

# Embracing the Future

Looking forward, the Institute is positioned to become a leader in Michigan and across the nation in linking policymakers to survey, evaluation, and applied research, and to political leadership instruction. The Institute plans to build on its considerable strengths including collaborations both on and beyond MSU's campus. IPPSR would like to express sincere thanks to sponsors, partners, and collaborators for their important contributions over the past years and in years to come.

## Contact Us

For more information on the Institute's activities, utilize one of the contact methods below. The full version of the IPPSR Report and Resource Guide 2002-2003 is available on the Institute's website [www.ippsr.msu.edu](http://www.ippsr.msu.edu).

# IPPSR

*Institute for Public Policy & Social Research*  
Michigan State University  
321 Berkey Hall  
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1111  
Phone: (517) 355-6672  
Fax: (517) 432-1544  
Web: [www.ippsr.msu.edu](http://www.ippsr.msu.edu)

*The Institute for Public Policy and Social Research  
is housed within the College of Social Science  
at Michigan State University.*

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# IPPSR

*Institute for Public Policy & Social Research*

*The Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) is dedicated to connecting legislators, scholars, and practitioners through survey, evaluation, and applied research, through public policy forums, and through political leadership instruction. Today, as the impacts of term limits are beginning to be felt in Michigan, the nonpartisan efforts of IPPSR faculty and staff are more relevant than ever before. This snapshot report on 2002-2003 activities will provide a window on resources and services available to policymakers, faculty, and other community leaders in Michigan and beyond.*

## Extending Political Leadership

In 2002 IPPSR provided its three-day Legislative Leadership Program (LLP) to over 30 newly elected legislators and awarded its ten-month Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP) fellowships to 12 men and 12 women interested in participating in their communities as future leaders.

### Michigan Political Leadership Program

The multi-partisan MPLP celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2002, marking the occasion with its annual fundraising dinner. The event featured former U.S. Senators Alan K. Simpson and George J. Mitchell. The 2003 event featured White House insiders Dee Dee Myers and Karen Hughes. The event annually attracts nearly 700 participants.

Since its inception, MPLP has enjoyed the support of many donors across all sectors. In 2003, through grant funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, new policy sessions will be added to the curriculum and a program called Tomorrow's Political Leaders will be developed to encourage civic involvement by under-represented college students and recent graduates.

### Legislative Leadership Program

IPPSR and MSU Extension jointly sponsor the Legislative Leadership Program which is advised by faculty and administrators across campus as well as those working in the legislature. The 2002 LLP session served over 30 individuals from the house and senate. It included presentations on demographic trends; financial issues; term limits; crime, sentencing and corrections; Medicaid; land use; education; and, leadership. Evaluations of the program indicated a high level of satisfaction. Organizers also provided program information to those legislators who could not attend and are planning follow-up sessions to be held over the next two years.





## Collaborating on and off Campus

A hallmark of the Institute is its ongoing efforts to partner with other units on and off campus. 2002 was a year of building collaborative efforts and resulted in the following projects:

- A research paper series on health and urban issues;
- A book on urban issues;
- Many events on key legislative topics;
- A nationwide study on alcohol use in college; and,
- A successful grant proposal to coordinate land use efforts across campus.

IPPSR's policy forum events are also often co-sponsored by other units on campus who hold a particular interest or expertise in the featured topic of the forum. In 2002 IPPSR partnered on forums with several MSU units including:

- Urban Affairs Programs;
- Institute for Health Care Studies; and,
- Education Policy Center.

Another important collaboration is with Michigan Government Television which airs the entire policy forum series and the MPLP annual dinner before the station's one million viewers.

## Producing Top-Notch Research

### Office for Survey Research

The Institute's Office for Survey Research (OSR) annually administers 30,000 telephone and self-administered mail questionnaire surveys. In 2002, OSR provided its services to fifteen MSU units, four universities, six private organizations, and five governmental units. Telephone surveys are conducted in OSR's state-of-the-art Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) facility in Berkey Hall on the MSU campus.

In addition to fulfilling contracts to design and conduct surveys, OSR analyzes data and prepares reports upon client request. OSR is consistently sought-after to conduct studies in which protocol is set at the national level. In most cases the data collection in these projects not only provides state-specific data but also allows comparisons among participating states. Over the years, OSR has developed new methods of reaching rare populations. This provides a cost savings to clients and high levels of validity to studies.

### State of the State Survey

One of the most well-known projects of OSR and the Institute is the State of the State Survey (SOSS). Initiated in October 1994, SOSS is the only survey conducted in Michigan designed to provide a regular systematic monitoring of public perceptions in major regions of the state. SOSS questions are sponsored by faculty and units across campus. In 2002 the survey was administered five times. It resulted in at least six publications and informed many presentations, releases, and articles.

In 2002, a new online venue for SOSS data was launched. Entitled Michigan Data on Demand (MDOD), the resource is housed on the IPPSR website and allows individuals to analyze and download SOSS data on Michigan resident perceptions. Documentation for nearly 30 quarterly studies may also be accessed.

### Evaluation Research Collaborative

In the area of evaluation research, IPPSR's Evaluation Research Collaborative (ERC) has brought together faculty from across campus to apply for over \$6.5 million in grant funding. ERC was established in 2001 to seek and facilitate interdisciplinary evaluation research for governmental and non-governmental programs at state, national and international levels. In its inaugural year, ERC grew from 20 collaborators to over 40 faculty members from various departments and colleges across campus. Connected by an email listserv, individuals communicate about funding opportunities, collaborative projects, and methodological issues. Additionally, ERC facilitates scholarly discussion on evaluation via brownbag lunches and other gatherings.

### Michigan Applied Public Policy Research Program

Increasing the capacity of MSU faculty to provide timely and relevant research to policymakers is an important niche that is filled by IPPSR. Since 1997, approximately \$2.1 million in research dollars have been disseminated to MSU faculty through the Michigan Applied Public Policy Research Program (MAPPR). These funds are provided by the Michigan legislature to develop expertise for Michigan's policymaking community. They are distributed by IPPSR. In addition to acting as the grantmaking steward for this program, IPPSR publishes and disseminates the resulting policy reports. To this end, the Institute maintains a website featuring the full reports and summaries of each. To assure that the issues are timely and useful, IPPSR communicates with a number of legislators on topics and with many individuals at MSU to recruit faculty researchers.



## Advancing Knowledge

Informing policymakers and connecting them to faculty expertise is at the heart of the Institute's mission. Through its Public Policy Issues & Education office (PPIE), IPPSR sponsors and disseminates research in a multitude of ways.

### Events

The primary ongoing IPPSR event is its annual Policy Forum Series that brings experts to the legislature at a convenient downtown Lansing location and in a format that fosters discussion. In 2002, the series attracted over 270 individuals. Through a partnership between IPPSR and the College of Social Science the Forums were offered for the first time via live webcast in 2002. The 2003 schedule is available online.

The Institute also sponsors and co-sponsors additional events on an ad-hoc basis. Examples of 2002 events include several brownbag sessions on survey and evaluation research and an election recap.

### News Coverage

The Institute's research, events, and publications were cited over 120 times in the past year in local, statewide, national, and international publications.

### IPPSR Online

The IPPSR website is updated continuously to provide the most current information. Launched in March, 2001, the website ([www.ippsr.msu.edu](http://www.ippsr.msu.edu)) has logged nearly 1.7 million hits and 91,000 visits. In 2002 the average number of weekday hits was nearly 5,400.

### Publications

IPPSR offers several publications on a regular and as-needed basis. The primary ongoing publications are:

- SOSS Briefing Papers (twenty pages) and Bulletins (two pages) on Michigan resident perceptions on issues such as the economy, legislative issues, and government;
- IPPSR Policy Brief (four pages), an executive-style briefing on key policy topics; and
- Inside IPPSR, a quarterly newsletter featuring an overall look at current IPPSR news and resources.