



OVERVIEW

The Center, established in 1992, is a self-supporting unit of the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies at California State University, Sacramento. The Center has three emphases:

- **Service** through assisting government agencies, stakeholders and communities in addressing complex public policy challenges for such issues as state fiscal reform, natural resource and energy policy, regional transportation, land use planning, and health policy through:
 - Multi-party consensus-building, negotiation, and dispute resolution;
 - Community and public agency long-range strategic planning and visioning;
 - Inclusive and participatory public participation processes on emerging and controversial policy issues.
- **Teaching** collaborative policy development and collaborative leadership to undergraduate and graduate students at the University. The Master's in Public Policy and Administration program offers their students a three-course series in collaborative policy development leading to a Certificate in Collaborative Governance upon graduation.
- **Research** focusing on theory building in the fields of collaborative governance and deliberative democracy, evaluation of the outcomes of collaborative efforts, and research on collaborative process effectiveness. The Center has produced 21 scholarly publications in the last four years.

HISTORY

The idea for the Center grew from a 1990 -1991 collaborative process among 50 powerful California constituencies on growth management state policies. The State Legislature sponsored this effort and requested the University to provide a neutral mediator / facilitator to manage this project. Center Founder and Executive Director Susan Sherry directed that effort.

After that project, the University provided three-years of seed money, from 1992 - 1994, with the understanding that the Center would be self-supporting by January 1995. The Center met this goal. The Center attracts over \$3 million in project revenue each year.

CLIENTS AND PROJECTS

In Fiscal Year 06-07, the Center worked on 90 collaborative projects sponsored by 42 federal, state and local public agencies. Clients include such public agencies as:

- U.S. Department of the Interior
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- California Dept. of Mental Health
- California Dept. of Water Resources
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)
- County of Placer
- Cities of Ione and Jackson
- El Dorado County Irrigation District

UNIVERSITY COURSES AND ACADEMIC ADVISING

- *Introduction to Collaborative Policy Making*, Graduate Course, Department of Public Policy and Administration
- *Practice of Collaborative Policy Making*, Graduate Course, Department of Public Policy and Administration
- *Advanced Practice of Collaborative Policy Making*, Graduate Course, Department of Public Policy and Administration
- *Collaborative Problem Solving Practicum*, Undergraduate Course, College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies
- *Advanced Leadership Seminar*, Graduate Course, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- *Graduate Thesis Advising*, Graduate Program, Department of Public Policy and Administration

PUBLICATIONS

The Center's research has been published by leading academic journals and presses:

- *American Political Science Review*
- *Journal of the American Planning Association*
- *Journal of Planning Education and Research*
- *Public Administration Review*
- *Journal of Forestry*
- *Conservation Biology*
- MIT Press
- Cambridge University Press

STAFF AND PERSONNEL

- The Center core staff includes ten mediators / facilitators, a Research Director, four paraprofessional staff, and seven administrative support staff.
- The Center has developed a network of 23 part-time, periodic Special Consultants and nine Independent Contractors to mediate / facilitate projects
- The mix of full-time staff and part time consultants works well for the Center because in times of economic down turn, the Center can retain its core employee staff.

