



Ines Lima Azevedo to Lead Center for Climate and Energy Decision Making

The Center for Climate and Energy Decision Making (CEDM), funded by a five-year, \$6 million grant from the National Science Foundation, will develop and implement strategies for protecting everything from fragile marine ecosystems to curbing dangerous carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation. According to the center's executive director, Ines Lima Azevedo of the university's Department of Engineering and Public Policy (EPP), the initiative will develop new, innovative insights and methods to assist key stakeholders as they address important decisions involving climate change and the ongoing transformation of the world's critical energy systems. Additionally, the CEDM will develop new theories and methods for supporting decision making under uncertainty.

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Driving the 21st century is rapid technological advances, which has led to cloning, eroding jurisdictions, biometrics and e-commerce. While urban crime rates have declined, cyber crime and terrorism are emerging threats. Traditional pollution concerns have been augmented by global concerns, such as ozone depletion. Economic inequality is measured not just in earning but in the digital divide and access to health care. Anchored by the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management and the Department of Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon offers programs that address our changing environment and train leaders adept at solving the complex, real-world problems that face our society.

Center for the Study and Improvement of Regulation: The improvement of environmental, health and safety regulation is the mission of this non-partisan collaboration between Carnegie Mellon and the University of Washington. Substantive research and analysis of current regulatory methods and future tools serves as a catalyst for a more elaborate framework for considering health, safety and environmental risks and enriching and facilitating debate on the federal, state and local level. www.epp.cmu.edu/csir

Center for Risk Perception and Communication: An NSF-funded effort, this center is mapping out the "mental models" that people have about potentially hazardous situations. The center's research agenda includes "mental mapping" of varied risk situations including global climate change, radon in homes, skin cancer from sunlight, toxic chemicals in the environment and highway crashes. Other research topics include adolescent decision-making, vaccine risk communication, perceived effects of marijuana and alcohol on sexual behavior and the risks of terrorism. www.hss.cmu.edu/departments/sds/risk

Gailliot Center for Public Policy: This research center serves as the international economic policy advisor to the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, and its directors regularly advise the majority leaders of the House of Representatives. Focusing on developing market-based solutions to economic policy problems, the Gailliot Center is recognized worldwide as a leading authority

on international financial institutions, global economic policy, sovereign debt restructuring and development aid.

Center for the Advancement of Applied Ethics: The mission of the Center for the Advancement of Applied Ethics is to recover ethics from academic abstraction by researching and presenting ethical issues in practical settings. Ethical concerns surrounding biomedicine, conflict resolution, multimedia and computer technology and public policy are explored from a practical perspective, and interactive media is used to provide learning tools to address issues like abortion, a patient's right to die and conflict resolution. The Americorps National Service Program uses the center's Allwyn Hall conflict resolution software as part of its training programs. <http://hss.cmu.edu/cep>

Center for African-American Urban Studies and the Economy: The only center of its kind in western Pennsylvania, CAUSE seeks to elevate the study of African Americans to the top of the historical and policy research agendas by analyzing national trends and patterns in areas like the contemporary urban workforce. CAUSE achieves its agenda through collaborations with national, state and regional groups; seminars; conferences; and graduate and undergraduate programs. www.hss.cmu.edu/cause

Center for Business, Technology and the Environment: This center highlights the relevance of historical studies to understand-

ing present-day concerns and formulating sound policies related to business, technology, and the environment. Examples of such work include demonstrating how the development of transportation infrastructure influenced regional economic growth; examining the relative successes and failures of past public and private policy initiatives in such areas as economic development and land use planning; exploring the history of particular sites to appraise them for environmental risks (such as soil and subsoil contamination); assessing the impacts of new technology on business, society, and the environment; and developing long-term trends in various environmental quality measures to provide benchmarks for current environmental policy.

www.history.cmu.edu/research/btctr.html

National Consortium on Violence Research:

The largest single social science project ever funded by the National Science Foundation, this interdisciplinary consortium brings together researchers from the United States, Canada and Europe to study the dynamics that surround violence in urban areas and to develop policy initiatives aimed at reducing such violence. The Consortium is comprised of 66 active members who are eminent scholars in the field of violence research, and who are affiliated with 40 institutions, across 23 states and in 4 countries. NCOVR's research participants are linked through a Data Center sharing common resources, a telecommunications network, a newsletter and periodic workshops and conferences.

www.ncovr.heinz.cmu.edu

Center for Economic Development: The CED provides the research and policy intelligence to foster an innovative region. Its research focuses on four key areas: technology, entrepreneurship, talent and the role of universities in innovation. Services include technical assistance in policy and strategy to guide action, economic analysis and modeling, mapping, benchmarking and timely analysis of key issues. www.cmu.edu/ced

Center for History and Policy: In the 14 years since its inception, research at this center has resulted in over two dozen student research opportunities on topics like policies concerning the evolution of youth gangs in American cities between the 1920s and the present; the historical controversies surrounding the

participation of blacks, women and gays in the military; the formulation and implementation of environmental regulations during World War II; changes in rates of infant mortality in 20th century Pittsburgh; and cocaine use. Several have resulted in, or are in the process of leading to, journal articles and book-length publications.

www.history.cmu.edu/research/hispolctr.html

Pittsburgh Center for Social History: Active working groups addressing topics like the State and Society, Working Class History and the History of Mentalities are the heart of this Carnegie Mellon and University of Pittsburgh joint effort. Launched in 1986, the center groups over 100 social historians in the Pittsburgh region to promote research in this growing field.



Paving the Way for Food Stamps at Farmer's Markets

As a result of welfare reform in the early 2000s, food stamp benefits moved from paper-based coupons to electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards. While this change was mostly positive, it also severed food stamp users from many local farmers' markets. Working with project sponsor Just Harvest, an innovative local advocate for economic justice, nine Heinz College students investigated the alternatives for bringing food stamps back to the seven farmers' markets managed by the City of Pittsburgh. The project team examined the various business processes already used by farmer's markets in other cities across the country for accepting EBT and found that the most appropriate option for CitiPark's markets would be to use a token-based scrip system managed by a central cashier. In interviews, local farmers and other market vendors overwhelmingly approved of such an approach, as it would not interfere with hand-to-hand transactions, yet enable them to take advantage of EBT and debit and credit card sales. Using a geographic information system, or GIS, students also assessed food stamp user access to the CitiPark's system via walking distance, current transit routes and vehicle ownership. The students compared card processing vendor options, proposed marketing and evaluation strategies and identified funding options for the project. The work culminated with the development of a grant proposal for Just Harvest which lays out a low cost path for implementing a token-based scrip system at city markets.