



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the Institute for Leadership and Public Policy (ILPP) at Coastal Carolina University! Through the generous support of Coastal Carolina University and the Thomas W. and Robin W. Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts, we are proud to introduce the ILPP as both a resource for students, scholars, and community members and a showcase for the talent and expertise that lives and thrives here at CCU.

Horry County is at a turning point in its history. With the creation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional district, Myrtle Beach and Conway are at the center of political representation. As CCU continues to grow and compete for the best and brightest students, the University will be a focal point of the district and region. This future, combined with our history as an institution founded in Horry County in the service of its citizens and their children, creates the need for CCU to focus on public engagement and value.

At the same time, federal, state, and local government agencies are experiencing high turnover as the baby boomers who were attracted to public service careers begin to retire. According to the Partnership for Public Service, almost 67% of the federal Senior Executive Service (SES) will be eligible to retire in the next five years. As the United States faces economic, social, environmental, and security challenges at home and abroad, *it is crucial that a new generation of leaders be encouraged and trained to lead our communities*. This means that young people and the citizens they seek to serve must have a deeper understanding of policy issues as well as the ability to communicate with one another about policy preferences and democratic needs.

The ILPP has been designed to meet the needs of our students, our local community, our state, and our nation. The ILPP houses a trio of initiatives, each of which is student-centered. These initiatives and their associated courses and activities are designed to introduce students to the practice and purpose of public service, leadership, and good citizenship; foster collaboration with the community, region, and state; and make the Edwards College and CCU the regional center of economic and intellectual resources.

Our mission is simple: to create public value by connecting a variety of stakeholders through the production and dissemination of quality, non-partisan survey and policy research and leadership studies and training. Join us as we provide new opportunities for students, scholars, and citizens. We can't wait to get started!

Sincerely,

Holley Tankersley  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
Chair, Department of Politics & Geography