The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University has developed a global reputation for the quality of its influence and impact on many of the leading public policy and management issues that affect all levels of government, the nonprofit sector and business. In downtown Atlanta, at the center of one of the nation’s largest hubs for government and nonprofit employment and activity, the school develops leaders who advance economic opportunity, human rights and social justice around the world.

Human rights champion Andrew Young’s philosophy and focus on economic opportunity, human rights and social justice are the foundation of our school. This philosophy guides us in our development of leaders who have an appreciation for these values. Our programs and research, although global in scope, focus on the primacy of local action and collaboration to make the world a more efficient and equitable, peaceful and prosperous place.

Added to this visionary philosophy are the advantages offered by our downtown Atlanta location. We are the core of an urban laboratory that fosters and sustains connections with the region’s leading lawmakers, governments, communities and nonprofits. These people and institutions offer opportunities for faculty and students unavailable at most public policy schools.

We further define our unique approach to teaching and research with our evidence-based, data-driven approach to policy research across a unique grouping of disciplines: criminal justice and criminology, economics, public management and policy, and social work. This approach informs collaborations across the university that address complex public policy and management problems and issues.

Our diverse student body represents a cross-section of people from all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic and geographic backgrounds who will be better prepared to manage public institutions and create and evaluate policy, the goals of any representative government.

We also:

• Rank No. 23 among the nation’s public affairs colleges and among the top 26 programs in five sub-areas, including No. 4 in public finance and budgeting, No. 12 in nonprofit management and No. 12 in city management and urban policy (U.S. News & World Report)
• Maintain partnerships with more than 200 community-based agencies and organizations that host our School of Social Work students for nearly 80,000 hours of community service and engagement annually
• Advise Georgia State’s national award-winning student chapter of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, which confers prestigious and career-boosting Nonprofit Professional certificates
• Train and advise governments from as many as 30 countries a year, from Costa Rica to Pakistan, Egypt to Cambodia, through our International Center for Public Policy
• Operate the largest experimental economics laboratory in the Southeast

“Sound public policy is the infrastructure that underlies the modern world.”

– Dean Mary Beth Walker
The Andrew Young School strengthens communities across the globe through policy research, scholarship, public engagement and the development of leaders.

Our Vision

Now celebrating its 20th anniversary, the Andrew Young School continues to expand its engagement and influence in policy and public management with important contributions made by our faculty, students and alumni who:

- Conduct and support evidence-based policy analyses to better meet the rapidly growing demand for public accountability in every level of government
- Bridge the worlds of public engagement and decision-making in the management of private, public and nonprofit organizations.

Our vision is to graduate leaders who can work to improve the design, financing, evaluation and administration of socially and fiscally responsible programs.

Our degree programs will attract talented and deserving students from diverse backgrounds along with top-level faculty and research associates who will challenge our students to transform themselves and their communities.

Our Andrew Young School graduates will find the knowledge they gain at Georgia State vital to strengthening communities in their cities, states, provinces and nations across the globe.

In achieving this vision, we will be among the top five percent of the nation’s best public policy schools as we become a model for creating and translating scholarly policy work into practical community action.

Our Goals Will Shape Our Future

Our success as a policy school is best measured by what our potential students look for in a degree program: the quality of our faculty, the successful careers of our graduates and our academic reputation.

Endow A Student Experience Fund to Build Leaders

We will enable all of our students to take advantage of transformational educational opportunities via service learning, internships and study abroad by providing the resources they need.

Student experiences that engage them early in their field of work and global travel are life-changing. For example, internships are a critical step into work experience, and the study abroad program provides experiences that broaden their perspectives, and often, their worlds. Students who cannot afford to take advantage of these experiences are often at a disadvantage when they graduate.

Our Student Experience Fund will level the playing field for economically disadvantaged students. This fund will allow them to benefit from the rewarding experiences offered through internships, field study and the university’s study abroad programs.

Opportunity: Use “Experience Funds” to promote success among all students

- Student Travel Abroad
- Student Internships
- Endowed Scholarships

Save More Lives With a Center for Child Policy

The Center for Child Policy will manage and improve the focus on child and family-oriented research carried out by faculty and students throughout the Andrew Young School. This center will bring new awareness to the multiple ways public policy affects the well-being of children.

Policies and programs that focus on only one problem cannot address the larger and systemic issues that affect children. For example, communities cannot fix their schools and hope to
improve educational outcomes without also addressing neighborhood crime, housing and food insecurity.

The Center for Child Policy’s mission is to shine a spotlight on the problems affecting child well-being.

The center will promote a more comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to creating and implementing child policy. Our approach will be based on research, data, economic analysis and evaluation.

We will work within and across systems to focus on the “whole child,” an orientation that will allow us to examine how a child’s education, family, safety, health, community and access to resources all work together to affect their well-being. Public-private endeavors demonstrate that when these issues are comprehensively addressed, the outcomes for children are dramatically improved.

Keeping children on the right path from an early age is easier, safer and less costly than intervening later in life.

Opportunity: Establish a Child Policy Center to protect and save the whole child
- Endowed Chair
- Post-Doctoral Support
- Undergraduate Research
- Lecture Series

Reward Faculty Excellence and Broaden Our Impact

We will foster the interdisciplinary research environment by continuing to attract and retain top flight faculty.

It is very competitive to hire and keep top faculty. Having high-performing faculty leads to the best learning experiences, which provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. A top-notch faculty will create a research infrastructure that allows students to do their best work. With our faculty and research centers truly involved in the policy conversation, they enhance and engage our students.

Opportunity: Foster faculty excellence to broaden impacts on students and communities
- Endowed Chairs
- Distinguished Scholars
- Faculty Fellowships

Join Us

Your investment in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies will help us improve the public decision-making and management infrastructure in communities, cities, states and nations. It will provide critical resources we need to grow more exceptional policy and public management leaders from diverse backgrounds who will match their desire with the skills and knowledge they need to effectively design, implement and evaluate policy ideas around the globe.

Simply put, your generous participation in supporting our strategic programs increases the speed at which we can change the world, as Ambassador Andrew Young says, “one student at a time, one idea at a time.”

Contact
Karl Jennings
Director of Development
404-413-0009 (office)
404-829-4985 (cell)
kjennings@gsu.edu