Engagement should be a core value of all public universities.

Jaimie Hicks Masterson | AICP
Associate Director
Institute for Sustainable Communities

Discovery
Coordinate existing research strengths and make strategic investments

Engagement
Engage with communities to translate research to action

Education
Enhance and expand experiential education opportunities

Coastal Risk Reduction and Resilience
Seeks to provide solutions to today's most pressing coastal issues through holistic research that explores the interconnections of the natural, built, and socio-political environments.

Community Infrastructure
Focuses on creating innovative ways for addressing infrastructure problems and seeking novel solutions in local communities.

Health and Environment
Concentrates on improving environmental variables and understanding the interactions between individual-level health outcomes and the built environment, health systems, and community-level factors.

Water Security
This project targets key threats to water security, including poverty, climate change, governance and social marginalization, to better address the water security challenges in the coming years.

Community Resilience
The CoRe Program integrates community engagement and research on developing strategies to mitigate natural hazards within flood vulnerable neighborhoods to develop strategies to mitigate disasters.
Texas Target Communities Program

• Since 1980
• Historically worked with:
  • Small Texas cities that could not afford consultants
  • For one year
• Typical projects:
  • planning students to develop comprehensive plans
  • studio classes to develop site plans
Texas Target Communities Program

• Over 50 communities
• Students awards under the supervision of faculty
  • Temple, 1988
  • Madisonville, 1989
  • Palacios, 2003
  • Navasota, 2004
  • Hearne, 2005
  • Texas Urban Triangle, 2008
  • Beaumont, 2009
  • Cuero, 2009
  • Sealy, 2010
  • Gonzales, 2013
  • La Grange, 2015
  • Sunnyside Neighborhood, 2017
  • Grimes County, 2017
  • Liberty County, 2017 *professional award*
OUR MISSION
A Holistic Approach

To facilitate the transformation of communities from high-risk/low-opportunity to equitable, resilient, and adaptive by mitigating the threats to the economy, environment, and culture
Increasing Community Capacity

SOCIAL
Strengthening the community fabric

ECONOMIC
Fostering strategic & equitable growth

NATURAL
Preserving and restoring the integrity of our environmental systems

CIVIC
Encouraging participatory and collaborative governance

HUMAN
Nurturing the capacity and health of people

PHYSICAL
Promoting informed development decisions
Inclusive Plan Making Process

1. Organize
2. Connect
3. Assess
4. Envision
5. Prioritize
6. Implement
7. Evaluate impacts
8. Monitor, evaluate, update
Community Engagement

What did community members want to preserve, add, remove, or keep out?

We strive to preserve our small town atmosphere while preparing for growth and future generations, to enhance the beautification of the city, embrace the diversity of its people, and improve the quality of life for our citizens. We aspire to be “A Great Place to Live.”
Liberty County
Planning for Growth, Planning for Resilience

- 8 courses
- Urban planning, engineering, marketing/visualization
- TX APA professional award in 2017

“We are stronger as a county when we all work together.”
Catalysts

1. Uncontrolled growth
2. Highway 99 planned
3. 2015-2016 received 5 disaster declarations
Inclusive Plan Making Process

1. Identify New Issues
2. Organize
3. Connect
4. Assess
5. Envision
6. Prioritize
7. Implement
8. Evaluate impacts
9. Monitor, evaluate, update

What do we want our community to be like?
Organize & Connect

• Leadership of County Judge and Extension Agent
• Held 17 public forums and community meetings
• Cities, once with fierce rivalries determined that “we are stronger as a county when we all work together”
Assess
Assess
Envision

How will our vision influence:
• Development considerations
• Transportation
• Community facilities
• Economic development
• Environment & open space
• Housing
Prioritize
Prioritize
### Land Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Type</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Action Leaders</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.1.1.1 JOINT LAND USE MANAGEMENT</strong></td>
<td>OBJ. 3.1.1</td>
<td>ADM, PLAN</td>
<td>Sustainable Communities Initiative; Sustainable Communities Investment Planning Grants; Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities; Capacity Building for Sustainable Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a Liberty County Joint Land Use Management Task Force with all municipalities in the county. This group could develop specific goals and objectives for the area, committee structure and membership, milestones for achieving goals, and evaluation metrics.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.1.1.2 AGREE ON DEVELOPMENT PLAN</strong></td>
<td>OBJ. 3.1.1</td>
<td>ADM, PLAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess, revise, and adopt development plans and codes.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.1.1.3 ADOPT DEVELOPMENT PLAN</strong></td>
<td>OBJ. 3.1.1</td>
<td>GB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt a revised development plan and code.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.1.1.4 CHANGES TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN</strong></td>
<td>OBJ. 3.1.1</td>
<td>ADM, PLAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All future amendments and changes of development codes that are not available in the current development plan shall be discussed and agreed upon by the County Commissioners Court, with consultation by the organizations referenced in section (3.1.1.1). Costs incurred for the coordination of required meetings shall be borne by the stakeholder(s) requesting the amendment/change.</td>
<td>ONGOING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

100 | Chapter 9
A Plan is your “Cook Book”

• The cities within the county are developing their own plans in line with the region.

• The cities within the county and stakeholders continue to meet regularly

• The county has reason to work together with a shared vision for resilient development
Collaborative Partners

Texas Sea Grant
- Connects extension team to coastal stakeholders to identify critical issues needing study, funds targeted research, then communicates research results to help solve real-world problems.
- Deploys planners to provide technical assistance, outreach, and education to local governments and other community stakeholders.

Texas Target Communities
- Facilitates service-learning opportunities for faculty and students.
- Facilitates and leads project management of community planning processes.
- Engages community members and stakeholders in participatory planning processes.

Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning
- Researches planning for resilience.
- Trains the next generation of urban planning professionals.
- Collaborates with technical experts and professional networks.

Institute for Sustainable Communities
- Supports interdisciplinary research of resiliency best practices.
- Conducts applied, locally-driven, and co-produced research in vulnerable communities.

Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center
- Conducts research on hazard impacts, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and disseminates results to practitioners.
- Provides assistance and consultation to agencies charged with responsibility for hazard analysis, emergency preparedness and response, disaster recovery, and hazard mitigation.

Combining Resources And Strengths For Communities
Goals of the program:

1. Communities adopt high-quality plans to achieve locally defined visions of sustainable development.

2. Communities increase resilience to natural and technological hazards.

3. Habitat, ecosystems and the services they provide are monitored, enhanced and/or restored.

4. Local and scientific knowledge is leveraged in planning and other decision-making processes.

Figure 1: The CRC coordinates efforts from Texas A&M University in College Station with a team of planners in three regions: the Upper Coast, Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley.
Figure 1: The CRC coordinates efforts from Texas A&M University in College Station with a team of planners in three regions: the Upper Coast, Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Valley.
Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard

Highlands, NJ Before Hurricane Sandy: Opposing Intentions?

100-year floodplain & severe repetitive loss designation

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Comprehensive Plan
Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard

• **Project Overview**
  -- Land use planning is key to resilience.
  -- Cities adopt networks of plans.
  -- Integration of hazards/climate change in local plans affects future resilience.

*Figure 3.3 Comparing Scores of Different Planning Documents in Washington, NC.*
Plan Integration for Resilience Scorecard

• How to develop how quality plans
  • Local mitigation plans
• Mitigationguide.org
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