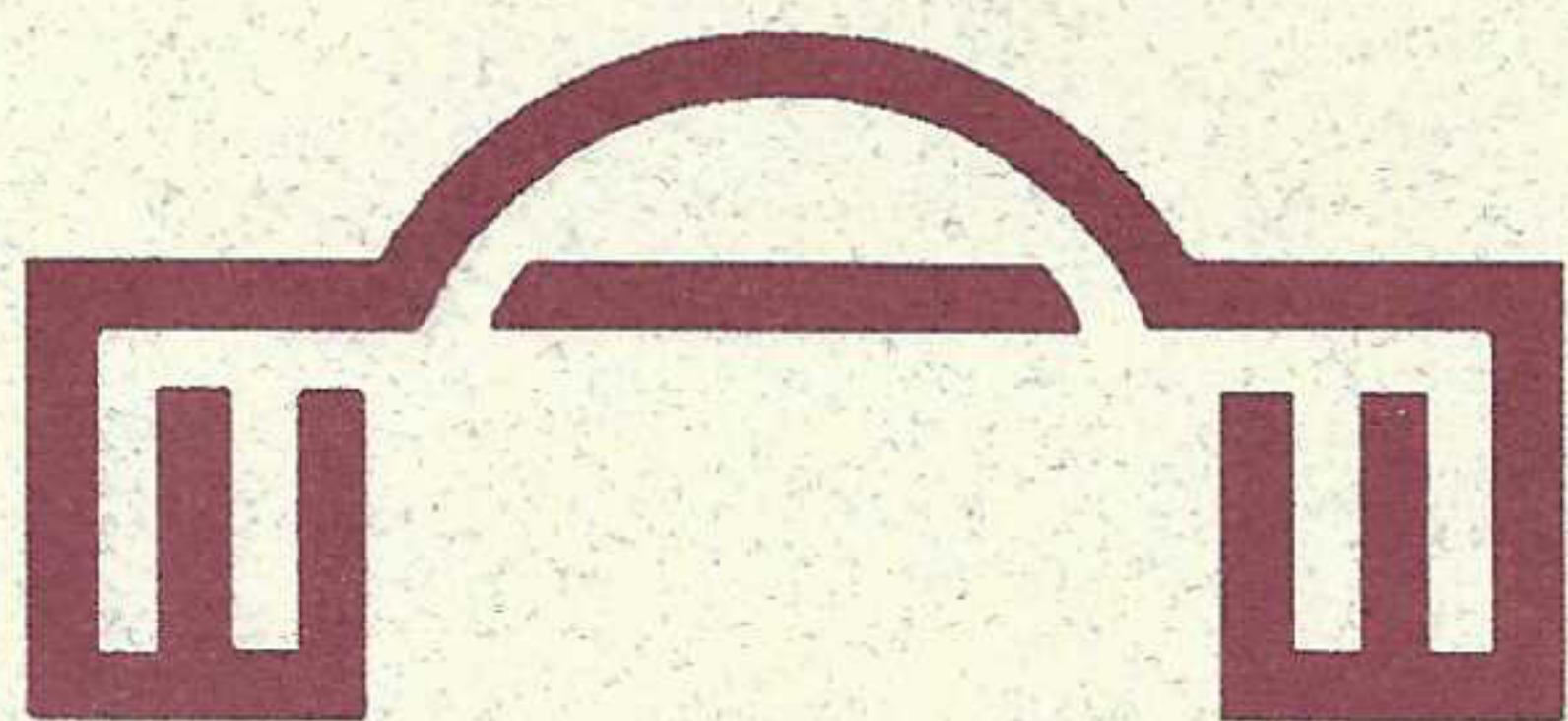


1994

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Making a Difference: Affecting Policy

- ❑ The UNC Board of Governors increased evaluation of teaching performance, mandated teaching centers on every campus, and established system-wide teaching awards in the 16-university system. The Board also required extensive training, evaluation, and monitoring of graduate students who teach undergraduates. The N.C. General Assembly appropriated funds for teaching awards and endowed chairs for teaching. The Center made these recommendations in its 450-page report, *How Do Universities in the UNC System Identify and Reward Excellent Teaching?* and in testimony before the Board of Governors and a legislative study commission. Five of the Center's 1993 recommendations now have been implemented by either the Board of Governors or the General Assembly.
- ❑ The N.C. General Assembly passed legislation that requires state government to begin a strategic planning process, as the Center recommended in a 1993 *Insight* article that examined the implications of the latest census data for state policymakers.
- ❑ The N.C. General Assembly increased funding for poor school systems in North Carolina by appropriating \$35 million for school districts with low property tax wealth, as the Center recommended in *N.C. Focus* in 1989.
- ❑ The N.C. General Assembly required the State Board of Elections to establish a statewide computerized voter registration system. It expanded the number of public agencies at which citizens can register to vote to include health and social services departments, as well as employment security, vocational rehabilitation, and motor vehicles offices. The legislature also mandated voter registration drives in even-numbered years. Six of the Center's 1991 recommendations to improve voter participation now have been enacted into law.



Producing New Research

The Center continued its tradition of evaluating government programs with a 50-state study of how states regulate pesticides. Published in the Center's journal, *North Carolina Insight*, the study resulted in eight recommendations that -- if implemented -- would improve the way pesticides are regulated in North Carolina.

The Center also continued its tradition of getting more information to voters about the state legislature by publishing the ninth set of *Effectiveness Rankings for Members of the N.C. General Assembly* and the seventh set of rankings of *The 50 Most Influential Lobbyists in the General Assembly*.

The Center educated the public on politics and policy through articles in *Insight* on the evolution of the office of the Speaker of the House, the increased numbers and roles of women in the legislature, and a history of the state Supreme Court, as well as an analysis of how accurately political polls predict election winners.

Spreading the Word: Educating the Public

The Center forged a new partnership with WUNC-FM Radio and the public radio station network in North Carolina during 1994. The Center's research will be featured in a series of special reports as part of "Morning Edition" and "All Things Considered." The first product of this partnership was a series of six reports on the Center's study of state regulation of pesticides, which aired in September.

The Center built on its partnership with the private 90-station N.C. [Radio] News Network by providing commentary on state politics and policy. This year, Center staff provided commentary almost weekly during the legislature's special session on crime and provided election night analysis for the May and November elections.

The Center testified before two legislative study commissions in 1994. The Center took its research findings and recommendations on evaluating and rewarding teaching performance to the Legislative Research Commission on the Status of Education at the University of North Carolina and its research on state regulation of pesticides to the legislature's Environmental Review Commission.

The Center's work has been the subject of more than 400 news articles, editorials, and columns -- an average of more than one article a day somewhere in North Carolina. Center staff also made more than 30 speeches and public appearances in 1994 as part of our public education efforts.

State Regulation
of Pesticides

Effectiveness
Rankings

Evolution of
the Speaker's
Office

Public Radio

Commercial
Radio

Legislative
Testimony

News Coverage

Thoughts on the Center's Work

"We are fortunate to have in the state of North Carolina an organization whose mission is truly to enhance the lives and welfare of the citizens of our state. I firmly believe that North Carolina is a better place because of the fine work that's taking place at the Center."

Petro Kulynych, Founding Director, Lowe's Companies, North Wilkesboro

"The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research has offered a balanced, almost restrained assessment of the state's program for regulating pesticides. As such, it provides a solid jumping-off point for reform.... The Agriculture Department would be wise to take its advice."

The News and Observer, Raleigh

"In a world where think tanks begin with a philosophy and attempt to aim it at problems, it's pleasing that the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research begins with the problem and then seeks solutions. The Center is the best illustration of nonpartisan problem-solving that I know of."

Harry E. Payne, Jr., N.C. Commissioner of Labor and former state legislator

"The survey [of legislators' effectiveness] does correspond to the realities of the General Assembly power structure. Legislators who rank at the top hold important leadership posts and get things done. That's called effectiveness."

The High Point Enterprise

"I certainly read the Center's publications and find them insightful and informational. The Center does a good job of staying current and is frequently on the leading edge of important issues. I use the Center's research to reach decisions on important issues. The Center's work either reinforces my position or challenges me to give consideration to another perspective."

Senator Betsy Cochrane (R-Davie)

"Just as voters, at election time, need to know the candidates vying for the privilege of representing them in the General Assembly, so also do they need to know who it is who has their elected officials' attention.... That's why surveys such as this one, which ranks the top 50 lobbyists, are useful."

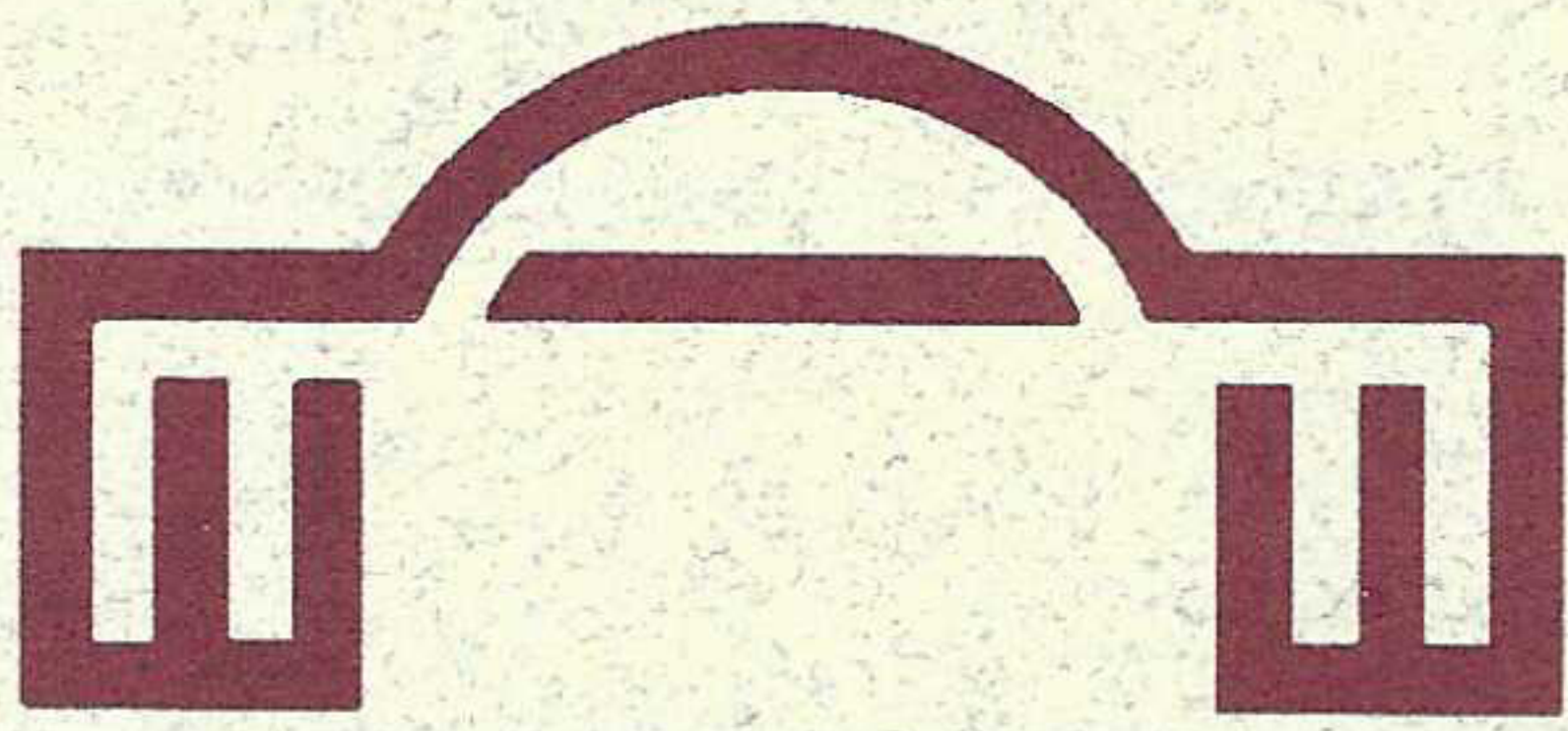
Greensboro News and Record

"Too seldom do we hear the voice of reason and research amid the sea of rhetoric that partisan government (at all levels) often engenders. Thank you for your independent point of view and for the positive contributions that you have made and will continue to make in North Carolina government and public policy."

Michael C. Miller, President and Chief Executive Officer, First National Bank and Trust Company, Asheboro

The Center's Mission

"The North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the goals of a better-informed public and more effective, accountable, and responsive government."



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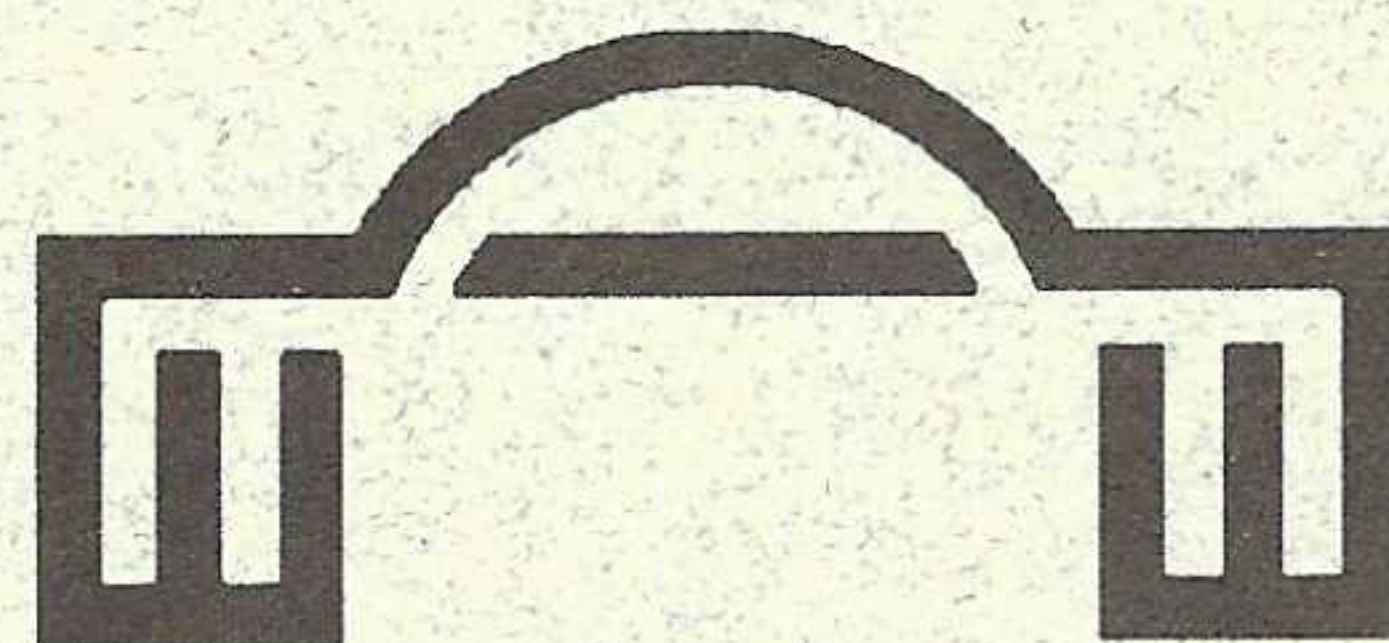
Looking Ahead to 1995

Several projects for *North Carolina Insight* are already in the works for 1995. Early in the year, we will publish our special report on the status of minority health in North Carolina. Later in the year, we'll publish research on public school reform proposals in our state, including an evaluation of North Carolina's experience with year-round schools and a pro/con on school vouchers. We are also planning *Insight* articles on state and local government finance and the allocation of responsibilities between state and local governments.

In the spring, we'll publish the 10th edition of the ever-popular *Article II: A Citizen's Guide to the N.C. Legislature*. *Article II* is published every two years and contains biographical and voting information for each of the 170 legislators, as well as their committee assignments, bills introduced, and other pertinent information. *Article II* serves as a valuable guide for all lobbyists, reporters, and citizens who follow the General Assembly's work.

In addition to these publications, the Center staff will continue working to influence policy through our research. We'll place special emphasis on getting action on the recommendations made in *Insight* to **improve the state's program of regulating pesticides** and on our recommendations to **increase evaluation of teaching performance and rewards for teaching excellence in public universities**. We'll also try to increase the Center's statewide influence through our relationships with the media, including our new partnership with WUNC-FM and the public radio station network.

As always, if you have suggestions for topics the Center should study, if you have questions about the Center's work, or if you would like to order copies of any Center publications, please call us at **919-832-2839**, or send us a fax at **919-832-2847**.



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