

Virginia Tech Center for Housing Research

2007/08 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

Contact persons: Casey Dawkins dawkins@vt.edu or
Marilyn Cavell cavell@vt.edu

URL: <http://www.vchr.vt.edu>

Significant Accomplishments in 2007-08

Significant accomplishments of center and faculty associated with center for year ending June 30, 2008.

The Center for Housing Research continued work on a national study for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and work on two National Science Foundation (NSF) studies. Led by Dr. Casey Dawkins and Dr. Ted Koebel and supported by Marilyn Cavell, the Center worked on a national study of how zoning regulations impact the placement of manufactured homes in urban communities. Principal Investigators Dr. Walid Thabet and Dr. Ralph Badinelli along with Dr. Ted Koebel worked on an NSF project on facilitating supply chain support for the commercialization of innovative products in the residential construction industry. Dr. Ted Koebel worked toward completing an NSF project on modeling adoption and diffusion of residential construction innovations.

The Center continued to provide on-going research support for state and local housing organizations. Work was completed for a housing needs and market analysis for James City

County and the City of Williamsburg. Casey Dawkins served on the Governor's Task Force on Foreclosure Prevention and Marilyn Cavell represented Dr. Dawkins at meetings and provided technical data support to the Task Force. The Center for Housing Research was a sponsor for the 2007 Governor's Housing Conference, Roanoke, Virginia which provided a forum for showcasing research projects and disseminating information to the Virginia housing community.

Dr. Dawkins, Center Director, assumed the additional role of Co-Director of the Metropolitan Institute, a nationally recognized Virginia Tech Center located in Alexandria, Virginia. The Center for Housing Research now operates out of two locations: Alexandria and Blacksburg, Virginia.

Dr. Dawkins accomplished many scholarly activities over the past year. Dr. Dawkins was promoted to Associate Professor and earned tenure status. He co-edited two special issues of the peer-reviewed journal, *Urban Geography*. Dr. Dawkins also published a critique of published work examining the linkages between ethnic diversity and social capital in *Housing Policy Debate*, a journal for which Dawkins was recently named an associate editor. Casey Dawkins has been invited to contribute to a forthcoming publication examining the impacts of state growth management programs. The book will be published by the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy.

Contracts Received in 2007-08

Grants and contracts received in year ending June 30, 2008.

NA

Goals for 2008-09

- Further develop nationally supported housing policy research in conjunction with the Metropolitan Institute
- 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.