



NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

• Making a Difference in North Carolina •

1993 Accomplishments

Getting things done in the Legislative and Executive branches

Results achieved:

The UNC Board of Governors established campus-wide teaching awards, moved to establish teaching centers on each campus, and began to increase peer review of new and non-tenured faculty. The N.C. General Assembly appropriated \$250,000 for new teaching awards in public universities and created a study commission to examine undergraduate teaching.

The N.C. General Assembly enacted legislation to allow courts to appoint new temporary managers to run problem nursing homes.

The N.C. legislature appropriated \$50,000 in state funds to the N.C. Dept. of Environment, Health, & Natural Resources to implement a State Environmental Index.

The N.C. Department of Commerce agreed to use a smaller, more realistic multiplier to measure the ripple effect in the N.C. economy of new dollars spent on filmmaking.

The Governor's Executive Order in April and comprehensive legislation in July mandated that all state agencies purchase paper, supplies, and other materials with recycled content.

The N.C. legislature appropriated \$18 million for equalization funds to help poor county public school systems provide equal education opportunities.

In response to these Center efforts:

450-page report on *How Do Universities in the UNC System Identify and Reward Excellent Teaching?* (February 1993), testimony before the UNC Board of Governors (April 1993), and follow-up report (November 1993).

Insight article highlighting problems with certain nursing homes that repeatedly violate state regulations and jeopardize patient health (May 1992) and Center opinion editorial calling for legislation (July 1993) to address the problem. The N.C. Legal Services Resource Center and the N.C. Health Care Facilities Association also supported this legislation.

Insight article following up on a 1988 Center proposal for a State Environmental Index and urging state policymakers to act (August 1993). Published opinion editorial and worked with policymakers to secure program funding needed to implement the Index (June 1993).

Insight article calling for more realistic multiplier (February 1993) based on experience in the film industry, not the tourism industry.

Center recommendation in *Insight* (1989) and follow-up letters in subsequent years to encourage the state to increase resource conservation and promote economic development in the recycling industry.

First discussed in *Insight* in June 1984, again in April 1985, and recommended in *N.C. Focus* in October 1989. The Public School Forum of N.C. also supported this legislation.

"The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research continues to... have a direct impact on legislation in this State."

Sen. Marc Basnight, President Pro Tempore, N.C. Senate

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Legislative Accomplishments Continued...

In addition to the Center's successes in promoting legislation, legislative study commissions were authorized to study the following issues which the Center has put on the public agenda:

- Campaign finance, election laws, and voter participation
- Mountain area land use and management
- The quality of undergraduate education in the UNC system, including assessment and evaluation of faculty teaching and rewards and incentives for undergraduate teaching

Center publications also were used as resources by legislators or legislative staff in the 1993 session on:

- Access to health care and cost containment
- Veto power for the Governor
- Merit selection of judges
- Four-year terms for legislators
- Whether to elect or appoint the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Lowering credit insurance rates

Raising the Level of Public Debate Through Media Coverage of Our Work

In 1993, the Center's work already has been the subject of more than 400 news articles, editorials, or columns -- an average of more than one article a day somewhere in North Carolina! Center staff members also appeared numerous times on the 92-station N.C. [Radio] News Network and on public television's "N.C. This Week."

"I am consistently grateful for the Center's work and assistance. Our editorials and columns have been substantially enriched by the Center's research, and the subjects the Center has addressed in that time have provided a benchmark for helping to determine our own advocacy agenda."
Art Eisenstadt, Editorial Writer, Winston-Salem Journal

Public Education and Outreach

The Center published three special reports in 1993:

- How Do Universities in the UNC System Identify and Reward Excellent Teaching?* (February 1993)
- Article II: A Guide to the 1993-94 N.C. Legislature* (May 1993)
- The Cost of Running for the North Carolina Legislature* (September 1993)

The Center also published these issues of *North Carolina Insight* magazine in 1993:

- February:** What the New Governor Should Do For North Carolina
Filmmaking as an Economic Development Tool
Televising the General Assembly, C-SPAN Style
- August:** North Carolina's Demographic Destiny
The Center's Proposal for a State Environmental Index
Legislative Campaign Costs, PAC Donations Continue to Rise
- Planned for January:** The Evolution of the Speaker's Office
The Increasing Number of Women in the Legislature
Tracking the Accuracy of Political Polls in the 1992 Elections

Center staff made more than 26 speeches and public presentations in towns across North Carolina in 1993, from Wilmington to Lake Junaluska.

"Every time I receive another copy of *Insight*, I realize how lucky we North Carolinians are to have an organization like yours . . . One need only turn and look at all you have done and its impact to be grateful."
Dirk J. Spruyt, M.D., Chapel Hill resident and Center member

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