

Research Institutes and Centers

The Center for Corporate Community Relations

Established in 1985, The Center for Corporate Community Relations is a leader in creating an understanding of the interdependence of community vitality and business success. It works in partnership with businesses worldwide to strengthen their community involvement and relationships in order to achieve healthy, sustainable, vibrant communities in which to live, work, and do business.

A major objective of The Center is to promote Boston College as the worldwide center for the study and teaching of corporate citizenship. Part of the University's Wallace E. Carroll School of Management, The Center's activities are focused in three areas: research and policy development, management and professional development, and information resources.

The Center's research and development are dedicated to advancing understanding and creating new technologies for the practice of corporate citizenship. In its approach to research, the Center strives to combine rigorous methodological design with a focus on producing results that are useful and relevant to the corporate practitioner.

The Center is the only organization to offer Certificates in Corporate Community Relations, available to those who complete a track of courses on topics such as strategic philanthropy, measuring community involvement, allying strategically with advocacy groups, and operational planning. The Center has trained over 2,000 corporate executives—including CEOs, general managers, and community relations professionals—from more than 500 corporations worldwide.

The Center offers a Resource Center on Corporate Citizenship that is the only one of its kind. It maintains a collection of corporate citizenship materials from more than 1,000 corporations and background materials on more than 400 nonprofit organizations. It provides quick-response, customized searches to support the information needs of its members and others needing information about corporate citizenship. The Center produces a number of publications on corporate citizenship, including the monthly *Corporate Community Relations Letter*, the annual *Community Relations Index*, and a biannual *Profile of the Community Relations Profession*. The Center also conducts an annual competition seeking the best paper on corporate community relations by an MBA student, for which the winner receives a \$5,000 award.

The Jesuit Institute

The Jesuit Institute was established in 1988 to engage and foster the Jesuit, Catholic identity of Boston College — to strengthen the Catholic character of Boston College precisely

as a university. The Institute is a research institute that works in cooperation with existing schools, programs and faculties, primarily but not exclusively, at Boston College. Its overarching purpose is to promote both research and collaborate interchange upon those issues that emerge at the intersection of faith and culture. An example of such a program fostered by the Institute is the Interdisciplinary Seminar on "God and the World of the Sciences" focusing on the interrelationship between the knowledge gained in science and the commitments that obtain in faith. It numbers faculty from physics, geology, geophysics, chemistry, biology, philosophy, and theology. Seven other interdisciplinary faculty seminars also take their focal problems from the concerns of the Church. The newly funded *Journal of Religion and the Arts* began as an Institute seminar. The Institute offers annual visiting fellowships for distinguished research scholars to contribute to the intellectual life throughout the University and to advance their own research. The Institute also sponsors conferences, most recently an international conference entitled "The Jesuits: Culture, Learning and The Arts - 1540 - 1773." In addition, the Institute funds visiting lecturers nominated by departments of Boston College to complement the work being done in those departments. The Institute also fields an annual set of some eight lectures dealing with issues of faith and culture. The Institute is sponsoring a three year lecture series by distinguished American Catholic women theologians on a variety of topics. The Catholic identity of Boston College contributes directly to its life as a University. Thus, the Institute has grown to play an increasingly important part within the academic community that is Boston College and to offer the University a quality and intensity of support that is unique among Catholic as well as Jesuit universities. Michael J. Buckley, S.J. is the first holder of the newly established Peter Canisius Chair, named for one of the Jesuit Order's first distinguished educators, writers, and theologians. The endowment for the Chair comes from an anonymous gift, and an additional \$500,000 towards the Institute's endowment - a challenge for Boston College to match.

The Social Welfare Research Institute

The Social Welfare Research Institute (SWRI) is a multidisciplinary research center specializing in the study of spirituality, wealth, philanthropy, and other aspects of cultural life in an age of affluence. Founded in 1970, SWRI is a recognized authority on the relation between economic wherewithal and philanthropy, the motivations for charitable involvement, and the underlying meaning and practice of care. SWRI has received generous support from the T. B. Murphy Foundation Charitable Trust, and from the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Lilly Endowment, Inc.

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Current SWRI projects include: (1) *The Boston Area Diary Study*, the first-ever diary study of giving and volunteering, and the subsequent *SWRI-Kellogg / MacArthur National Diary Study*. (2) *The Study on Wealth and Philanthropy* analyzing the moral biographies of millionaires, their intergenerational transmission of financial care, and their strategies for carrying out philanthropy. (3) *The Contradictions of Christmas: Troubles and Traditions in Culture, Home, and Heart* exploring the daily spiritual conflicts in the lives of a random sample of Boston area residents. (4) Evaluation of the methodology, analysis, and interpretation of survey data on charitable giving and volunteering in the United States. (5) *Philanthropy and the Spiritual Horizon of Wealth and Identification and Association: The Spiritual Foundations of Caritas and the Empirical Dynamics of Charity* investigating the empirical association among philanthropy, income, and wealth; the determinants of giving; and the implications for fundraising.

The Institute for Scientific Research

Formed in 1954, the Institute for Scientific Research (ISR) is the largest sponsored research center at Boston College. With annual funding peaking at \$4.5 million in 1992, the ISR team has aided the Department of Defense and NASA by developing data support systems for numerous space missions, as well as conducting theoretical research in space studies sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

ISR's professional staff hold advanced degrees in geophysics, mathematics, applied mathematics, physics, engineering, and applied statistics, and the ISR has utilized this diversity of knowledge to develop highly sophisticated techniques for analyzing raw scientific and engineering data and presenting it in useful ways. The Institute is a forerunner in scientific data analysis and interpretation using statistical data analysis; digital signal and image processing; mathematical signal modeling; animated visualization of real and simulated data; the manipulation and interpretation of scientific images; and the design of specialized databases.

ISR employs the most sophisticated solution approaches — fractal geometry, chaos theory, wavelet analysis, and neural networks. The ISR has the skills and resources to answer research needs within the realm of earth and space sciences, environmental studies, biomedical studies, and financial and economic analyses.

The Center for the Study of Testing, Evaluation, and Educational Policy

The Center for the Study of Testing, Evaluation, and Educational Policy (CSTEEP) at Boston College was established in

1980 to meet the measurement, research, and evaluation needs of local educational agencies as well as those of government agencies, private foundations, and private corporations. The aim of the Center is to advance the study of educational testing, evaluation, and policy so as to improve both the quality and fairness of education. CSTEEP is the International Study Center of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), the largest comparative study of educational achievement ever undertaken. Other CSTEEP projects include the Ford Project which examines proposals to create and implement a national testing system in the United States, the CoNECT Project to develop a model of school accountability, and the Clark Project to help the districts improve their annual reporting of progress toward high academic achievement for all middle school students. In addition, CSTEEP housed the National Commission on Testing and Public Policy (NCTPP). Boston College and its School of Education have made a strong commitment to CSTEEP both by housing it on the B.C. campus and by providing it with a substantial budget for proposal development and related costs. CSTEEP provides a variety of testing, consulting, optical scanning, and data analysis services to Boston College faculty and staff. Additionally, the Center regularly administers various national admissions tests.

Weston Observatory

Boston College's Weston Observatory, a research institute of the Department of Geology and Geophysics, was founded in 1928 by the Society of Jesus. Two years later its first seismograph began recording earthquakes, beginning a tradition of geophysical research that has ranked Weston Observatory as a nationally renowned research institution.

Today the Observatory's faculty and staff of geologists and geophysicists engage in many varied state-of-the-art research projects in geophysics, geology, geotechnical engineering, environmental problems, and geographic information systems. Graduate students conduct scientific research as a part of a Master's in Science (M.S.) degree. Weston Observatory operates a seismic network with 15 stations located around the New England region. In addition to research on naturally occurring seismic events, the Observatory also participates in research aimed at monitoring nuclear test ban treaties.

Source: Individual Institute and Center directors