Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

Democracy in Action
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.

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

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**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

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

VALUES

Access | Collaboration | Communities | Impact
# 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

Bill Shobe
Center for Economic and Policy Studies
shobe@virginia.edu
Topics: research, energy policy, economic data for local government, decision making

Kara Fitzgerald
Center for Survey Research
ksf5fe@virginia.edu
Topics: survey design, research, policy, data for decision making

Qian Cai
Demographics Research Group
gian.cai@virginia.edu
Topics: demographics, research, the US Census, data collection, demographic trends in America, planning for changing demographics

Larry Roberts
The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership
lr9wm@virginia.edu
Topics: Virginia politics, leadership development for students, bipartisan collaboration,

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

Weldon Cooper Center – Democracy in Action