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SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES
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School of Policy Studies

The Creation of a Policy Powerhouse: A Brief History

IN 1996, THE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY SENATE MADE A CONTROVERSIAL DECISION TO DISSOLVE ITS COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AND URBAN AFFAIRS AND CREATE A NEW COLLEGE IN ITS PLACE — THE SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES.

PROponents SAID THE DECISION WAS A GOOD ONE. MANY BELIEVED THE ACADEMIC UNITS AND RESEARCH CENTERS IN THE COLLEGE WERE MISMATCHED. AN ADEPT REORGANIZATION COULD POSITION THE UNIVERSITY AS A PLAYER IN URBAN AFFAIRS AS WELL AS IN THE ARENA OF GLOBAL POLICY MAKING.

BUT OPPONENTS — AND THE MEDIA — SAID DISSOLVING THE COLLEGE WAS A PERPLEXING MOVE, GIVEN GEORGIA STATE'S COMMITMENT TO URBAN RESEARCH. EVEN MORE PUZZLING, THEY SAID, WAS THE POSITION OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT CARL V. PATTON, A CITY PLANNER AND MAJOR FIGURE IN ATLANTA'S URBAN AFFAIRS. HE ADVOCATED THE CHANGE.

BUT THE MOVE PAID OFF. THE REINVENTED SCHOOL COMBINED SEVERAL ACADEMIC UNITS AND RESEARCH CENTERS, ALLOWING THE SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES TO ORGANIZE ITSELF INTO A FOCUSED POLICY POWERHOUSE.

TODAY, THE SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES' INFLUENCE IS BEING FELT WORLDWIDE. FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE COUNSELED DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN MORE THAN TWO DOZEN COUNTRIES ON FISCAL, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN ISSUES. IN ATLANTA, THE SCHOOL HAS BECOME THE RESOURCE LEADERS TURN TO FOR ADVICE ON TACKLING THE TOUGHEST ISSUES AFFECTING THE CITY, STATE AND REGION.

THE SCHOOL'S STUDENTS COMBINE PRACTICAL POLICY RESEARCH WITH CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION. TO APPLY WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED, STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO INTERNSHIPS AND GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS IN THE SCHOOL'S RESEARCH

CENTERS AND WITH AREA NON-PROFITS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE SCHOOL TAUGHT 4,000 STUDENTS LAST YEAR -- ITS HIGHEST ENROLLMENT EVER.

In the three years since it was formed, the school has secured more than \$60 million in external research funding -- *proportionally more than any other college at Georgia State*. IN 1997, THE SCHOOL WON THE LARGEST CONTRACT GRANT IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY — A POTENTIAL \$19.6 MILLION FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A NEW TAX CODE, IMPROVE COLLECTIONS AND LEND FISCAL ADVICE TO THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.