STENNIS SPOTLIGHT

The latest updates on SIG, policy, and community

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear all,

I am honored to lead the Stennis Institute in its 47th year of providing top-notch research, insight, and training to the people of Mississippi. It is my pleasure to present to you a recap of our activities and accomplishments for the calendar year 2022.

Throughout the year, the Stennis Institute has maintained a strong presence across the state. We have decided to take a unique approach to this year's recap by providing a storyboard-like overview of our activities and accomplishments. In this annual report, you will find information about the different locations where our talented faculty, staff, and students have been involved in public service, leadership training, and applied research activities across Mississippi.
Although this visualization does not include all of our activities, it gives an idea of the significant impact that the Institute has in helping the people of Mississippi.

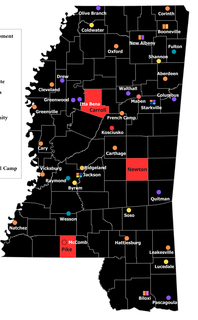
We hope that you enjoy our innovative approach to the annual recap. Our priority is to deliver the most impactful services and experiences to the people we serve. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of service to you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,

Joseph "Dallas" Breen
Executive Director & Asst. Res. Professor

STENNIS FOOTPRINT



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Through programs such as First Impressions, Strategic Doing, Ripple Effects Mapping, and Aspire Mississippi, the Stennis Institute aids organizations in generating solutions to tough challenges with our Community and Economic Development programs. Each program is specifically designed with propelling an organization or community to the next step. Services such as action planning and implementation, capacity development and training, citizen engagement, and impact mapping all provide insight to help a community prosper.

STRATEGIC DOING

Strategic Doing is aimed at jump starting plans for development or economic revitalization by implementing initiatives quickly in a community. With the addition of designing and leading teams, Strategic Doing takes planning and development to a new and innovative level, ensuring that solutions are created and carried through. No organization can solve all its challenges alone. Strategic Doing has been implemented in a wide range of organizations spanning from volunteer groups to private industries.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The First Impressions program allows communities to see themselves from the perspective of a first-time visitor. The process begins with an application allowing Stennis Institute staff to plan a two-to-three-day FI Event. After the FI Event, a summary is given back to the community, and includes the team's thoughts, experiences, and recommendations for community projects. The Stennis Institute will help jumpstart a project process, and guide the community through any obstacles.

SEDI

The State Executive Development Institute (SEDI) Conference is an immersive educational program designed to prepare mid to upper-level executives to better serve their communities, departments, or agencies. Each summer, participants from across the state will have the opportunity to sharpen their leadership skills and expand their professional knowledge. SEDI is a week long event on Mississippi State's campus and Jackson.

ELECTION VIDEO SERIES

The Stennis Institute produced a series of videos dedicated to voter education in Mississippi. Over the course of six videos, viewers learn what offices are on the upcoming 2023 ballot and the role campaign managers and finance advisors play in the campaign process. The series kicks off with an interview with Mississippi Secretary of State, Michael Watson.

APPLIED RESEARCH

The Stennis Institute is often called upon to conduct applied research on a number of topics including surveys and polling, economic impact analyses, and a host of additional areas. The Institute's applied research is primarily focused on improving the lives of Mississippians and the surrounding areas.

MCCLA

With leadership being a pillar of the Institute, the Stennis Institute is proud to partner with the Mississippi Community Colleges Foundation in sponsoring the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA), a 9-month program aimed at addressing problems of community college management. MCCLA is designed to prepare mid-level administrators in the community college system for higher level administrative roles.

SMA

Last spring, the Stennis Montgomery Association took 10 involved students to Washington D.C. for its annual networking trip. Throughout the week, SMA members were able to meet with the Mississippi Congressional delegation, Capitol Hill staffers, governmental affairs specialists, and non-profit administrators. At the end of the week, Grace Troutman and Christian Fulcher were awarded the Dean Frances Coleman Research & Writing Award for their papers on Senator Stennis and Congressman Montgomery, respectively.

CONFERENCES

During summer 2022, the Stennis Institute was involved in various conferences across the state including the Economic Development Council, the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, and the Mississippi Municipal League. Director, Dr. Joe Franzi and Chance McDavid talked at the conference about economic development and opportunities to expand counties and municipalities. At MAS, Dr. Matt Peterson and Frank Riley presented findings from the 2022 Mississippi First Responders Salary and Benefit Survey. Dr. Franzi, Dr. Peterson, and Dr. Dallas Breen all played a vital role in various presentations and discussions during MML.

REDISTRICTING

After the 2020 United States Census, school districts, municipalities, and counties consulted with the Stennis Institute to begin their own redistricting process. The redistricting process begins with a current map and compares it to new population data. Looking through these new numbers with Census blocks, new lines are drawn, carefully considering population, geographical features, and demographics. A new proposed map is drawn and taken to the Board of Aldermen or the Board of Supervisors of the city or county, respectively. After discussion with the Board, a vote is cast on the entity's new lines.

PRO INSTRUCT

On September 11, 2022, Pro-Instruct executed its first baseball camp, where over 90 Mississippi children, ages 7-14, participated. Former Major League Baseball players Jim Miles, Randy McGilberry, and Donovan Hosli led the camp activities, focusing on both baseball and leadership skills. Johnny Mack Morrow, a Project Manager at the Stennis Institute, was also involved in the project, working to expand community growth in Mississippi. The communities of French Camp, Mathison, Maben, Eupora, and Ackerman have hosted their own Pro-Instruct camp.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

www.sig.msstate.edu

OUR PEOPLE

Dr. Dallas Breen
Executive Director
Dr. Joe Franzi
Assistant Dir. For Community Dev.
David Parrish
Assistant Dir. For Operations
LeeAnn Funderburg
Business Manager
Bonnie Hays
Administrative Assistant
Chance McDavid
Project Director
Johnny Mack Morrow
Project Manager
Hoton Lollar
Research Associate I
Judith Phillips
Research Associate III
Frank Riley
Research Associate III
Dr. Matthew Peterson
Research Associate II
Lauren Gardner
Project Coordinator
Dr. John Harper
Research Associate II
Brittney Perkins
Research Associate I
Susan Jessup
Undergraduate Research Assistant
Patrick Manuele
Undergraduate Research Assistant
Harris Mason
Undergraduate Research Assistant
Alexander Nowell
Undergraduate Research Assistant
Noah Rutherford
Undergraduate Research Assistant
Grace Troutman
Undergraduate Research Assistant
Mary Martha Wilbur
Undergraduate Research Assistant
John Box
Graduate Research Assistant
Erin Bailey
Graduate Research Assistant
Sara Mae Brodnax
Graduate Research Assistant
Brittney Nelson
Graduate Research Assistant
Breana Norton
Graduate Research Assistant
Charlotte Allen
Surveyor
Mary Andrews
Surveyor
Gary Andrews
Surveyor
Perry Brown
Surveyor
Benjamin C. Carver
Surveyor
James C. Carver
Surveyor
Gail M. Dixon
Surveyor
Geoff Jankins
Surveyor
Harley W. Meadows
Surveyor
Douglas Stewart
Surveyor
Anthony A. Varaksa
Surveyor