



INSTITUTE OVERVIEW

The Washington State Institute for Criminal Justice (WSICJ) provides a collaborative and supportive approach to working with county, state and national level criminal justice partners through the provision of applied social science research, technical assistance and training in all facets of the criminal justice system. The Institute is a policy evaluation and research resource, specializing in high-end sophisticated methods and applications. Tapping the experience and expertise of our faculty and well-trained graduate students, we provide effective tools for design, implementation, and evaluation of innovative, promising and evidence-based practices. Through the Institute we provide a multitude of services including:

Program Evaluation: Utilizing current and appropriate methodologies, the Institute provides process and outcome evaluations for policing, courts and correctional projects specializing in drug use, mental health, at-risk behaviors and housing interventions.

Risk and Needs Assessment: With updated fourth generation applications, WSICJ has created static-dynamic tools to be used as a part of prison, reentry, and community supervision practices to guide security of inmates, identify intervention needs and assist in community supervision of reentering offenders.

Professional Education: In addition to connections to the graduate program and the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology, the Institute provides specialized training and lectures series to assist both students and practitioners in the field.

Public Forums: A key component to implementation is shareholder buy-in and community involvement. As a part of project operations, WSICJ provides training, "town hall" stakeholder meetings, conference presentations and educational forums.

Grant Writing Collaboration: With the understanding that state and local budgets are often restricted, funding sources for innovative practices must often be sought from external sources. The Institute and its associated members possess a strong track record of obtaining both national and private awards for research and training.

Technology Integration: As the criminal justice system strives toward effective practices and efficiency, there is an increasing demand for technological advances to improve security as well as automated procedures to improve data management and training. Successful integration and development of these applications are a noted strength of WSICJ expertise and activities. Most notably, the Institute participated in the National Institute of Justice Smart Policing Initiative.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone for more information.

Over the last several years, the institute has grown exponentially, and our current portfolio of over 22 studies highlights the diverse skill set of our nationally recognized faculty. A few notable projects include:

Risk and Needs Assessments – A key component of the WSICJ is its work around risk assessment. Currently, in partnership with the Washington State Department of Corrections (WADOC) and the Washington State Juvenile Court Administrators, we are in the process of creating both adult and juvenile risk and needs tools to be utilized in the assessment of recidivism, prison infractions, non-compliance, civil commitment, and guide the provision of services.

Evidence-Based Practices – Working in collaboration with WADOC, WSU has sought to identify, describe, and investigate the available evidence surrounding all programming used for offender populations by the WADOC. We have provided evaluation services generally, in assessments of the entirety of services available and have also evaluated individual programs for effectiveness (e.g. housing programs, correctional industries, and cognitive behavioral interventions).

Legal and Court Resources – One of the WSICJ key area of expertise is in regard to the legal system and its core components. From evaluations of six different Washington state therapeutic courts, to juvenile justice and criminal court processing to examinations of legal statutes and mandates, the WSICJ has become a key resource for tackling contemporary issues and improving efficiencies within the criminal justice process.

Technology – When implementing new technology, a key focus is efficiency and procedural impact. Examining the relationship between new criminal justice technologies and their practical applications, the WSICJ has examined the impact of CCTV, high volume forensic processing, officer worn body cameras, and emergency communication systems.

Expertise:

Faculty	Affiliates
Hamilton, Zachary Ph.D., Director – Risk assessment, correctional evaluations	Barnoski, Robert – risk assessment
Brody, David J.D./Ph.D. – Courts, courtroom actors	Burley, Mason – evaluation and policy
Drapela, Laurie Ph.D. – Institutional/community corrections, program evaluations, veterans issues	McCurly, Carl – courts research and processing
Hemmens, Craig J.D./Ph.D. – Legal issues in criminal justice	Murphy, Sean – cost/benefit analysis
Kigerl, Alex Ph.D. – Data system management, cyber-crime, risk assessment	
Lutze, Faith Ph.D. – Institutional/community corrections, program evaluation	
Makin, David Ph.D. – Policing, forensics, technology applications in criminal justice	
Stohr, Mary Ph.D. – Organizational staff/culture, correctional institutions (prisons and jails)	
Van Wormer, Jacqueline Ph.D. – Program evaluation, therapeutic courts, juvenile court processes, case management	

We will continue to offer our services and expertise to interested agencies and organizations. Please feel free to contact us with any and all requests. For additional information on these and other projects please visit our webpage (<http://wsicj.wsu.edu/projects/>) or contact us directly.