INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND PUBLIC POLICY

The Institute for Science, Technology, and Public Policy was the first research institute created at the Bush School. It is a nonpartisan, interdisciplinary public policy research institute that has a dual mission of scholarly examination of public policy issues and communicating research-based knowledge to the public and decision makers.

PROGRAMS

Since its founding in 2000, the Institute has attracted over $15 million in competitive funding from federal and state agencies. One key to that success is the Institute’s firm commitment to interdisciplinary research: the faculty have partnered with more than 200 researchers from within The Texas A&M University System, other universities, research centers, and institutes in the United States and abroad. The research program is focused on four main areas of public policy: environmental and natural resources, emerging technologies, infrastructure and built environment, and health. This wide-ranging effort, combined with a consistent program of widely and effectively disseminating research results, has significantly affected public policy as decision makers at all levels of government have taken advantage of the research conducted at the Institute. The interdisciplinary program also offers research experience opportunities to graduate and undergraduate students, with more than fifty future leaders and policymakers having participated. The Institute also employs doctoral and post-doctoral research associates who contribute to ongoing projects, collaborating with scholars and policymakers and gaining valuable experience that will further their academic careers.

RESOURCES

The Institute is supported primarily by external grants and contracts resulting from proposals developed by research teams. Its success is a testament to the culture of scientific rigor and objectivity that is essential for producing meaningful and useful research, but its ability to sustain activity and to stimulate grant funding requires endowments for core operational and program support.

LEADERSHIP

The Institute’s founding director, Professor Arnold Vedlitz, also holds the Bob Bullock Chair in Government and Public Policy.