The Carbondale Study, 2015

A Proposal

Overview

This project proposes to conduct a community study in Carbondale, IL, from approximately January 2015 to December 2015. The proposed research will focus on the social, economic, and political environment in Carbondale, with an emphasis on identifying attitudes toward community problems and potential solutions to improve public policy. The research design calls for interviewing two sectors – community stakeholders and citizens. This data will be used to both understand how policy information is shared in Carbondale and to also identify the impact of both groups in local government. An interdisciplinary team from criminology and criminal justice, sociology, political science, and journalism will create the survey used to measure these two groups. The overall plan calls for heavy participation from students, both by tying the project to specific classes and by involving students in data collection. This method will keep data collection cost to a minimum while creating synergy between research and teaching. The project's goal will touch on the university's core missions of engaging in cutting edge research, supporting high-quality teaching, and helping the local community.

Research Team

George Burruss, Associate Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice. Criminal Justice Organizations, Quantitative Analysis, Survey Research, Causes of Crime.

Jessica Crowe, Assistant Professor of Sociology. Community Development, Survey Research, Race and Ethnic Relations, Environmental Justice, Social Network Analysis

Kelsy Kretschmer, Assistant Professor of Sociology. Social Movements, Non-profit and Political Organizations; Gender Inequality.

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Chris Stout, Assistant Professor of Political Science. Race and Ethnicity, Political Behavior, Representation, and Public Opinion