

FOCUS

Magazine

Issue 6
2023-2024



FSU | DEVOE L. MOORE CENTER

Florida Policy Project
Another Year in Partnership

Pluralist Lab
Engaging in Civil Discourse

Florida OpenGov
Housing Data by the DAG Team

A WORD FROM Our Director

By: Samuel Staley, PhD



A core element of the DeVoe L. Moore Center's mission since its founding in 1998 has been to prepare students for the expectations and demands of their post-graduate professional life and career.

During the Center's first decade, much of this effort focused on supporting graduate students and their research. Since 2011, undergraduate students have become a central component to fulfilling our mission. This year, 38 students interned with us, the vast majority of whom were undergraduates.

As the newest crop graduated in May, they joined their peers to mark a major milestone: more than 275 students have graduated through our internship program. (Three quarters have majored, minored, or concentrated in economics as a discipline.)

Where do they go after they graduate?

We keep up with them. Seventy-six percent who have been out five years or more started out working in for-profit companies. Fifty-two percent continue to work in the for-profit sector, while the remainder have moved to the nonprofit sector. Interestingly, less than a handful, about 2%, take positions in government.

About one-third of those in the private sector are employed in banking, insurance, investment advising, IT, or business services. Fifteen percent are working in business consulting, mainly research and analytics.

Moreover, virtually all of our former interns are fully employed within a few months of graduation. The tools they learn, most importantly writing, research, and teamwork, creates a platform for successful employment.

We are very proud of our alums, who often come back and serves as panelists and mentors to current interns. Stay tuned for updates as we continue to report on the success of our program and students.

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A WORD FROM Our Associate Director



By: Crystal Taylor, PhD

This past year, DeVoe L. Moore Center (DMC) focused its market-oriented frame on housing policy. With Florida's population expanding continuously, housing supply falls short of demand, and the DMC closely examined land use regulations, governmental programs, and market innovations to tackle housing affordability issues through a range of activities and partnerships.

In partnership with the Florida Policy Project (FPP), the DMC published two reports during this year on *Housing Affordability Best Practices* and *Elevating Housing Vouchers*. This exciting partnership enabled the DMC to engage students in paid housing research internships. Housing research is helping our interns uncover best practices by asking better questions. Many students have fears and concerns that homeownership may be unattainable for their generation, and our housing policy research strives to empower our students.

During Spring 2024, nine students presented posters at the DMC's Research Colloquium, and eight students presented at FSU's Undergraduate Research Symposium. Researcher Chloe Wain was selected from a competitive pool to present her paper on eminent domain at John Hopkins University. Four DMC scholars represented FSU at the Association of Private Enterprise Education (APEE) Undergraduate Research Competition, with participant Camila Aponte placing 3rd for her research on educational policy. Also at APEE, Research Director Crystal Taylor and Housing Manager Shane Dabney co-presented a professional paper on vouchers. In conjunction with FPP, Director Sam Staley featured the team's latest report at the Florida Housing Summit in Tampa, Florida.

DMC research also took on honors theses this year. We are happy to report that our four Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program mentees, Chloe Wain, Camila Aponte, Arthi Solayappan, and Eli Mckown-Dawson, who joined the DMC as sophomores, concluded their honor theses as seniors.

FLORIDA POLICY PROJECT



By: Hannah Squires

The DMC is in its second year of partnering with the Florida Policy Project (FPP). They are a non-profit, non-partisan research institute that “advances evidence-based policies to improve the lives of Floridians” on issues such as criminal justice reform, transportation, and housing. FPP has been instrumental in launching and sustaining the DMC’s Housing Affordability Initiative.

In June of 2023, a DMC report on housing policy titled, “Practical Strategies for Addressing Florida’s Crisis in Housing Affordability,” written by DMC Research Director Dr. Crystal Taylor, DMC Director Dr. Sam Staley, and other interns, was published through FPP.

The DMC’s Housing Affordability Team continues to work with FPP to bring awareness to housing insecurity and conduct research that works towards solutions, gaining knowledge that will eventually benefit all Floridians. The team recently finalized a study on housing vouchers as a mechanism for providing greater access to sustainable housing for low-income families. The results of this study were presented at a statewide housing policy summit in St. Petersburg, Florida on May 1, 2023.

As Senator Jeff Brandes, the founder of FPP noted, “The housing affordability studies released today outline the why, the ideas, and the best practice solutions. In the coming weeks, in collaboration with legislative leadership and university partners, we will produce strategies to best implement these practices.” With this in mind, the DMC is looking forward to its partnership with the FPP and to addressing and educating on housing affordability.



TESTIMONIALS

By: Anna Hyatt

Eliza Terziev, Economics

Terziev has worked on two pivotal research projects throughout this year: “The Role of Vacancies and Crime in Determining Home Prices,” and a voucher report produced by the Housing Affordability Team in partnership with the Florida Policy Project.

“It has been extraordinarily rewarding to watch ideas grow into fully developed products [within the DMC].” - Eliza Terziev



Parker Ridaught, Economics, Political Science

Planning to apply to PhD programs in the fall of 2024, Ridaught values the DMC’s focus on economic policy as well as his work with Terziev on crime and home prices. He continues to work on framing their findings in an affordable housing context.

“I view the DMC as an opportunity to apply what I have learned from classes to real life.” - Parker Ridaught



Chloe Wain, Political Science, Economics, EWM

Wain has worked with the DMC through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement and an Honors in the Major Thesis program with Dr. Taylor. She plans to pursue a career in law as a public defender.

“The DeVoe L. Moore Center has helped me understand how to devise public policy recommendations to elected government officials[.]” - Chloe Wain



Isabella Campbell, Economics

Campbell has focused on exploring public policy and economic applications. This has led to her success in poster presentations, as well as in-depth research regarding criminal justice reform. She has also published a blog in partnership with the Reason Foundation.

“[The DMC] has been one of the most rewarding experiences during my time in college...I just hope that I have helped out the people around me as well.”

- Isabella Campbell



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

By: August Rogers



DMC Alumni Spotlight by Sarah Grace Hutchinson

DMC alumni Austin Eovito recently hosted a discussion about Artificial Intelligence (AI). During this discussion, Eovito talked about how AI was impacting and influencing his work. While he encouraged the audience to work with AI, he included tips on the best practices to keep in mind.



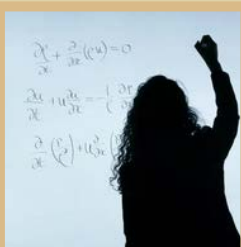
DMC Alumni Spotlight by Mishalynn Brown

During the pandemic, fellow Mendez gained relevant first-hand experience dealing with data on wage gaps in K-12 careers. Later, he branched out from the DMC, spending his time with a variety of companies and institutions while picking up new skills and gaining experience.



School Choice & Charter Schools by Ethan Forberg

House Bill 1 eliminated the income requirements for school vouchers, meaning fewer families will be limited by school district boundaries. Forberg explores the differences between charter and public schools in his work.



Charter Schools in STEM by Lauren Winslow

Winslow brings STEM into the conversation surrounding the impacts of House Bill 1. As charter schools see a higher achievement in STEM compared to non-charter schools, this data could predict future career success in those fields.



Building Up or Out? by Chloe Kauffman

Despite the high demand for housing close to Florida State University and Florida A&M University, the College Town area in Tallahassee is bound to a maximum building height. Kauffman argues that these restrictions should be reconsidered, as there are many potential benefits to increased housing supply.

NEW REPORT!



FPP Report: *Elevating Housing Vouchers*

DMC directors and manager Dr. Crystal Taylor, Dr. Samuel R. Staley, and Shane Dabney discuss Florida's housing affordability crisis and the role of housing vouchers in authoring this report. Research assistants Elizabeth Miller, Eliza Terziev, Gabriel Silva, and Jake Nair from the Housing Affordability Team aided in research and writing, and Katie Kelsey edited their work. As housing and rent prices rise, fewer low-income families can access housing. In this report, they explore the gap between the estimated voucher recipients, the number of eligible households who do not receive vouchers, and more.

EVENTS EVENTS

By: Mairyn Krause

This has been a great year for DMC events! Starting strong with the semester-opening Onboarding meeting, the DeVoe L. Moore Center welcomed a multitude of new researchers and editors to the team on both September 8th, 2023, and January 19th, 2024. All gathered to listen as Dr. Samuel Staley and Dr. Crystal Taylor discussed the expectations and benefits of working with the DMC team! The Onboarding also consisted of an introduction to all of the new and previous members, as well as a brief explanation of the different teams, with each manager explaining exactly what they do.

Both the fall and spring semesters were hosts to Editorial workshops, led by the Editorial and Public Affairs Manager, Katie Kelsey. The fall workshops covered editorial tips and writing blogs, op-eds, and commentaries, whereas the spring workshops covered structuring policy arguments and self-editing.

The Spring saw poster presentations, in which DMC researchers presented their research to receive feedback from their peers. These researchers then made edits to their posters and were able to present them at FSU's Undergraduate Research Symposium, with four making it to the Association of Private Enterprise Education (APEE) annual conference in April. APEE is a professional association of scholars, educators, and policy analysts.

The DMC hosted two Colloquiums to present center research this year, one on November 3rd, and the other on April 5th. Both events bolstered the think tank's researchers and helped them take the next steps to get their outputs officially published. Both colloquia allowed participants to receive real-time peer edits and critiques while practicing their pitching skills.



PLURALIST LAB

By: Samantha Jimenez

During the Spring, the DMC hosted a Pluralist Lab in which students discussed wide-ranging perspectives regarding housing access and affordability, as well as school choice policies and educational outcomes. A program of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, the Pluralism Lab is designed to develop and implement tools to have difficult conversations for students.

“We did have differentiating conversations: some people were more inclined to be more pro-private sector than the public sector, while others were impassioned about looking at the particulars of each situation and felt that a mix of both solutions or neither were in order,” said participant Adrian Velasquez-Lassalle.

This Pluralist Lab was the first on Florida State University's campus, and it brought new frameworks for encouraging fresh perspectives and civil discourse.

“Some of the moderation was very unique,” said participant Eliza Terziev, pictured at the top. “For example, sometimes the facilitator would ask why we believed someone with the opposing viewpoint held their position. This tactic was very intentionally designed to compel us to think from a different lens than we gravitate towards.”

The Pluralist Lab left a lasting impression on its attendees, and it brought students closer even with their varying perspectives on topics.

“I would absolutely recommend this event,” Terziev continued. “Hearing where people are coming from in a controlled environment is a great way to expand your horizons. Additionally, I think it is deeply important to practice articulating your positions in a confident and logically sound way.”

With polarizing political conflicts on the rise, the Pluralist Lab aims to redirect the tone of the conversation in more constructive directions. Rather than arguing, the Lab facilitated a productive conversation, where participants listened to differing opinions and asked questions to understand the different perspectives.



Eliza Terziev



CONFERENCES

By: Jamie Soto

The DMC left a big mark on the 24th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) at Florida State University on April 3rd. This year's event took place in the brand-new Student Union Ballrooms and allowed our DMC researchers to showcase their hard work to the greater university community. The DMC had eight total researchers presenting six different posters, ranging in topics from housing affordability to eminent domain practices. For some of our graduating researchers, this experience was also an opportunity to reflect on their time with the DMC and look ahead toward the bright future of undergraduate research that will continue after them.



2024 ushered in another exciting year for the DMC at the Association of Private Enterprise Education's (APEE) research conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Our researchers flew across the country together on April 7-9 to present their research and compete for numerous awards. Dr. Randall Holcombe won the Distinguished Scholar Award, and Camila Aponte won third place in the Undergraduate Research Competition. We are proud to spotlight Camila, Dr. Holcombe, and all our attending researchers for their incredible accomplishments!

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

By: Mary May

The DeVoe L. Moore Center's housing affordability research team works tirelessly to provide insight and original research on housing to Floridians and the Tallahassee community. This team is comprised of team lead Shane Dabney, Elizabeth Miller, Jake Nair, Gabriel Valvassori, and Eliza Terziev. A major focus of their research this past year has been on the federal housing vouchers for low-income households.

This team recently published a report with the Florida Policy Project on the voucher program in Florida, which identified best practices and made recommendations for policymakers and program practitioners. Their work generates forthcoming academic publications, through CityScape's Data Shop (Vol. 26, No. 2, July 2024). The article provides a generalizable methodology for calculating county-level voucher gaps -- the number of federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)-eligible households that do not get a subsidy -- and provides the voucher gap figures for Florida counties.

Additionally, Miller and Nair published an op-ed on Accessory Dwelling Units in the *Tallahassee Democrat*, a newspaper that publishes information on Tallahassee in Leon County, Florida, as well as the Gadsden, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties. Researchers Valvassori and Terziev also have several blogs and an op-ed scheduled for publication. These articles are on the Live Local Act and its impact on housing in Florida. Terziev also co-authored a poster with Ridaught, who presented their research at APEE.

Miller has another blog in the works on Starter Home Affordability. Valvassori produced a research poster, which he presented at the Undergrad Research Symposium. Finally, Dr. Crystal Taylor, DMC Director of Research, and Dabney presented research on housing choice vouchers at APEE.

A fun fact is that this team has created a housing affordability glossary, which will be published soon on the DMC website. This effort was spearheaded by researcher Elizabeth Miller.



The Housing Affordability Team!



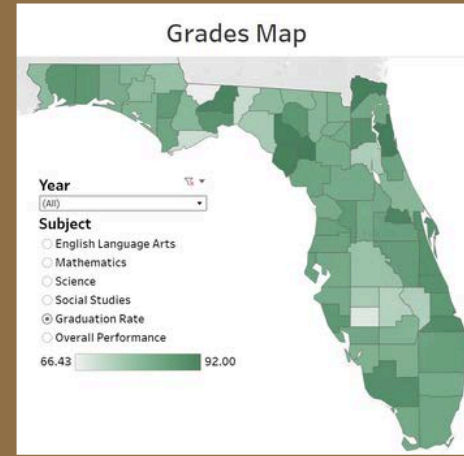
FloridaOpenGov

By: Carter Ferguson

The Data Analytics Team worked diligently to improve the Florida OpenGov website (<https://floridaopengov.org>). While it was already a fully functional website, major enhancements added millions of rows of data from the Department of Education. The data expansion required the team to build a new database to store the information.

The completely redesigned website makes navigating the site more user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing. These changes allow Florida parents, teachers, students, and researchers to easily interact with the data as they see fit and gain relevant information on the K-12 education system. Additionally, all of the data can be downloaded in several formats. This allows anyone to use it in any way they need, without having to acquire it from the Florida Department of Education and clean it.

"I'm so proud of the team and what we've accomplished," said team lead Ethan Forberg. "It's been a privilege to watch them grow from students to professionals."

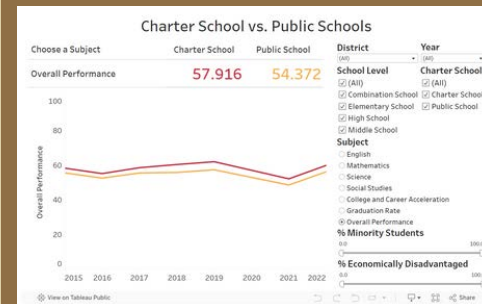
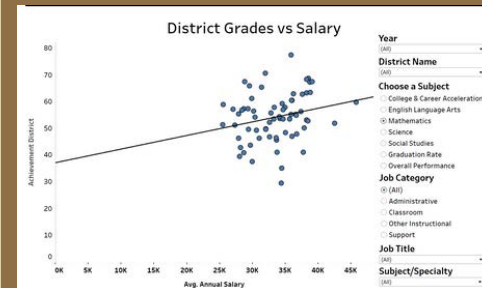


District Graduation Rate by Race

Year	District Name	District Number	White Cohort	White Graduates	White Graduation Rate	Black or African American Cohort
2015	ALACHUA	1	848	1,035	81.90%	115
	BAKER	2	199	240	82.90%	
	BAY	3	1,051	1,454	72.30%	58
	BRADFORD	4	108	141	76.60%	
	BREVARD	5	3,122	3,551	87.90%	595
	BROWARD	6	4,319	5,069	85.20%	4,534
	CALHOUN	7	111	131	84.70%	
	CHARLOTTE	8	812	1,062	76.50%	97
	CITRUS	9	748	950	78.70%	58
	CLAY	10	1,761	2,113	83.30%	209
	COLLIER	11	1,213	1,359	89.30%	955
	COLUMBIA	12	331	451	73.40%	19
	DEAF/BLIND	68	22	34	64.70%	4
	DESOTO	14	70	116	60.30%	73
	DIXIE	15	81	84	96.40%	
	DUVAL	16	2,677	3,292	81.30%	509
	ESCAMBIA	17	1,093	1,389	78.70%	88
	FAMU LAB SCH	74				
	FAU LAB SCH	72	31	31	100.00%	24



The DAG Team



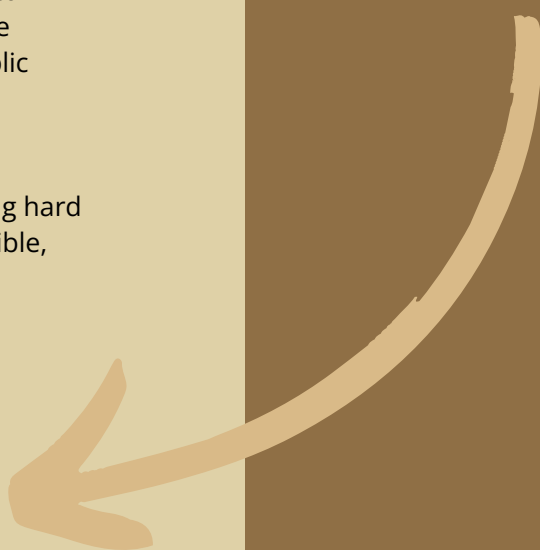
PASSING THE EDITORIAL TORCH

By: Katie Kelsey

Currently, the Editorial and Public Affairs Team is led by Katie Kelsey. However, after being the Team's manager for one-and-a-half years and being with the DeVoe L. Moore Center for two years, she is graduating and passing the managerial torch to Chloe Offutt, who is currently an intern on the Editorial and Public Affairs Team.

During her time at the DeVoe L. Moore Center, Katie overhauled how the Editorial and Public Affairs Team operates. She massively upscaled her team, jumping from four interns to nine. By increasing the number of Editorial interns at the DeVoe L. Moore Center, she was able to assign Editorial interns to researchers, allowing the interns and researchers to foster a relationship and integrate the Editorial interns deeper into the Center's operations. In turn, this change allowed the Editorial and Public Affairs Team to become recognizable figures in the Center!

With graduation approaching, Chloe Offutt emerged as an ideal candidate to take on her role. While nerve-racking, the two are working hard to ensure the transition between managers goes as smoothly as possible, with Katie training Chloe to take over her role.



INTERNSHIP PATHWAY

The DMC serves its market-focused mission through internship programs that accomplish several key goals and objectives, including:

- Educating students on our market-oriented mission and why voluntary, private sector approaches to problems are subjectively and objectively valuable;
- Developing professional skills and attitudes that will allow them to be successful in professional and academic workplaces;
- Recognizing and applying best practices to research and policy analysis;
- Encouraging the development of knowledge and expertise in key policy areas;
- Cultivating good character and values that support productive, team-based work and civil society.
- Developing effective writing and oral presentation skills

The DeVoe L. Moore Center examines the private sector's role in addressing pressing concerns relevant to Florida.
The center at Florida State University uses an interdisciplinary market-oriented lens to analyze, develop, and propose policy recommendations and guidance for policy makers at the state and local level.

OUR STUDENTS → **THE DMC STRUCTURE** → **OUR ALUMNI**

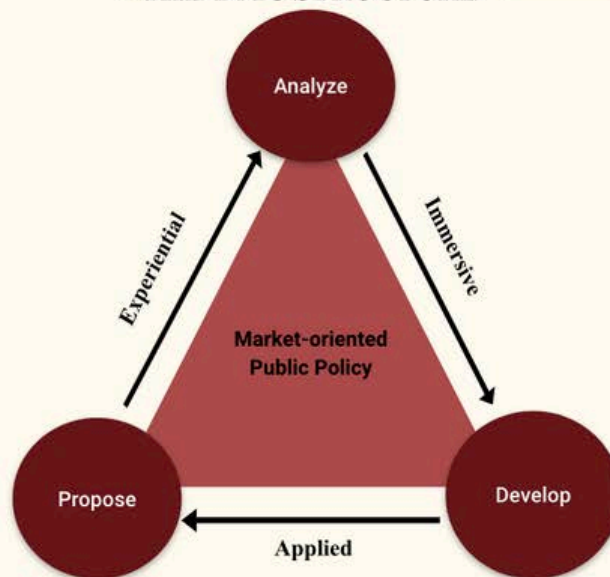
Overview
30 - 40 Students Annually
Undergraduates & Masters

Majors in the College of Social Sciences & Public Policy

- Economics (64%)
- Political Science
- International Affairs
- Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Majors in Other Departments

- Editing, Writing, Media
- Psychology
- History
- Computer Science



238
Students
2013-23

96%
Professional
Placement
Rate

Calculated using information from 121 DMC alumni

EDITORIAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM



**Mishalynn
Brown**



**Carter
Ferguson**



Sarina Francis



**Sarah-Grace
Hutchinson**



Anna Hyatt



**Samantha
Jimenez**



Mairyn Krause



Eric Lovine



Mary May



**Katherine
Kelsey**

Katie acted as the Editorial and Public Affairs Manager, organizing the operations of the Editorial and Public Affairs Team. She ensured all of the outputs from the DeVoe L. Moore Center were thoroughly edited, and managed the Center's social media presence.

She is a senior Creative Writing major with a minor in Film Studies.



Chloe Offutt



August Rogers



Shelby Simmons



Jamie Soto



Hannah Squires



Jessi Wynn

DATA ANALYTICS TEAM



Anagrace Bennett



Carson Collingbourne



Lucia Cook



Alexander Kadja



Niamh Mulroy



Ethan Forberg

Ethan is Data Analytics Manager at the DMC. This year, the DAG team made many enhancements to the Florida OpenGov website. They gathered and cleaned millions of rows of data from the Department of Education and made the website as a whole more aesthetically-pleasing and user-friendly.

He is a senior Management Information Systems major.

PUBLIC POLICY TEAM



Camila Aponte



Mae Baltz



Dimitri Blanco



Vittorio Nastasi

Torio is a principal project manager for the DeVoe L. Moore Center also serves as a bridge between Reason Foundation and DeVoe L. Moore Center's collaborative efforts. Torio is pursuing his PhD in the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at FSU.

He is a graduate student at FSU, and he has already earned his undergraduate degree in Economics.



Alan Drake



Abigail Grauss



Elliott Henry



Garrett Julevich



Eli Mckown-Dawson



Joshua Nover



**Parker
Ridaught**



**Maria Clara
Sandoval
Durski**



Max Siemens



**Arthi
Solayappan**



Chloe Wain



Alexis Whitley

Reason Foundation



**Isabella
Campbell**



**Nicholas
Montano**

About The Editorial Team!

The Editorial and Public Affairs Team at the DeVoe L. Moore Center focuses on readying our researchers and their various outputs. Interns on the Editorial and Public Affairs Team are assigned researchers to edit, and work with them throughout the semester. In their edits, Editorial Interns not only correct grammar mistakes, but help researchers shape their content to be digestible to a wider audience.

Aerospace Industry



**Zachary
Asarnow**



**Max
Blumenfeld**



**Dominick
Purpura**

Housing Affordability



Amanda Flynn



**Elizabeth
Miller**



Eliza Terziev



**Gabriel
Valvassori**



**Shane
Dabney**

Shane is the Housing Affordability Initiative Manager, leading a team of researchers that focus on providing housing information to the Tallahassee community. The team works closely with our partner the Florida Policy Project to identify best practices and make policy recommendations.

He is a PhD candidate at FSU.

FACULTY & STAFF



Samuel Staley, PhD

Dr. Samuel R. Staley is Director of the DeVoe L. Moore Center and full-time faculty of the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. He teaches in the departments of economics and urban planning, with academic specialties in regulation, economic development, housing and land, growth management, transportation, and urban policy. He also is a research fellow at the Independence Institute. Staley received his B.A. in Economics and Public Policy from Colby College, M.S. in Social and Applied Economics from Wright State University, and Ph.D. in Public Administration, with concentrations in urban planning and public finance from Ohio State University.

Crystal Taylor, PhD

Dr. Crystal Taylor is Director of Research and Associate Director at the DMC, started in 2019 as the Director of Public Policy. Dr. Taylor brings practical and classroom experience into her role at the center. An award-winning instructor, she has taught a wide range of courses on megacities, urban development, land-use planning, sustainable development, infrastructure planning, and collective decisions. Her academic research has appeared in professional journals such as *Cities and Health*, the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, the *Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies*, and the *Journal of Environmental Health*. Dr. Taylor earned her PhD in urban planning from Florida State University, MS in geography from the University of Alabama, and BS in management from Missouri State University.



Randall G. Holcombe, PhD



Dr. Randall Holcombe is a leading scholar on public finance and public policy. He is the author of more than fifteen books, and he is a former member of Florida Governor Jeb Bush's Council of Economic Advisors, former president of the Public Choice Society, former president of the Society for the Development of Austrian Economics, and a Senior Fellow with the James Madison Institute. His scholarly articles have appeared in the economics profession's leading journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *National Tax Journal*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, *Public Finance Quarterly*, and *Public Choice*, among others. Writing his dissertation under Nobel Prize-winning economist James M. Buchanan, Dr. Holcombe earned his PhD and MA in economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and his BSBA in economics with honors from the University of Florida.

Keith Ihlanfeldt, PhD

Dr. Keith Ihlanfeldt is an internationally recognized scholar in urban and regional science, having been elected a Fellow of the Regional Science Association International in 2009. He has contributed foundational work on housing segregation, job accessibility, residential mobility, growth management, impact fees, and state and local public finance. He has conducted research for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Commerce, the Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, the Russell Sage Foundation, the Federal Transit Administration, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and others. He has served on the editorial boards of leading research journals, including the *Review of Regional Studies*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, and the *Journal of Regional Science*. He earned his PhD and MA in economics from Washington University and his BA from Illinois Wesleyan University.



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For more information, or to contact the DeVoe Moore Center directly, email Dr. Samuel R. Staley, Director, at ssstaley@fsu.edu or send mail or queries to:

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