

Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

Democracy in Action



UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA

Weldon Cooper Center
for Public Service



Larry D. Terry II, Executive Director

Cooper Center News

Click [here](#) for Cooper Center news and recent projects

The Cooper Center serves Virginia localities and strives to meet the needs of its diverse communities. Cooper Center professionals are committed to producing impact-driven work for individuals, organizations, governmental bodies, and communities who seek to serve the public good.

WELDON COOPER CENTER HISTORY

1931 UVA and the Virginia Municipal League establish the Bureau of Public Administration to help Virginia localities deal with the effects of the Great Depression.

1969 Bureau was renamed the Institute of Government and reorganized into 3 areas: urban research, governmental research, training services.

1987 The Institute merged with the economic and demographic study centers of the Tayloe Murphy Institute.

1994 UVA Board of Visitors renamed the Institute the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.

FIVE TEAMS

- Center for Economic and Policy Studies
- Center for Survey Research
- Demographics Research Group
- Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership
- Virginia Institute of Government

FOUR GOALS

LEVERAGE
RESEARCH
EXPERTISE

EMPOWER
COMMUNITIES

ENGAGE
STUDENTS

SERVE
VIRGINIA

THREE AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Public Impact
Research

Leadership
Development

Local Government
Engagement

Five Teams

Center for Economic and Policy Studies – Center for Survey Research – Demographics Research Group
Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership – Virginia Institute of Government

Eighty Team Members

30
full-time staff

20
students

15
contractors

15
part-time staff

Budget

1.7 M
state funds

2.1 M
grants & project billings

800K
contributions & endowments

800K
tuition & membership fees

Areas of Expertise

Economics
Data
Politics
Renewable Energy
Statistics
Research
Project Design
Leadership
Management Training
Professional
Development

FOUR GOALS

REIMAGINING PUBLIC SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN: 2020-2025

- 1 Leverage our research expertise in service to the Commonwealth
- 2 Build the capacity of public leaders to foster empowered communities
- 3 Provide students opportunities for meaningful engagement in public service
- 4 Enhance Cooper Center operations to maximize our capacity to serve



VALUES

Access | Collaboration | Communities | Impact



MISSION

Recognizing the challenges of 21st century governance, our mission is to deliver public impact research and leadership development to build the capacity of Virginia's communities and organizations to serve the Commonwealth.



VISION

Good governance, equity, and resilience in every Virginia community

THREE AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Public Impact Research

Unbiased, rigorous, accessible data and analysis that informs decision-making.

We conduct research in the following areas:

- Energy
- Economics
- Population Studies
- Survey Research

Leadership Development

High quality, relevant, and results-driven programming for leaders at all levels. We emphasize ethical and inclusive leadership in our programs for:

- Current and emerging community and political leaders
- Local government leaders throughout Virginia

Local Government Engagement

Engagement with local governments to help build the capacity of Virginia communities:

- Consultation services that offer assistance in planning and strategizing, and in strengthening team dynamics
- Collaborations that advance economic well-being and community resilience

Cooper Center Experts

Larry Terry,

Cooper Center Director

ldt4dd@virginia.edu

Topics: leadership, research, civic outreach, local government, public service, democracy in action

Qian Cai

Demographics Research Group

qian.cai@virginia.edu

Topics: demographics, research, the US Census, data collection, demographic trends in America, planning for changing demographics

Bill Shobe

Center for Economic and Policy Studies

shobe@virginia.edu

Topics: research, energy policy, economic data for local government, decision making

Larry Roberts

The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership

lr9wm@virginia.edu

Topics: Virginia politics, leadership development for students, bipartisan collaboration,

Kara Fitzgerald

Center for Survey Research

ksf5fe@virginia.edu

Topics: survey design, research, policy, data for decision making

Charles Hartgrove

Virginia Institute of Government

charles.hartgrove@virginia.edu

Topics: leadership development, including senior leadership and management of local government, rural government, Virginia localities, human resources for governments



HOW TO LEARN MORE

Interview a Cooper Center expert

Speak with an expert from the Cooper Center about their work

Contact us to set up an interview:
coopercenter-media@virginia.edu

Intersections in Public Service Podcast

A seasonally released podcast covering policy topics related to the Commonwealth

Available [here](#) and wherever podcasts are released

Follow us on social media

