



THE CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH

Solving Real-World Problems Through Quality Research



The Center motto – “Solving real world problems through quality research” – reflects The Center’s drive to contribute positively to the success of organizations by assisting them with their research, data collection and evaluation needs.

For more information please contact:

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The Center for Applied Research is a self-supporting research center housed at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC. The Center is the first research center in the nation to be affiliated with a community college and as such, is uniquely situated to offer insight in to community based issues. The Center’s positioning in the college allows it to draw upon college resources and connections in the community while still maintaining its independence and working beyond the Charlotte region.

The Center was created to provide affordable research, assessment, and evaluation services to non-profit organizations, state agencies, advocacy organizations and institutions of higher education in order to support them in their program improvement efforts. Sample projects have included:

- **Pathways Mental Health Authority:** conducted an assessment of providers, consumers and partners
- **Maine Community College System:** completed an analysis of the students’ ability to pay for the rising cost of education
- **Advantage Carolina:** assessed Charlotte’s workforce needs
- **Charlotte Housing Authority:** completed a quality of life study of public housing residents
- **Halifax County Schools:** evaluation of community based abstinence education grant
- **Smart Start of Mecklenburg County:** studied the barriers to attending college as perceived by early childhood professionals
- **Rowan Cabarrus Community College Pillowtex Study:** conducted an analysis of displaced workers responses to the services they received at the college.
- **Program evaluation for institutions of higher learning** receiving funding from the US Department of Labor, The National Science Foundation, the US Department of Education, The Lumina Foundation and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Center also offers services in grant proposal writing, grant reviewing, and strategic planning for grant development. In addition to these services Center staff have experience and expertise in the following:

- Focus group facilitation
- Survey development
- Qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis
- Directory and database development
- Accreditation self-studies assistance
- Educational research
- Health related studies
- Arts and cultural programming
- Housing and homelessness
- Institutional effectiveness

Since opening in the spring of 2004, Center researchers have worked with local governments, educational institutions, businesses, non-profit, community-based, and faith based organizations to help them achieve their programmatic goals and have already received national recognition for their work.

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