Dyer Fellows’ projects seek to discover public solutions to pressing public problems.

Recent Dyer Fellows projects:

- Research on successful sustainability initiatives from around the country resulted in a plan specific to the business sector of downtown Conway, S.C. A Dyer Fellow provided local business owners with the tools to strengthen their community economically, ecologically, and socially.

- Investigations into digital privacy rights examined policy solutions to protect citizens’ personal data and shed light on Constitutional and ethical questions regarding the collection and sharing of big data.

- Exploration into current policies and regulations surrounding access to clean and safe drinking water for Americans sought to determine advancements and changes that can be made to avoid problems similar to those in areas such as Flint, Mich.

The Edgar Dyer Institute for Leadership and Public Policy believes that individuals across communities can improve governance by working together with mutual knowledge and shared understanding.

Edgar L. “Eddie” Dyer built a legacy of teaching and leadership at Coastal Carolina University that spanned nearly four decades. The institute was established in 2014 to recognize his impact on and contributions to CCU.

For more information, contact Jacqueline Kurlowski, director of the Edgar Dyer Institute for Leadership and Public Policy, at 843-349-6952 or dyerinstitute@coastal.edu.
Dyer Policy Fellowship Program

The Dyer Institute brings together an inter-disciplinary group of Coastal Carolina University students to participate in the Dyer Policy Fellowship Program. This program connects academic theory to practice, creates experiential learning opportunities, and fosters active learning and critical thinking.

Research Process

1. Fellow identifies an area of community need and personal interest
2. Fellow conducts policy research with input from faculty mentor
3. Fellow develops and implements polling and survey tools
4. Fellow crafts policy brief and press release
5. Fellow presents findings to Coastal Carolina University and community leaders

Experience Policy Making

Visit the state capitol in Columbia, S.C., to tour the capitol building, meet with lawmakers and observe the policy making process.

Attend workshops by political scholars on topics ranging from international trade to community activism to intelligence studies.

Work one-on-one with a faculty mentor specializing in the field who oversees their research project and provides perspective and insight.

Travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with South Carolina congressional representatives and establish professional contacts within federal agencies.

Present their research findings to scholars and community leaders at the annual Dyer Research Symposium.

Making an Impact

"The opportunity to meet with representatives from the Pew Environmental Trust was extremely informative because their projects truly embody sustainability and push to create a better future for all. They provided me with valuable advice to further my academic and future career."

Maria Karahalios

I gained self-confidence, pride, a depth of knowledge, and a clear understanding of what it means to be a scholar.

Kelly Shelton

After all the hard work was done, I felt validated. This fellowship gave me an outlet outside of my normal courses to be able to say, "I can do more."

Nicholas Blair

Are you interested in becoming a Dyer Fellow? Please contact Jacqueline Kurkowski, director of the Edgar Dyer Institute for Leadership and Public Policy at 843-349-6952 or dyerinstitute@coastal.edu

Student benefits:

- $2,000 research stipend during the spring semester
- Access to a dedicated academic advisor in the student’s major for guidance
- Participation in workshop series throughout the Spring semester
- Presentation at the Dyer Research Symposium
- Dissemination of research on CCU website
- Opportunities to present research to CCU Alumni and donors

For more information, please visit coastal.edu/ilpp/dyerfellows