

THE CENTER FOR THE  
STUDY OF LOCAL ISSUES



CSLI

ANNE ARUNDEL  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOCAL ISSUES

## BACKGROUND

The Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) was established in 1978 as a research agency operating within Anne Arundel Community College. Since 2006, CSLI has been part of the Sarbanes Center for Public and Community Service.

## MISSION

CSLI's mission is to provide students and faculty with hands-on use of social science research methodologies as they apply to community concerns and to bring the college and the community together in an effort to better understand local issues.

### **This mission involves several goals:**

- Providing students with engaged learning opportunities in applied settings
- Responding to community needs
- Promoting faculty professional development
- Assisting the college in monitoring the social, economic and political environment.

## CSLI SURVEYS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The center conducts a community survey each term. A variety of local and state topics are covered, such as growth, taxes, the economy, education, transportation, crime, the environment and more. Students participate in the design, data collection and analysis of the findings, thus gaining enhanced civic awareness as well as insight into social science methodologies.

### **Outreach activities include:**

- Presenting survey findings at community meetings
- Distributing press releases
- Sponsoring candidate forums

Public presentations, press releases and a searchable database are accessible to the public from the CSLI Web site - [www.aacc.edu/csli](http://www.aacc.edu/csli).

## CSLI SERVICES AND CLIENTS

CSLI offers research services targeted especially to private and public nonprofit groups that require assistance for specific projects at low cost.

### **Services include:**

- Customer/client satisfaction
- Market evaluation
- Agency performance evaluation

### **These services use a variety of data-gathering and analysis techniques including:**

- Mailed surveys
- Telephone surveys
- Online surveys
- Questionnaire design
- Focus groups
- On-site interviews
- Statistical analysis

### **Some agencies that have utilized the center's services include:**

- Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- Annapolis and Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce
- Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation & Parks
- Anne Arundel County Police Department
- Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County
- Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis
- Maryland Comptroller's Office
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources

## **GETTING INVOLVED WITH CSLI**

### **Become a student intern!**

The center usually hires two student interns each year. They help the center in all aspects of its business.

### **Join the advisory board!**

CSLI has an advisory board composed of students, faculty, community leaders, elected officials and government department leaders. The advisory board assists the director in the areas of survey topic generation, identifying research projects, fundraising, improving student involvement and enhancing community outreach.

### **Join the CSLI student club!**

Activities organized by club members include field trips, guest speaker events, luncheons with elected officials and attending lectures or special events.

## Join the CSLI mailing list!

You will receive CSLI press releases and be notified of all CSLI public presentations or forums.

## Support CSLI

- Anne Arundel Community College supports the center's semiannual community surveys and some general operations.
- The center's private and public clients fund their specific projects. That funding helps pay for CSLI's overhead costs such as office supplies and internships.
- The center has a scholarship fund. Donations to the center and its scholarship fund are tax deductible and welcomed. Contact Stacey Sickels Heckel, executive director of Institutional Advancement and the AACC Foundation Inc., at **410-777-2515** or send e-mail to **foundation@aacc.edu**

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