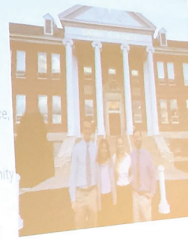




History of the Community Policy Institute

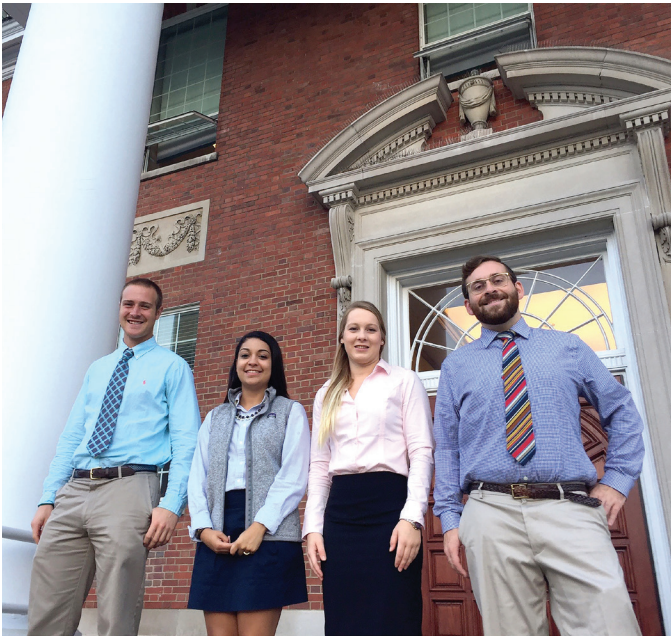
- ❑ CPI was founded and officially launched Spring of 2015
- ❑ Current CPI team: Dr. Daniel Lewis, Dr. Mathew Johnson, Allison Schultz, Emma Bettiol, Brittany Drollette
- ❑ CPI Founding Fellows: Rob DeFillippo, Megan Grace, Gabrielle Treiling, Ryan Vyskocil
- ❑ The Bonner Foundation → Policy Options → The Community Policy Institute
- ❑ Bridge the gap between nonprofits and the policy world
- ❑ "Service to Solutions"



Community Policy Institute

*From service to solutions,
one policy at a time*

Community Policy Institute



The Community Policy Institute (CPI) was founded in Spring 2015 within the Center for Academic Community Engagement (ACE). As part of the Bonner Foundation's PolicyOptions.org model, CPI engages students, faculty, staff, and community partners to explore the impact that public policy can have on vulnerable populations. CPI partners with associations, networks, and collaboratives to identify research questions and new and changing policy.

The CPI Fellows research public policies and regulations related to their policy questions. By sharing this research with partner associations, networks and collaboratives, CPI will help our partners effectively advocate for their member organizations and the clients that they serve.

CPI Fellows' projects center on the five Signature Issue Areas identified by ACE including:

- 1 Housing security and access
- 2 Hunger and food security
- 3 Health
- 4 Justice and community safety
- 5 Education access, opportunity and enrichment

Highlights of 2015

The four founding CPI Fellows spent the summer researching advocacy organizations and updating the Policy Options directory with over 3,344 entries of local organizations, programs, and community members. They also met with nonprofit policy experts for more insight and perspective on what it means to research policy in the Capital Region.

The CPI Fellows attended the "Cradle to Career Conference," hosted by the SUNY Global Center in NYC, and learned about the importance of early childhood education. Additionally, the fellows had the opportunity to network with important figures in the field such as SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, Executive Director of the Cradle to Career Alliance, Vanessa Threatte, and Juliette Price from Albany Promise.

In Fall 2015, CPI began its first research project on the scope of homelessness policy in the New York State Capital Region. The CPI Fellows engaged in data collection, stakeholder analysis, evaluation of past and current homelessness policy, development of policy alternatives, and preparing to report out this information to community partners.

"CPI has given me the opportunity to be a part of a professional team that works towards solving complex, abstract problems which do not have one clear solution."

- Ryan Vyskocil,
CPI Founding Fellow

POSC 265 Public Policy: The Gateway Course to CPI

In the Fall 2015 semester, 37 students enrolled in two sections of public policy

Course Description

Using a broad conception of public policy as actions to address problems faced by the public, this course examines the outputs and decision-making processes of government and nonprofit organizations at the local, state and national levels, and introduces students to foundational theories and concepts of public policy. In addition, students will study:

- Applied public policy analysis and evaluation
- Skills necessary for careers in public policy administration, community development, and politics

Students are required to write issue briefs, a best practices analysis, and a full policy evaluation.

"CPI is designed to leverage the academic resources of Siena – including faculty and students – to address the policy challenges that face our community today. It not only provides a high-impact learning experience for Siena students, but offers the community the needed policy expertise and analytical insight to confront current and future public policy problems."

- Dr. Daniel Lewis,
Assistant Professor of Political Science
CPI Faculty Fellow

The Policy Options Database

CPI Fellows have digested more than 200 policy news stories since May 2015

Siena College is one of 16 schools with Policy Options hubs in the nation and the only one in New York State.

The Community Policy Institute is responsible for maintaining the Policy Options database in the Capital Region and is the sole contributor to the New York site.

The CPI Fellows developed a new model for maintaining the Policy Options directory with people, organizations, collaboratives, research organizations, and programs throughout the Capital Region.

Policy briefs include the following topics:



Sexual assault in
higher education



Early childhood
development and quality
of childcare systems



Food insecurity:
How improving school
lunches may contribute
to a solution



Homelessness
prevention programs in
the Capital Region



Assessing diagnosis and treatment
access for adolescents with Manic
Depressive Disorder

2015 CPI Team

Dr. Daniel Lewis

Assistant Professor of Political Science
CPI Faculty Fellow

Allison Schultz

ACE Director of Programs

Emma Bettiol '15

AmeriCorps VISTA
Postgraduate CPI Coordinator

Brittany M. Drollette '16

Student Fellow Coordinator
Major: Political Science

Robert DeFillippo '17

CPI Fellow
Major: Political Science, Economics

Megan Grace '16

CPI Fellow
Major: Political Science

Gabrielle Treiling '17

CPI Fellow
Major: Political Science

Ryan Vyskocil '17

CPI Fellow
Major: Economics

The Future of CPI

Throughout the Fall 2015 semester, the CPI team worked tirelessly to recruit a new cohort for the Spring of 2016. The Community Policy Institute has grown from four fellows to 10 within one academic year.

In the coming semester, CPI will double the number of completed policy briefs. Additionally, all briefs completed in the Public Policy course and produced by our CPI Fellows will be uploaded to the Policy Options database.

The CPI team also plans to send at least two fellows to attend the Student Leadership Institute in May 2016 to present on their policy research in the Capital Region.

As the CPI team continues to grow, new projects will be in development including a project on how afterschool programs can help alleviate poverty and research on best practices in forming a food policy council in the Capital Region.

During Summer 2016, CPI will run a seven week intensive internship program, which will focus on developing relationships with community partners, increasing program capacity, assessing practices, and streamlining processes.

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Community Policy Institute

siena.edu/ace/cpi

