

### Third Research Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize you with the resources and methods for researching the corporate and foundation supported policy network. Rather than studying national-level organizations, such as those discussed by Domhoff in chapter 4 of *Who Rules America?*, we will focus on state-level organizations affiliated with the State Policy Network. As a preparation for doing the assignment you should read the following article on state-level policy organizations:

- Frederick Clarkson, ["Takin' It to the States: The Rise of Conservative State-Level Think Tanks,"](#) *Public Eye*, Vol. 13, No. 2/3, Summer/Fall 1999.

I also highly recommend that you at least skim a more general report on the role of rightwing foundations in financing the conservative policy network:

- People for the American Way, [\*Buying a Movement: Right-Wing Foundations and American Politics.\*](#)

Several websites will be used extensively in this research. These are all listed on the Policy Formation page of the [\*Who Rules?\*](#) website:

- [\*Conservative Transparency.\*](#)
- [\*State Policy Network.\*](#)
- [\*Foundation Center.\*](#)
- [\*Foundation Directory Online.\*](#) (available only in Knight Library)

Background information on many of the member organizations of the State Policy Network can also be found in a report compiled by the National Education Association in the late 1990s ([http://uoregon.edu/~vburris/soc465/spn\\_members.htm](http://uoregon.edu/~vburris/soc465/spn_members.htm))

Another good source of information is the directory called *Public Interest Group Profiles* (Knight Library Reference JK1118 .P78 2006).

Each student will be assigned three state-level policy organizations to study. Everyone will study the *Cascade Policy Institute* in Portland, Oregon (<http://www.cascadepolicy.org/>). Two additional policy institutes will also be assigned to each student, with an attempt to provide variety in terms of geographic region, political emphasis, and organization size.

The assignment is to write a research report on these three policy organizations. Topics to be covered include:

1. **General overview of the organization:** review the organization website, policy papers, newsletters, and available reference sources.
2. **Sources of funding:** consult *Conservative Transparency* for support by leading right-wing foundations; also consult the Foundation Center's *Foundation Directory Online* (available only at terminals within Knight Library) for more general information about sources of support for your organizations, including, if available, support from corporations and corporate foundations.

3. **Political agenda:** identify and describe three key political priorities or initiatives of each organization; characterize each organization in terms of its ideological stance (e.g., social conservative or free-market libertarian).

4. **Connections to the larger policy network:** discuss any important links to either national or other state-level policy organizations, for example, in terms of personnel, common sources of funding, joint policy initiatives, etc.

5. **Comparison of the three organizations:** briefly discuss the similarities and differences you found among the three organizations in terms of the points listed above.

Suggested length for the assignment is 8-10 pages. The due date is Wednesday, June 2. Assignments should be either given to me in class or emailed as Microsoft Word attachments. You should be sure to keep a copy of the assignment for yourself, as I will not be responsible for “lost” assignments.

### **Assignment 3: List of State-Level Policy Planning Organizations**

Everyone will research the Cascade Policy Institute (OR), plus two other groups listed below:

#### **GROUP 1**

**Alley, Kalynn R:** Allegheny Institute for Public Policy (PA); Claremont Institute (CA)

**Bolton, Lydia G:** Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions (OH); Pacific Research Institute (CA)

**Gerner, Isaac A:** Center of the American Experiment (MN); Evergreen Freedom Foundation (WA)

**Kennedy, Karrie A:** Commonwealth Foundation (PA); Texas Public Policy Foundation (TX)

**Land, Zachary J:** Goldwater Institute (AZ); Heartland Institute (IL)

**Roberts, Matthew R:** Manhattan Institute for Policy Research (NY); Wisconsin Policy Research Institute (WI)

#### **GROUP 2**

**Brumbaugh, Amy B:** Allegheny Institute for Public Policy (PA); Goldwater Institute (AZ)

**Corcoran, Katina P:** Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions (OH); James Madison Institute (FL)

**Quest, Mary E:** Center of the American Experiment (MN); John Locke Foundation (NC)

**Robertson, Charles J:** Commonwealth Foundation (PA); Independence Institute (CO)

**Rogers, Kyle D:** Mackinac Center for Public Policy (MI); Texas Public Policy Foundation (TX)

**Steiner, Jamie M:** Heartland Institute (IL); Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs (OK)

#### **GROUP 3**

**Farish, Sarah C:** Evergreen Freedom Foundation (WA); Manhattan Institute for Policy Research (NY)

**Gramson, Tyler J:** Mackinac Center for Public Policy (MI); Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs (OK)

**Grissell, Drew L:** Claremont Institute (CA); Pioneer Institute (MA)

**Kelly, Tess L:** John Locke Foundation (NC); Wisconsin Policy Research Institute (WI)

**Wentz, Nicole M:** James Madison Institute (FL); Pacific Research Institute (CA)

**Wheating, Andrew J:** Heartland Institute (IL); Texas Public Policy Foundation (TX)

#### **GROUP 4**

**Clark, Peter D:** Manhattan Institute for Policy Research (NY); Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs (OK)

**Coller, Evan M:** Goldwater Institute (AZ); Pioneer Institute (MA)

**Harper, Marian:** Mackinac Center for Public Policy (MI); James Madison Institute (FL)

**Hasman, Ashley S:** Commonwealth Foundation (PA); Wisconsin Policy Research Institute (WI)

**Hicks, Michael C:** Claremont Institute (CA); Independence Institute (CO)

**Wagner, Ryan K:** Allegheny Institute for Public Policy (PA); Evergreen Freedom Foundation (WA)

#### **GROUP 5**

**Cassidy, Abner S:** Pioneer Institute (MA); Wisconsin Policy Research Institute (WI)

**Crandell, Davide J:** Independence Institute (CO); John Locke Foundation (NC)

**Gagnier, Drew B:** Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions (OH); Manhattan Institute for Policy Research (NY)

**Hanover, Steven J:** Heartland Institute (IL); Texas Public Policy Foundation (TX)

**Safley, Margaux J:** Center of the American Experiment (MN); Pacific Research Institute (CA)

**Sheriff, Kevin A:** Allegheny Institute for Public Policy (PA); Goldwater Institute (AZ);