate.)
resulted in the lengthening of incarceration periods. Inmates serve a greater portion of their sentences in prison prior to early release or discharge. Conservative parole release policies and parole and probation supervision procedures also contributed to the burgeoning prison population.

Until 2004, the primary solution in Connecticut was to add prison beds by building new facilities and expanding others -- almost 10,000 new beds costing well over $1 billion were added between 1989 and 1995. However, less than five years after the Department of Correction completed the comprehensive construction project, it was once again operating over capacity. Connecticut opted to transfer 500 inmates to out-of-state prisons to relieve overcrowding. This option cost more than $50 million per year in addition to the department’s annual operating budget.

To a lesser degree, Connecticut counteracted prison growth with the implementation a system of graduated sanctions. The network of sentencing options and alternative sanctions: (1) punishes and rehabilitates offenders whose crimes and/or criminal histories do no demand a prison term; and (2) assists in the transition of inmates from prison back to their communities. This model is based on the recognition not all offenders are the same, only a few deserve the most intensive and expensive sanction - prison, and almost all offenders sent to prison eventually return to their communities; most within three years of admission to prison. The alternative sanction network supervises approximately 75 percent of the accused and sentenced offender population, but has been routinely under-funded as compared to the prison system.

The twenty years that formed the “tough on crime” era consistently lacked a strong academic component within criminal justice public policy discourse. Crime is inherently an emotional issue, and in those twenty years, emotion dictated much of the public policy development. Yet the results of such an atmosphere created a system that was not only continuously on the verge of being overwhelmed, but also one whose outcome did not necessarily match its intent: that of public safety. The need to bring rational debate to the subject of criminal justice policy development became paramount to improving the system. Initially, the legislature and state agencies looked within to fulfill this need. Eventually, they began to recognize the valuable role universities could play in assisting with this discourse.

In the early 2000s, given the ever-increasing prison overcrowding crisis and resulting budgetary impact, coupled with the concern of overall budgetary constraints during a recession, the General Assembly began to study the prison overcrowding problem and to develop new approaches to reducing recidivism and controlling the growth in the offender population. The crime debate in Connecticut shifted to focusing on measures to reduce recidivism rather than simply increasing punishment for offenders. Key stakeholders from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, as well as non-profit providers, outreach workers, grassroots activists and national experts participated in the process. Ultimately, legislative leaders decided in September of 2003 to request the Center for Public Policy and Practical Politics at CCSU and the CT Department of Labor (DOL) to help develop and co-sponsor a conference to bring the issue to the larger public.

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criminal justice community. At that time the current Administrator of the ISCJ, Andrew Clark, was aide to Appropriations Committee co-chair, Representative William Dyson of New Haven. Mr. Clark, who was intimately involved in the legislative proceedings around this issue, was tasked by Rep. Dyson to collaborate with CCSU and the CT DOL in the development of the conference and the crafting of solutions.

On January 13, 2003, the Building Bridges: From Conviction to Employment conference\(^3\) was held at CCSU to examine the issues surrounding the reinvestment of criminal justice dollars in job development and job placement for ex-offenders with a high rate of incarceration who were returning to and residing in communities. The overall goal of the conference was to develop public policy aimed at managing the increasing growth in the prison population, while realizing cost savings in the state’s Department of Correction budget, all under the context of increasing public safety. As a result, a portion or all of any money saved could eventually be reinvested in an ex-offender employment initiative, which may include a range of public and private services and partnerships. This became the core concept behind the “justice reinvestment” initiative\(^4\).

During the conference participants explored the myriad of barriers to and reasons why ex-offenders are not employed and may commit new crimes, many of which are the result of complex societal issues. They also began to map the complex network of community-based public, private, and religious services and programs to assist ex-offenders with employment and other issues. This network was recognized as a critical component to achieving the stated goals of the conference. The report acknowledged the need for additional resources for the community-based services. It also contended that unless prison overcrowding is contained and community-based supervision (e.g., probation and parole) is sufficiently staffed, the additional resources for reinvestment may not be available.

A report entitled Building Bridges: From Conviction to Employment. A Proposal to Reinvest Corrections Savings in an Employment Initiative authored by national experts working with the Council of State Governments and an addendum prepared by the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee staff were prepared at the conclusion of the conference. The report and addendum outlined the concept for the offender re-entry strategy and set forth specific recommendations to enact the strategy.

During the 2004 session, the legislature enacted a new offender re-entry strategy, based on the “justice reinvestment” model (Public Act 04-234). The law contained many initiatives to provide a comprehensive means to control the state’s persistent prison overcrowding problem. Its centerpiece requires a collaborative effort by a variety of agencies to develop and implement an offender re-entry strategy as a new approach to addressing prison overcrowding by promoting the successful transition of offenders back into society, thereby also enhancing public safety and supporting the rights of victims of crime. Specifically, the new strategy is required to: (1) maximize any available period of community supervision for eligible and suitable offenders; (2) identify and address barriers to offenders’ successful transition to their communities; (3) ensure

\(^3\) The Building Bridges: From Conviction to Employment conference was sponsored by Representative William Dyson, Co-chairperson, Appropriations Committee and Representative Michael Lawlor, Co-chairperson, Judiciary Committee. The conference was co-sponsored by Central Connecticut State University and the state Department of Labor.

\(^4\) See Newsweek, “The Dawn of a New Movement” by Ellis Cose, p49, April 24, 2006 edition.
sufficient state criminal justice resources to manage offender caseloads; (4) identify community-based supervision, treatment, educational, and other service programs proven to be effective in reducing recidivism; and (5) establish offender employment initiatives through public and private services and partnerships be reinvesting any money saved. Other elements of Public Act 04-234 are intended to support the operations of the offender re-entry strategy.

In a related action, the 2004 state budget contained funding for certain criminal justice system programs to promote community supervision and community-based services and programs. In concert with the offender re-entry strategy, the idea behind these funds is that the more offenders participate in effective community supervision programs, the more public safety is enhanced through lower recidivism, and prison overcrowding is reduced. A positive cycle begins – by enhancing the ability of the offender re-entry strategy to work, incarceration dollars may be saved and ultimately “reinvested” into even more effective community-based supervision and treatment programs such as offender employment initiatives.

Additionally, to fully implement a successful “justice reinvestment” model, the state’s legislative, executive and judicial branches recognized a need to partner the initiative with evidence-based practices. This would include using research to inform decisions on targeting funds, as well as including process and outcome evaluations as a means of assessing program performance. Since 2004, the ISCJ, along with the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at CCSU, has played a key role in informing the criminal justice community in the area of evidence based practices through numerous grant and contract funded research activities.

During the 2005 session, legislation was enacted to enhance the offender re-entry strategy. On January 12 and 13, 2006, the Building Bridges II: A Continuing Discussion of Connecticut’s Justice Reinvestment Initiative conference was held at CCSU to evaluate the progress to date in implementing the offender re-entry strategy and to determine the next steps for the state’s criminal justice system to fully realize the intended goals of Public Act 04-234. Over 500 individuals participated in the two day conference, including key policymakers, state agency heads, line staff, non-profit providers and the advocacy community. “Building Bridges II” also saw increased participation from the CCSU community, facilitated through the ISCJ. Students and faculty provided many valuable and highly visible services, including planning the conference, moderating panels, and producing a video that premiered on the second day.

Overall, this conference was evidence of the continued commitment by the legislative, executive, and judicial branches in improving the outcomes of the state’s criminal justice process. It also served to highlight the key role the ISCJ and CCSU continue to play in developing, evaluating, implementing and enhancing Connecticut’s criminal justice policies.

As with the 2003 conference, the 2006 conference was held a few weeks prior to the start of the legislative session in order to provide a forum for the discussion of possible legislative

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6 The video is entitled “CCSU presents Connecticut’s Criminal Justice System: A timeline of major policy initiatives within the past thirty years” January 2006.
initiatives. Many of the specific issues addressed at the conference were adopted by the General Assembly or were funded through the state budget including: changes to the sex offender registration requirement and supervision process; restoration of felon voting rights; funding for mental health support services for offenders; the establishment of a sentencing task force (that will terminate at the conclusion of its work) to review existing sentencing policy and make any recommendations deemed necessary in light of recent criminal justice reforms; amendments to the role and responsibilities of the new Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (established in 2005 and taking effect July 1, 2006); and the establishment of a provisional pardons and certificate of rehabilitation process for eligible ex-offenders\(^7\). The ISCJ, along with CCSU faculty and students, collaborated in the development and passage of a number of these legislative measures.

The Building Bridges II conference underscored the growing consensus among legislators and executive and judicial branch criminal justice administrators that the outcomes of the new strategy and initiatives needed to be consistently evaluated in order for these reforms to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency. Public Act 04-234 established specific measures to evaluate the success of the offender re-entry strategy. The six measures are: (1) rates of recidivism and community revictimization; (2) the number of inmates eligible for release on parole, transitional supervision, probation, or any other early release program; (3) the number of inmates who made the transition from incarceration to the community in compliance with a discharge plan; (4) prison bed capacity ratios; (5) adequacy of the network of community-based treatment, vocational, educational, and supervision programs, and other services and programs; and (6) reinvestment of any savings achieved through a reduction in prison population into re-entry and community-based services and programs. The Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD) is required to report annually (beginning in 2007) on the system’s success based on these statutory measures.\(^8\) The ISCJ and Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice faculty and students have been collaborating with the CJPPD in developing these reports. In addition, the Legislative Program Review and Investigation Committee (LPRIC) has been monitoring the implementation status and success of the strategy based on these outcome measures. The LPRIC is required to report to the Judiciary and Appropriations Committees on January 1, 2006 and again on January 1, 2008.\(^9\)

In addition, any new legislation - such as the provisional pardons process - is also monitored as part of the overall offender re-entry strategy. These initiatives are evaluated based on the existing statutory outcome measures or by other specific performance measures. In many cases it is the ISCJ, in collaboration with CCSU’s Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice that is contracted by the state criminal justice agencies to conduct such evaluations.\(^10\)

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\(^8\) Public Act 04-234 status reports were issued by the Department of Correction in 2004 and 2005. These reports are available by contacting the Department of Correction.


\(^10\) Evaluation projects underway or completed by CCSU’s Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice and Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice include: [Bail Risk Assessment – Development](http://www.cga.ct.gov/pri) (Funding/Client: Judicial Branch); [Statistical Analysis Center – Management and Operation](http://www.cga.ct.gov/pri) (Funding/Client: Office of Policy & Management); [Salient Risk Factors – Development](http://www.cga.ct.gov/pri) (Funding/Client: Department of Correction); [Connecticut Puerto Rico Offender Re-entry Project](http://www.cga.ct.gov/pri) (Funding/Client: Office of Policy & Management).
A key element to the success of Connecticut’s new offender re-entry strategy and other criminal justice initiatives is the level of collaboration on all levels in both the policy development and implementation phases. Commissioners from the state’s criminal justice agencies – Departments of Corrections, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Safety, and Social Services, the Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Office of the Chief Public Defender, and the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney -- as well as non-profit providers and community-based offender and victim advocate groups have consistently noted a level of collaboration that had previously not existed in their respective experiences with the system.

What is important to note is the high degree to which the Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice (ISCJ) has been increasingly involved in the policy development, implementation, evaluation and enhancement processes within the State of Connecticut. Since its inception in 2002, the General Assembly and state criminal justice system have increasingly sought collaboration with the ISCJ in identifying issues, defining the scope of working groups, initiating meetings, providing background research and analysis, providing technical assistance, conducting program evaluations and assessments and producing final action documents for the legislature and state criminal justice agencies. All of these activities, as well as those of the Connecticut Statistical Analysis Center, help the ISCJ in fulfilling its core mission.

IV. Notable Accomplishments by Year
Selected from the ISCJ’s Annual Reports 2002-2007

2002-2003

- **Build capacity of ISCJ**
  - A part-time University Assistant (19 hours per week) was hired in February 2003.

- **Grants/Contracts/Funding**
  - Grant awarded to the ISCJ from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics. The funds were to establish the Connecticut Statistical Analysis Center (SAC).

2003-2004

- **Build capacity of ISCJ**
  - Hired Patricia E. O’Hagan as Administrator in December 2003 to work on the SAC grant and explore additional opportunities for external funding.

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**Rican Forum Evaluation** (Funding/client: CT Puerto Rican Forum, Inc.); **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Transitional Case Management Evaluation** (Funding/client: DMHAS); **DMHAS Mental Health AIC Evaluation** (Funding/client: DMHAS); **Norwich PREP Evaluation** (Funding/client: Office of Policy and Management); and **RAISE Evaluation** (Funding/client: Department of Correction)
• **Establish footprint on Criminal Justice community**

2004-2005

• **Increase footprint on Criminal Justice community**
  - **Building Bridges: From Conviction to Employment**

  Center for Public Policy and Social Research (CPPSR) executive director Steve Kliger and Dr. Stephen Cox, Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, collaborated with the Connecticut General Assembly, its nonpartisan offices, the Council of State Governments, the Judicial Branch, the Department of Correction, the Department of Labor, national experts and other stakeholders in the development of post-incarceration and re-entry policies for Connecticut. The Connecticut General Assembly enacted legislation implementing a number of the recommendations established in the *Building Bridges: From Conviction to Employment* conference report during the 2004 and 2005 legislative sessions.

  Legislation stemming from CPPSR’s *Building Bridges* conference resulted in the Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice being awarded numerous research contracts from the Judicial Branch’s Court Support Services Division, the Department of Correction and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. With these projects, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice collaborated with the CPPSR in developing the Memorandums of Agreement, drafting project budgets, and managing the contracts.

  *Building Bridges: From Conviction to Employment* remains a work in progress and will provide a long-term opportunity for the Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and the Center for Public Policy and Social Research to work with Connecticut General Assembly, the Judicial Branch, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and other stakeholders in the development, implementation and evaluation of public policy initiatives and programs to achieve the goals set forth in the 2003 conference.

  The successes of *Building Bridges* led to the follow-up conference *Building Bridges II* – see 2005-2006.


• **Grants/Contracts/Funding**
  o Received a contract with the Judicial Branches’ Court Support Services Division to evaluate their “Probation Transition Program” and “Technical Violations Units” pilot projects.
  
  o Received renewal of grant from the Office of Policy and Management to operate the Connecticut Statistical Analysis Center.
  
  o Awarded a grant for FY 06 from the Connecticut Department of Correction to conduct a revalidation assessment of the “Salient Factor Score Risk Assessment” tool used by the Connecticut Board of Pardons and Parole.
  
  o Negotiated a contract with the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to evaluate the Transitional Case Management program; work to commence in FY 06.
  
  o Negotiated a contract with the Connecticut Department of Correction to evaluate Project RAISE, a life skills development program for inmates; work to begin in FY 06.
  

• **Rebuild capacity of ISCJ**
  o Hired Andrew Clark as Administrator through an emergency temporary appointment and began search process for a permanent Administrator.

**2005-2006**

• **Build capacity of ISCJ**
  o Hired Andrew Clark as Administrator in December 2005, following a job search.

• **Grants/Contracts/Funding**
  o Worked with the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice and CPPSR on 8 grants/contracts, two of which were new for FY06.
• Procured an annual $100,000 direct appropriation from the Connecticut General Assembly.

• **Increase footprint on Criminal Justice community**
  o Expanded the ISCJ’s outreach efforts through publications, conferences, and workshops.

  Highlights include:

  - Held **Building Bridges II** conference on January 12 & 13, 2006 to assess the policy effects of the 2003 **Building Bridges** conference at CCSU (see previous section). Over 500 participants attended the two day event, including key legislators, criminal justice state and non-profit agency heads and staff, advocates, CCSU professors and students. A 30 minute video was produced by the ISCJ, and CCSU video production and criminal justice students and staff premiered during the second day of the conference. Over 50 copies of the video have subsequently been requested and delivered. These copies are being used by criminal justice related agencies in trainings and meetings.

  - An ISCJ brochure was developed in advance of the conference and distributed to all attendees.

  - General: The ISCJ Administrator attended three out of state criminal justice conferences on behalf of the ISCJ. He was a keynote speaker at the Seventh Annual New England Fathering Conference, held in Framingham, MA. Additionally, he attended numerous forums and discussions across the state on criminal justice related issues. On several occasions CCSU students participated in these events.

  o Explored collaborations on criminal justice related issues with various entities including, but not limited to: national and federal organizations, state and private universities, non-profit providers, and the executive, judicial and legislative branches.

  Highlights include:

  - As a result of the 2006 **Building Bridges II** conference, the ISCJ fostered partnerships with a national organization (National H.I.R.E Network) and one private university (John Jay College’s Reentry Institute) for the purposes of collaborating on legislative initiatives. This group focused its efforts on the passage of HB 5781 AAC Certificates of Employability. The contents of the legislation were the result of collaborative efforts amongst Representatives Lawlor and Dyson, Parole and Pardons Board Chair Greg Everett, and Sarah Parker-McKernan of CT Legal Services.
• **Increased capacity of ISCJ**
  - In order to maintain appropriate staffing to adequately address the demand for services, the ISCJ has continued to add capacity in FY07.

  Highlights include:
  - A Program Administrator was hired in March 2007. A Research Assistant position and another Program Administrator position were also created, with anticipated hiring in August 2007. In addition, the ISCJ employed several University Assistants, Student Workers, and Criminal Justice Faculty.

• **Grants/Contracts/Funding**
  - The ISCJ continues to bring in funding from a variety of state, local and federal sources at an ever increasing rate.

  Highlights include:
  - Continued work on 7 multi-year grants/contracts. In anticipation of expiring contracts, the ISCJ submitted proposals for 2 new contracts with the Judicial Branch (Court Support Services Division). The ISCJ was awarded these contracts in May 2007.
  - For the purposes of building capacity, the ISCJ began receiving $100,000 in direct appropriations from the Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) beginning July 1, 2006.
  - In addition, $500,000 per year in FY08 and FY09 in new funding was allocated within the CGA budget to the ISCJ in order to provide competitive grants for the mentoring of youth with incarcerated parents.

• **Increased footprint on Criminal Justice community**
  - The ISCJ is fast becoming a recognized and highly valued research and evaluation resource in Connecticut. This is in part due to the strong relationship among the ISCJ, the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, CPPSR and the O’Neill Endowed Chair.

  Highlights include:
  - ISCJ Administrator Andrew Clark was appointed by the House Majority Leader to the CT Sentencing Taskforce in January 2007. The Taskforce was statutorily established to review Connecticut’s criminal justice and sentencing policies and laws for the purpose of creating a more just,
An effective and efficient system of criminal sentencing. The ISCJ is working with the taskforce chairs, OPM’s Criminal Justice Undersecretary and the Vera Institute of Justice in an effort to maximize outcomes from this diverse group of CT criminal justice stakeholders.

- **The CT Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), housed in the ISCJ, has produced several reports of high value to the criminal justice community. These reports include the *Prison Population Projections Annual Report*, the *Annual Recidivism Report* and the *Family Violence Arrest Report*. Each month the CTSAC, in collaboration with OPM’s Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division and other criminal justice agency representatives, publish the *Monthly Correctional Population Indicators Report*. This report presents ongoing and up-to-date information about the number and types of prison intakes, discharges, probation intakes, parole and community program intakes and discharges. The CTSAC anticipates the publication of both the *Family Violence Case Flow Analysis Report* and *Assessment and Validation of Connecticut’s Salient Factor Score Report* for late August 2007. Currently the ISCJ and Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice are collecting data from New Britain’s federally-funded Weed and Seed Program and will provide the department with an evaluation of the program’s efforts over the last 5 years.

- In addition, the ISCJ is branching out from its adult prisoner re-entry efforts into the areas of Juvenile Justice and gender specific programming (such as Court Support Service Division’s Women Offender Case Management model).

**CCSU intra-university collaboration**
- The ISCJ increased its efforts to participate in meaningful collaboration with the greater university community.

  Highlights include:

  - In June 2006, Andrew Clark, along with Prof. Shamir Ratansi of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, co-taught a 3-credit course on the topic of US/China comparative criminal justice policy and practice. As a part of the course Mr. Clark, Dr. Ratansi, a Political Science professor and 7 CCSU students then studied abroad for 12 days in China. Funding and coordination for the study abroad program was provided by the US/China Business Center. The ISCJ, with assistance from criminal justice students and faculty, then produced a video to capture their experiences and knowledge gained in this critical time of U.S. and Chinese relations.

  - In collaboration with the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Women’s Studies Program, and the Ruthe Boyea Women’s
Center, the ISCJ brought the highly acclaimed “Time In” performance project and Community Partners in Action’s (CPA) “Prison Arts Program” to Torp Theatre, Davidson 123 and Founders’ Hall in February 2007. “Time In” is a collaborative performance piece reflecting on time as experienced by a group of women in prison. It was conceived & directed by Trinity College Professor Judy Dworin and developed in collaboration with the performers. According to CPA, the “Prison Arts Program” promotes self-examination and self-esteem in Connecticut inmates through participation in visual arts classes, exhibitions and publications, and brings the talent and creativity of the prison population to the community at large. It was established in 1978.

These groups are now collaborating on a course to be offered in spring 2008 at CCSU entitled *Arts in Correction*, which will explore prisoner rehabilitation through the use of the arts.

V. Looking Ahead: Selected Objectives

The following list is an overview of short term and long term goals for the ISCJ.

2007-2009 Goals

1. **To increase the amount of grant and contract funding brought into the University by 17% over a three year period.** This may include direct legislative appropriations as well.

2. **To increase interagency collaboration efforts over a three year period.** This goal calls for the Institute to continue to co-sponsor and host conferences but also to work with state agencies in a broader capacity to help identify and provide solutions to critical issues in the criminal justice field.

3. **To increase the amount of publications of criminal justice research/issu**es over a three year period. This goal calls for the continued publication of the “Informer” newsletter, which is both distributed to state and local criminal justice agencies throughout Connecticut and available online through the ISCJ’s Statistical Analysis Center (CTSAC) website. The newsletter presents relevant research findings of criminal justice issues, currently policy/program trends, Federal grant opportunities, and other general announcements. The CTSAC will also publish the 2008 *Prison Population Projections Report* and *Recidivism Report* and will continue to collaborate with OPM’s Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division on related projects.

4. **To increase the amount of Institute and student involvement in public policy development and implementation.** On the policy side, this includes meeting with state
agencies and agency legislative liaisons, talking with legislators and actively participating in the public hearing and committee meeting processes at the Connecticut General Assembly. On the implementation side, this includes participating in program evaluations conducted by the ISCJ. It will also expand to include offering grants for the provision of services to the juvenile justice community, as well as the monitoring of these grants. This overall goal will be accomplished through collaborations with the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice Chair, as well as the Criminal Justice Club at CCSU, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, the O’Neill Endowed Chair’s Distinguished Professorships and Center for Public Policy and Social Research. Additionally, the ISCJ will explore new collaborations with Educational Opportunity Program students at CCSU. In July 2007 the ISCJ spoke with this year’s group of EOP students and informed them of opportunities available within the ISCJ. Shortly thereafter, interested students submitted student worker and work-study applications to assist with various research projects.

ISCJ will also increase the number of faculty and students working on research and 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 ISCJ, are committed to helping CCSU become an “engaged” university and to working toward increased community outreach. To accomplish this, CPPSR, the ISCJ 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.

## VII. Revenue and Expenditures: Fiscal Years 2002-2007

### Total Revenue (all funding external):

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### Total Expenditures:

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* In fiscal years 2004 and 2005, there was no ISCJ Administrator hired and therefore no banner account established for ISCJ. In FY04, two ISCJ projects were administered through the Center for Public Policy and Social Research (a contract for $5,536 and a grant for $56,437). In FY05, two ISCJ contracts were administered through CPPSR for a total of $65,207. In all cases, all monies were expended on the projects.
Appendix

ISCJ Organizational Chart (7/07)

CCSU President
John W. Miller

Executive Director:
Center for Public Policy
and Social Research
(CPPSR)

Steven Kliger
(Mngmt/Conf)

Program Administrator:
Institute for the
Study of Crime
& Justice (ISCJ)

Andrew Clark
(Admin 4) (SUOAF)

Student Interns:
Timothy D’Amico

Program Administrator:
(Admin 2) (SUOAF)

Lyndsay Ruffolo

Research Specialist:
(Admin 3) (SUOAF)

VACANT

Graduate Student Research Assistant:
Rachel Tirnady

University Assistants:
Angie Gotay
Lisa Daigle
Rich Pavasaris
Rick Sheiber
Fahd Vahidy

VACANT