

Virginia Tech Center for Housing Research

2006/07 Annual Report

Mission Statement

The Virginia Tech Center for Housing Research strives to improve the affordability, durability, and quality of housing by creating knowledge through research. The Center serves as a resource to policy makers, communities, and businesses for research, information, and technical assistance on affordable housing.

Since its creation by the Virginia General Assembly in 1989, the Center has built its reputation for quality and productivity through a diversified portfolio of research contributing to affordable housing in Virginia and the nation. To this end, the Center conducts research on:

- Housing Needs & Markets
- Housing Technology
- Home Ownership
- Nonprofit Housing
- Assisted Housing, and
- Fair Housing

Classification of Center and Key Personnel

Interdisciplinary University Center

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Director: | Casey J. Dawkins |
| Assistant Director | Marilyn S. Cavell |
| Senior Associate | C. Theodore Koebel |

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Marilyn Cavell cavell@vt.edu

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Significant Accomplishments in 2006-07

Significant accomplishments of center and faculty associated with center for year ending June 30, 2007.

The Center continued work on two NSF grants. Ted Koebel, Professor, Urban Affairs and Planning and a Senior Associate with the Center, conducted research on modeling adoption and diffusion of innovations in residential construction. Walid Thabet, Associate Professor of Building Construction, Ralph Badinelli, Professor of Business Information Technology, and Ted Koebel conducted research on the commercialization of innovative products in the residential construction market. The NSF funding totals nearly \$600,000 over a three year period.

Under the umbrella of an up to \$50 million indefinite quantity contract for housing technology research through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Center faculty and affiliated faculty from the Departments of Building Construction, Architecture, and Urban Affairs and Planning continued work on two projects and completed work on two

projects. Co-PI's Casey Dawkins, Assistant Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning and Director, Center for Housing Research and Ted Koebel conducted research on the impact of zoning restrictions on the placement of manufactured housing. Thom Mills, Associate Professor of Building Construction, continued work on Industrializing the Construction Site (Phase V, Virtual Manufacturing). Michael O'Brien, Professor of Building Construction, completed work on populating a whole house calculator. PIs John Randolph, Director of the School of Public and International Affairs and Chris Nelson, Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning, completed a project on environmental regulations as barriers to affordable housing.

The Center completed its administration of a fourth (each spanning two years) Community Development Work Study Program (CDWS) funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development. The CDWS program focused on community building and provided graduate student fellowships to three economically disadvantaged graduate students. Three students successfully completed year two of the 2005-2007 CDWS program in May 2007. The main focus of the program was to integrate professional practice, research, and course work within the student's academic program with the intended goal of preparing students for careers in a community building field. (HUD discontinued this program in 2006.)

The Center continued to provide on-going research support for state and local housing organizations. The Center was a sponsor for the 2006 Governor's Housing Conference, Norfolk, Virginia which provided a forum for showcasing our research projects and disseminating information to the Virginia housing community. The Center contracted with localities for housing needs and market analyses including a project for James City County and the City of Williamsburg as well as a project for Northampton County. In addition, the Center completed a housing market analysis for the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (the Charlottesville, Virginia area) and a project on redevelopment strategies for the City of Portsmouth, Virginia.

Contracts Received in 2006-07

Grants and contracts received in year ending June 30, 2007.

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| Housing Demand Analysis, Northampton County, Northampton County, Virginia | \$10,845 | Award, Feb. 2007 |
| Housing Demand Analysis, James City County and City of Williamsburg, James City County and City of Williamsburg | \$50,018 | Award, March 2007 |

Goals for 2007-08

- Further develop nationally supported housing policy research
- Continue to influence the HUD research agenda and national housing policy
- Provide on-going research support for state and local housing organizations
- Expand our role in national real estate research projects
- Expand our focus in the area of "green building" and energy research.