

The Role of University Research Centers in the Policy Process: Conflicts and Opportunities

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- **Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging (FPECA) mission, role and history.**
- **Organization**
 - Data Center (focus on Medicaid, Medicare, state data)
 - Training Academy—disseminating information through training
 - Housing and long-term care
 - Creative Aging – Journal of Aging & Identity (humanities and public policy)
 - Minority Aging (not yet)

- **Range of Projects**

- Comprehensive evaluation, Alzheimer's training and teaching nursing home (AL next), Commission on Long-Term Care in Florida (1996), nursing home litigation, liability and quality of care, hospice caregiver study, long-term care and quality of life, policy analysis reports (ARPR, CDC, LTC in Florida, Ethics of LTC), arts programs in senior centers.

- **Relationships**

- External—public agencies: state, local and federal (AOA)
- Internal (USF)—Aging Studies Ph.D. Program (graduate students, faculty) gerontology department, medical school (nursing)

- **Communications—media, publications**

- **Opportunities for FPECA**
 - Influence policy, administration and budget
 - Resources for research/analysis projects (support for and experience for graduate students)
 - Role as public intellectual (scold)

- **Challenges**

- Difficult political environment (cross currents)
- Academic recognition/blurring of roles
- Competitiveness of SUS
- Heartburn from the occasional drudgery of working with agencies—shifting agency priorities
- Unstable status of analysis and rationality in public policy process—role of special interests, political interests and ideology in the politics of policy—impatience with analytical approaches
- Need to diversify resource base—perils of private sector.