

# **Virginia Tech Center for Housing Research**

## ***2008/09 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](mailto:cavell@vt.edu)

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### **Significant Accomplishments in 2008-09**

*Significant accomplishments of center and faculty associated with center for year ending June 30, 2009.*

The Center for Housing Research completed a national study for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and two National Science Foundation (NSF) studies. Led by Dr. Casey Dawkins and Dr. Ted Koebel and supported by Marilyn Cavell, the Center completed work 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 completed work on an NSF project on facilitating supply chain support for the commercialization of innovative products in the residential construction industry. Dr. Ted Koebel completed an NSF project on modeling adoption and diffusion of residential construction innovations.

New efforts included a project on housing and transportation. Casey Dawkins began work on a project sponsored by the General Services Administration and run through the D.C. Office

of Planning. The project deals with housing and transportation issues regarding future location of federal offices.

Continuing a history of providing on-going research support for state and local housing organizations, Ted Koebel and Marilyn Cavell performed and completed work for a housing needs and market analysis for the Northern Neck area. In addition, work began on a project for Housing Virginia to develop housing affordability metrics at the state, metropolitan, and jurisdiction levels. The metrics will be available on the Housing Virginia website and plans are for the project to continue into the future with the Center providing quarterly updates.

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 2009 Governor's Housing Conference, Norfolk, Virginia which provided a forum for showcasing research projects and disseminating information to the Virginia housing community.

The Center began a green building initiative to conduct a case study of a green neighborhood being developed in Blacksburg, Virginia. This unsponsored effort led by Marilyn Cavell will describe the experience of the residents of Mount Tabor Meadows as well as collect information from the builder/developer and the town planners.

The Center prepared for merging with the Metropolitan Institute, a nationally recognized Virginia Tech Center located in Alexandria, Virginia. Under the umbrella of the Metropolitan Institute, the Virginia Center for Housing Research will keep its identity and continue its mission to serve the Commonwealth by conducting state and local housing research projects. Through his role as Co-Director of the Metropolitan Institute, Dr. Dawkins finalized efforts to secure the contract to publish *Housing Policy Debate*, the nation's leading housing policy journal.

### **Contracts Received in 2008-09**

*Grants and contracts received in year ending June 30, 2009.*

GSA, Envisioning The Future of the Federal Workplace in the Washington Region, subcontractor to the DC Office of Planning, partner with University of Maryland.

Northern Neck Housing Study, Northern Neck Housing Committee, VT subcontractor to CBZ).

Metrics for Virginia Housing Affordability, Housing Virginia.

### **Goals for 2009-10**

- Establish the Center's role within the Metropolitan Institute under housing initiatives
- Provide on-going research support for state and local housing organizations
- Become a leader in the Commonwealth in providing housing affordability measures
- Expand our focus in the area of "green building" and energy research.