Public Policy Capstone Projects, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Benevolence Farm (Fall 2016): In order to help Benevolence Farm start an advocacy branch for their organization, the team conducted research on policy barriers for women reentering society after incarceration, looked at current advocacy efforts within nonprofits, and developed metrics for measuring advocacy.

Benevolence Farm II (Spring 2017): The team conducted interviews to develop an understanding of the complex barriers that incarcerated women face upon re-entry. Following this, they synthesized their findings into a collection of policy briefs to be disseminated to community members, residents, and staff at the farm. Additionally, the team created an advocacy evaluation plan to help Benevolence Farm measure the outcomes of their newly-formed advocacy branch.

Centre for Homeownership and Economic Development Corporation: The team supported the Centre in their efforts to focus on workforce development by reviewing previous successful case studies and conducting interviews with local stakeholders in economic development. Through this process, the team discovered five main barriers to economic development in Orange and Chatham counties and developed recommendations to combat these barriers.

Chapel Hill Campus and Community Coalition: This team was charged with benchmarking Chapel Hill’s noise ordinances as well as the enforcement culture surrounding these policies. By conducting quantitative and qualitative research on seven peer communities, they identified various strategies that promote responsible off-campus student behavior related to noise.

Dementia Inclusive Durham: The team estimated the prevalence of dementia in Durham county, began administering needs assessment within the faith community sector, and developed a database to compile survey results with the over-arching goal of promoting the wellbeing of individuals with dementia.

Genesis Farm Educational Foundation: The team investigated the role of female farm owners and operators in North Carolina to identify key challenges these women face in pursuing successful agricultural ventures.

Golden LEAF Foundation: This team evaluated the application process for Golden LEAF’s Community-Based Grantsmaking Initiative, which has awarded almost $40 million to support projects designed to increase economic opportunity in North Carolina’s rural and tobacco-dependent communities. The team used data gathered from interviews with key stakeholders to
evaluate the success of the current grantsmaking cycle and develop recommendations for further improvements in the next cycle.

**Immersion for Spanish Language Acquisition**: ISLA seeks to empower Latino families in becoming bi-cultural citizens through an immersive heritage language program and community immersion programs. The team made recommendations to further ISLA’s goals of bi-lingual literacy, bi-cultural heritage, academic achievement, and parent and community engagement for Latino youth and families based on observations, case studies, and academic research.

**Innovate NC**: This team explored the capacity of small towns in North Carolina to support innovation with a particular focus on Wilson, NC. The project included applying an international innovation assessment tool for large metropolitan cities to small town North Carolina, recommending areas of opportunities for innovation in Wilson, and highlighting relevant case studies. The team worked closely with the Institute for Emerging Issues and the Wilson Innovate NC Executive Committee as project partners.

**InnovateNC Asheville**: The team researched strategies to target the lack of diversity in the climate change sector by constructing programmatic recommendations that target a specific educational level for increasing STEM exposure and education.

**North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation**: The team reviewed and assessed secondary sources and programs to find the impact parent engagement has on a child’s early childhood education. Our research found 4 major themes and subthemes to compare the 3 regions of NC and the National level.

**Orange County Board of Health**: The team examined the feasibility of a state statute that allows for women to purchase oral contraceptives directly from a pharmacist without a visit to a doctor.

**Orange County Rape Crisis Center**: The team designed and implemented a survey for Chapel Hill-Carrboro High School students to measure the students’ knowledge of Title IX and their access to its grievance procedures, as well as gauge their understanding of sexual consent and assault.

**Project Picture Day**: The team developed a mixed-method survey tool kit for measuring the impacts of Project Picture Day’s visits on Haitian children and related adults.

**Refugee Community Partnership**: This team explored their client’s Bridge Builders Program, which brings refugee families together with local volunteers for relationship building, resource sharing, and skill building. The team refined the program’s objectives and built an evaluation
framework to measure the impact of the program. Qualitative interviews and a review of impact measurement practices at similar organizations were important steps in developing a tool kit which offers the client a range of tools to measure program impact.

**STEPS:** The STEPS team was tasked with investigating the root causes of the school-to-prison pipeline in order to gauge the need for additional preventative programming in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro/Orange County school districts. Through extensive interviewing and data collection, they provided the necessary information to determine which schools would benefit the most from the STEPS program, a school-based cognitive-behavioral group intervention.

**Solar Head of State:** The team researched tools for measuring renewable energy policy change and constructed a set of metrics to help Solar Head of State evaluate the impact of their solar installation projects in partner countries.

**Sonder Market:** In order to help The Sonder Market make the greatest impact on food accessibility conditions at UNC, the team conducted a best practices assessment of college campus food cooperatives, as well as a survey of UNC students and faculty.

**Southeast Raleigh Promise:** Our team worked to determine what actions could be taken to holistically revitalize a community through education, housing, economics, and community wellness while mitigating the negative impacts of gentrification.

**Swey (Fall 2016):** The team identified programs to be implemented in Fairmont, North Carolina that would address the community’s most pressing challenges by connecting and empowering the town’s residents.

**Swey (Spring 2017):** Swey is a community revitalization nonprofit that seeks to reduce rural poverty through youth development. The spring 2017 team focused on evaluating urban nonprofits as a way to develop best practice recommendations for Swey to expand their work in rural Fairmont, NC.

**Third Sector Alliance:** The team studied the transportation gap in Orange County, NC, and sought alternatives to close this gap through an innovative transportation project.

**Town of Chapel Hill and Carrboro Human Services Advisory Board:** The team conducted a human services needs assessment for the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro in order to update one done by the UNC School of Government in 2012. Our work will help inform funding recommendations of the Chapel Hill and Carrboro Human Services Advisory Boards to the respective town councils for local human services agencies and non-profits.
**United Way of North Carolina:** Following the release of a report on the Self-Sufficiency Standard in North Carolina, the team’s project focused on promoting economic stability and the use of the Self-Sufficiency Standard. The team designed a policy brief and spotlights on five United Way organizations, as well as a toolkit that provides resources on securing basic needs and pathways toward economic self-sufficiency.

*we are (working to extend anti-racist education):* *we are* works to combat racism in early childhood education. The team researched best practices to evaluate participant comprehension of anti-bias curricula.

**Wild Forests and Fauna:** This team investigated economic models for reforesting land parcels in Appalachia and the Piedmont. Working closely with project partners, the team reviewed existing and potential economic models and synthesized the types of land and types of communities for ideal application of each model. A toolkit for the client outlines the range of reforestation opportunities for when landowners and stakeholders approach the client with a reforestation opportunity.