

## UNC Public Policy Capstone Projects, 2018-2019

*The Capstone program is the culminating experience of the Public Policy undergraduate major, offering seniors the opportunity to integrate and apply their academic knowledge and skills in a real-world policy environment. Projects are listed with the name of the community partner.*

**Carolina Farm Stewardship Association:** The team worked to develop a tool for assessing food policies in communities. The team started with a literature review on food systems and relevant policy issues, consulted with experts, then collaborated with the Orange County Food Council to develop a checklist and a how-to manual with clear instructions for implementing this checklist.

**College Advising Corps:** The team merged and analyzed large data sets on adviser activity and college admissions and enrollment. The analysis contributed to CAC's program evaluation and will inform future training of advisers.

**Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership:** The team worked to identify opportunities for the university and downtown businesses to work together towards the goal of ultimately improving business development and retention. The team conducted a literature review on economic development opportunities and challenges in college towns; created case studies of two similar college towns; and interviewed staff at university departments and downtown businesses.

**Chapel Hill Police Department:** The team worked to improve loading zone policies in downtown Chapel Hill. They conducted stakeholder interviews with downtown businesses, town staff, and police officers; compiled a literature review of case studies; and created maps of the survey results and downtown streets to inform future changes to loading zone policies and enforcement.

**Community Food Strategies:** The team conducted research and interviews to understand how a variety of local government boards function in North Carolina. This information will be part of an effort to encourage citizen participation on local boards, and to bridge the current gap between food councils and local government.

**Food, Fitness, and Opportunity Research Collaborative:** The team assessed Orange and Lenoir Counties' readiness to promote physical activity. After conducting a literature review of land-use and transportation policies, the team analyzed ordinances, policies, and future plans in Orange and Lenoir Counties to assess their collective impacts on physical activity promotion, as well as identify leverage points to introduce necessary change.

**Golden LEAF Foundation (Fall):** The team researched best practices in other state-scholarship community college programs across the United States and identified metrics of program evaluation. The team's recommendations aim to increase overall program effectiveness and reach among NC Community College students as it relates to the current funding distribution structure and the opportunity for economic development in target areas.

**Golden LEAF Foundation (Spring):** The team conducted research on workforce development challenges for harder-to-employ populations in rural North Carolina

through a literature review and interviews with workforce development practitioners. The team's recommendations on how to address these barriers will impact the Golden LEAF Foundation's grantmaking in the area of workforce development.

**Glenn Pelham Foundation for Debate Education:** The team conducted research and interviews on nonprofit funding and online education, and analyzed survey data from participants in the organization's debate programs. They made recommendations to the Foundation on how to structure their revenue-generating activities and how to expand their virtual debate programs. They also developed proposals for future research to evaluate the outcomes of Glenn Pelham's debate leagues.

**Institute for Emerging Issues (Fall):** The team conducted a literature review, stakeholder and expert interviews, and a case study analysis to describe the connections between urban and rural communities in North Carolina. Their findings provided a framework for IEL's ReCONNECT NC Forum, which sought to leverage these connections for statewide economic and community benefits.

**Institute for Emerging Issues (Spring #1):** This project focused on understanding access to economic opportunity and job mobility within the state of North Carolina. Specifically, the team evaluated the economic landscape of North Carolina according to the Self-Sufficiency Standard, explained systems within the state that work to address barriers to job mobility, and documented stories of North Carolinians who have successfully transitioned into higher skilled jobs by way of these systems.

**Institute for Emerging Issues (Spring #2):** The team researched disparities in technology within North Carolina, including broadband, investments in tech, extreme weather, and telehealth. The final report will include interviews and case studies of groups (municipalities, universities, etc.) working to bridge the technological divide in their communities.

**March of Dimes and North Carolina Division of Public Health:** In order to support sustained implementation of Preconception Peer Education (PPE) Programs in North Carolina, the team conducted interviews with active PPE programs, identified and evaluated relevant funding opportunities, and produced materials for grant applications.

**Musical Empowerment (Fall):** The team conducted surveys, a literature review, and an analysis of current data from the organization in order to recommend solutions for improvement regarding the language barrier between students and teachers, teacher effectiveness, and parental satisfaction involved with Musical Empowerment lessons.

**Musical Empowerment (Spring):** The team compiled a literature review and administered surveys and interviews to assess the impact of Musical Empowerment's mentorship program on participants' musical ability and academic performance. Their findings will provide a framework for Musical Empowerment to conduct a longitudinal study to monitor factors that may contribute to successful long-term pairs, as well as to track student growth in their individual life goals and achievements.

**Natural Hazards Center:** The team identified and evaluated school safety policies currently in place to limit the risks posed by natural hazards. They also highlighted the experiences of schools in response to natural disasters by surveying and interviewing school administrators affected by natural disasters.

**NC Child and NC Division of Public Health:** In preparation for the 2020 Census, the team gathered data on “hard-to-count” tracts and on North Carolina counties that have established “Complete Count Committees,” whose goals are to promote awareness of and motivate residents to respond to the census. The team created interactive and printable maps of their findings.

**NC Division of Public Health:** The team reviewed the Environmental Scan Survey implemented in the state of North Carolina as part of the 2016 Perinatal Health Strategic Plan. The team classified those who responded to the survey and identified gaps in those represented, conducted a literature review on best practices for survey implementation, and ultimately identified strategies for both increasing representation among survey responses and improving survey design and distribution.

**North Carolina Division of Public Health, Women and Children’s Health Section:** The team conducted research on social determinants of health and the impact of fatherhood involvement on perinatal health. They identified fatherhood initiatives across North Carolina and conducted a survey and interviews with administrators. They developed recommendations for addressing social determinants of health through fatherhood initiatives and addressing limitations of existing programs.

**Partners for Youth Opportunity:** The team researched characteristics of effective municipal child savings and financial capabilities programs around the United States. The findings provide PYO with recommendations for a citywide Child Savings Account program, which seeks to address the poverty cycle and opportunity gap within the city of Durham.

**Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education (SCALE):** The team conducted a literature review, a survey of learners participating in SCALE’s programs, and focus groups with tutors in order to better understand the challenges of SCALE’s current assessment practices. Their research will lead to recommendations for assessment tools for SCALE to use in the future.

**Student U:** The team conducted a literature review and interviews with leaders in similar organizations to determine what type of academic growth is possible for middle and early high school students in a summer program and how similar organizations measure their effectiveness. Student U will use this information to assess and improve its own summer programming.

**Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force:** The team conducted interviews and a literature review to determine if a Family Justice Center should be created in the Tri-County area of South Carolina. Their findings will provide a framework for how advocates and stakeholders should move forward in their process to consolidate survivor services in one setting.

**Triangle Bikeworks (Fall):** The team conducted research on racial and economic opportunity gaps in education, the school-to-prison pipeline, summer learning loss, and team sports participation in order to provide evidence of the need for leadership experiences for minority youth and identify points of program expansion in the NC Triangle area. The team also developed a pre-post survey of the summer cycling tour program, Spoke’n Revolutions, to evaluate student growth and parent satisfaction.

**Triangle Bikeworks (Spring):** The team conducted interviews of past donors to TBW to gauge what factors influence them to donate. From these interviews, the team extrapolated profiles of typical TBW donors and developed marketing strategies to expand the organization's donor base.

**UNC Public Policy:** The team conducted research to estimate the demand and viability of a Master's in Public Policy program at UNC-Chapel Hill, including demand for a "4+1" program that would allow a select group of students to earn their B.A. and M.P.P. in 5 years.

**Wake County Economic Development (Fall):** The team conducted research and interviews to identify and map existing resources in Wake County that contribute to citizen economic mobility. Their findings indicate areas where resources are sufficient, as well as areas where inadequate resources could limit opportunities for individuals to improve their economic standing

**Wake County Economic Development (Spring):** The team identified key indicators associated with equitable economic growth through a literature review. The team then conducted statistical analysis of the variables within Wake County to help create an economic equity profile for the county.

**WiderNet:** The team conducted research and interviews to assess the state of prison education in North Carolina, existing gaps, and areas for improvement. They identified key policy, legislation, decision-makers, and advocacy organizations that influence whether and how inmates can access education.

**WomenNC:** The team collected both quantitative and qualitative data on the status of women in Greensboro and Guilford County, specifically in the areas of health, economics, political representation, and violence against women. Their work provides information that speaks to the value of implementing the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in this area.