Snapshot: The Center for Advanced Communications Policy

September 2001– December 2011

Overview

The Center for Advanced Communications Policy (CACP) combines research and analysis to drive thought leadership on advanced communication and technology policy. It is recognized at the state and national level as a neutral authority, monitoring and assessing technical developments, identifying future options, and providing insights into related legislative and regulatory issues. CACP evaluates technological trends that can impact areas as diverse as emergency communications, vulnerable populations and e-government. **CACP** was created in 2001 as the policy division of GCATT by GT and the Georgia Research Alliance based on a model of blending regulatory, legislative and policymaking elements of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to provide a "real world" perspective on policy formation. CACP's strength is its cross-disciplinary engagement, including with IPaT and Policy@Tech www.cacp.gatech.edu

Mission

We are the "What Does GT Think" advanced communications policy gurus. Specifically, the go-to policy experts for state, regional, national and global entities such as the BoR, FCC, NTIA, DHS, FEMA, National Council on Disabilities and European Commission.

- **Research initiatives** – Diversified portfolio that reflects CACP's research synergies. Composed of sponsored, unsolicited and supplemental funding. Ranks 4th (out of 8) in IAC sponsored funding.
    - o 26 projects totaling **$18,889,062.**
    - o Funders include the Departments of Commerce and Education, NIDRR, NCD, GABoR, GA Technology Authority, Microsoft, Reason Foundation, UK-BCS, Red Hat Inc.
    - o Home of the **Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center** since 2001 supporting an average of 20 researchers plus GRAs. The Wireless RERC's mission is to promote equitable access to wireless technologies by people with disabilities.

- **Academic activities-** course development, directed research, dissertation committees, training GRAs and undergraduates. Work with researchers, engineers, end users of technology, and industry partners on advanced technology and accessible technical solutions.
    - o **Academic- Employed 46** GRAs, RAs and undergraduate students. Taught **20 graduate level** courses, independent studies and undergraduate core courses. Advised or served on theses or dissertation committees for **52 students.**
    - o Advanced communications policy and technology seminars, workshops and lectures have been attended by approximately **13,695 constituents.**

- **Program activities** – rapid legislative response; regulatory analysis on rulemakings that significantly impact constituents; policy support, trend analysis and assessments.
    - o Monitor/assess more than **37,284 regulatory and legislative technology documents and activities.** Filings and reports include the FCC, DoJ, FEMA, National Academies, Interagency Commission on Disability Research, National Council on Disability, and U.S. Access Board. CACP tracks and reports on tech legislative and judiciary activity.
    - o **ICT Roundtable series:** hosted by CACP and Internet Public Policy Project. GT policy research on information and communications and the technology that facilitates them.

- o **Public Policy Luncheon series:** hosted by CACP and the Federal Communications Bar Association since 1996. Brings together regulators, legislators, telecom experts, attorneys and wireless industry to discuss topics of interest in telecommunications and IT policy.
- o **BCS Southeast Regional Group series:** CACP became the first USA regional group in 2010. Brings together faculty, students (6 grade-post grad), telecom industry for special topic events including technology competitions' open to contestants 10-100 years old.

- **Outreach and dissemination** – CACP has a presence at international conferences, research publications, reports, newsletters, advanced technology events, board/council memberships, editorial and review panels, invited presentations, service to institution, professional and other public sector entities.
  - o Research outputs- **39 advisory groups. 184 presentations. 76 peer reviewed publications.**
  - o Service to professional community – **141 invited or peer reviewed presentations.**
  - o Service to public or private sector- **161 advisory groups/boards/councils.**
  - o Website hits 2006 to present – **124,054.**
  - o FCC, DoI, ICDR, DHS/FEMA - **regulatory filings/references in rulemakings – 56.**

Vision "Thought leadership and solutions based on strategic policy projections for 2035"

- National level **"Go To" policy advisors** with expertise in disability, accessibility, advanced communications, EdTech, and governance arenas; recognized reputation as a neutral authority.

- Exemplify strategic vision and plan for Georgia Tech through collaborations that leverage intellectual property, partnerships, and program building both domestically and internationally.

- **Research and development initiatives** ranging from ICT policy to development of accessible wireless emergency communications next generation devices that integrate research and industry for the benefit of the public sector. Forefront of enhancing Georgia's contribution to national and international technology policy research agendas.

- **Global leveraging of programs and resources** in support of GT, SPP and CACP goals.

Identity and Partnership

Who we are:
CACP is part of the School of Public Policy of the IAC at GT. Our staff is small (averaging 9-14), efficient and effective in leveraging CACP and GT overarching goals.

- **Educational focus-** About two-thirds of GRA's come from within the IAC schools of SPP, HTS, INTA. Other GRA's and undergrads come from architecture, computing, education, management and mathematics. We prepare students to turn research into applied policy positions within industry, government or allied fields. Our students now work in government, legal firms, industry, or are enrolled in doctoral programs. CACP staff hold appointments in the SPP, GVU, and with Temple University, Univ. of Central Florida, National Univ. of Ireland, Galway.

- **Research focus-** Applied policy studies, advanced communications and technology research. Emergency communications, vulnerable populations including people with disabilities, e-government and social change, technology shifts, social media, and virtual collaborations.

Who we work with:

- **Intra-institutional** – Relationships with more than **30 entities** at GA Tech including Faculty Senate, IPaT, CIBER, ED, EII, EUEC, GTBI, GTRI, GTEC, GTISC, GVU, CATEA, EU Center, IMTC, BITC, GT/Emory Center for Engineering of Living Tissues; Workplace Accommodations RERC. SPP initiatives such as PRI, TPAC, RVM, IP3. Senior faculty in CoE, SPP, SN, CoArch.

- **Institutional** -- Building common areas of interest with more than **45 peer institutions and other universities,** such as UGA, GSU, Kennesaw State University, Technical College System of Georgia, Emory, BU, Yale, John Hopkins University, University of Washington, University of Florida, George Mason University, Syracuse University, University of Texas, University of Minnesota, Duke University, Temple University, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University, and many more. More than 25 **external faculties.**

- **Public sector** – Relationships with close to **310 entities,** such as
    - ○ **Georgia:** State legislature; **UGA; GA Technology Authority;** Economic Development Agency; Dept. of Community Affairs; Dept. of Human Resources; Dept. of Community Health; **City of Atlanta;** Georgia Public Broadcasting; Public Broadcasting Atlanta; **City of Decatur; City of Roswell;** Georgia Emergency Management Agency; Georgia Municipal Association; Hartsfield Jackson International Airport.

    - ○ **Regional and National: FCC; Department of Homeland Security FEMA;** U.S. Department of Commerce, NTIA; National Weather Service; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; California Public Utilities Commission; U.S. Department of Education; NSF; National Council on Disability; IEEE; National Research Council of the National Academies; Southern Growth Policy Board and Southern Technology Council; the Public Broadcasting System.

    - ○ **Third sector & NGOs:** Chosen by the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Public Technology to house **the National Broadband Resource Center.** In addition, CACP provides technical assistance or small project assistance to approximately 132 **entities at the state and national level** including IEEE, Southern Technology Council, WGBH-Boston, Consumer Electronic Association, CTIA, American Electronics Association, Wireless Technology Forum, National Organization on Disability, Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology, AARP, RESNA, NARRTC, NENA, NPR labs, Vegas PBS. CACP has had **representatives on 25 executive boards at the national and international level.**

    - ○ **Private sector** – Partnerships and resources from more than **54 wireless companies** including Research in Motion; BlackBerry; AT&T; Nokia; Microsoft. IBM; Red Hat, Inc.

- **International** – Selected as the **home for the Southeast Regional Group of the BCS-The Chartered Institute for** IT. Collaborators include **European Commission,** Amity Business School of London, Universities of **Cambridge,** Westminster, Dundee, and Nottingham, Imperial College in the U.K; Costa Rica Institute of Technology; University of Toronto; the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Peking University; the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology; Universidad Complutense de Madrid; National University of Ireland, Galway; Shantou University, China; the American University of Sharjah, UAE; and IEEE/IEE international sections.