As the Institute of Government concludes another fiscal year, I again find that time seems to move faster and faster. The annual report provides an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and look to the future.

Simply put, FY 2015 was another outstanding year for the Institute. Our training programs are thriving; we’ve expanded our technical assistance services across state government; local governments are increasingly requesting research and technical assistance projects; our long-term international training partnerships with South Korea and China remain strong; and the Institute’s technology solutions team continues to provide innovative answers and products to help solve Georgia’s most challenging issues.

Our work is made possible by the Institute’s more than 140 dedicated public servants and our numerous partners on campus, across the state, and around the world. This report provides a snapshot of our work over the last year and highlights some of our long-term and unique collaborations. Finally, the report concludes with some compelling statistics regarding the Institute’s work during FY 2015. I believe you will agree the Institute’s reach is far and wide.

New and expanding work – The Institute has a rich history serving Georgia for more than 85 years. While our past is important, we are always seeking new and innovative ways to respond to Georgia’s emerging needs. Some of our new and expanding work is detailed below.

Education – Our collaboration with Georgia educators is growing through school board training, financial management assistance, and various secondary and postsecondary research projects. Nothing is more important to the health and vitality of our state than education. Building on a 2013 school board symposium sponsored by UGA’s Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, our recently completed collaborative governance study explores the potential for partnerships between school systems and local governments. Working together, Georgians can solve any challenge.

Economic Development – Helping Georgia build a stronger economy is a priority for the university. We continue to expand our efforts to help our state grow economic capacity through ever more comprehensive offerings. We have introduced new training for elected officials, economic development professionals and development authority board members—more than 800 people received economic development training this year! There’s also a growing demand for economic development analysis, survey research, and data analysis. In addition, we have several workforce development projects underway. We plan to broaden our work in this area to help support the entire state.

Financial Management – We are proud of our Financial Management Program, which over the last two years has expanded and now offers customized programming for state government. A full certificate program now supplements our long-standing accounting series for financial leaders. We are honored to serve the financial leaders working in state and local government. In addition, two levels of financial certification, including 14 courses, are now fully available online.

These are just a few examples of how the Institute is growing, learning and assisting the great state of Georgia. As Benjamin Franklin said, “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” My sincere hope is that what you ultimately remember is how the scope, reach and relevance of our work continue to make a real difference in Georgia.

Laura Meadows
Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government
**Excellence & Quality**

- Coordinated the 29th Biennial Institute for more than 200 Georgia legislators
- Delivered leadership training to 17 Georgia legislators through Georgia Legislative Leadership Institute
- Assisted Georgia State Patrol with promotion assessment process for 23rd year
- Prepared long-term financial analysis for the city of Duluth
- Celebrated our 40th anniversary of the Clerks Certificate Program
- Finalized a new international training agreement with China’s Zhejiang Institute of Administration, a university-based governmental training program

**Collaboration**

- Debuted new budgeting course for state financial management certificate program in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget
- Facilitated economic and cultural exchange agreement between Athens-Clarke County and Seoul’s Seodaemun district mayor
- Completed first-ever study examining school board and local government collaboration
- Collaborated with Archway Partnership to complete a three-county manufacturing survey and a water and sewer governance assessment
- Received national award with UGA’s Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant for Tybee Island sea level adaptation work
- Developed custom water resources website for Georgia DNR to assist with long-term water planning efforts

**Responsiveness**

- Analyzed impact of possible annexation for city of Stockbridge
- Completed strategic marketing plan for Cordele’s inland port
- Developed strategic plan for Clarkesville after catastrophic downtown fire
- Facilitated Macon-Bibb County’s first consolidated government strategic plan
- Conducted development strategy evaluation for Oconee County Industrial Development Authority
- Prepared detailed urban redevelopment plan for Tri-Cities Joint Development Authority (Forest Park, Lake City and Morrow)

**Innovation & Creativity**

- Developed new web-based system to help GBI monitor interstate trade transfers of parolees and probationers
- Delivered two-phase customized training program for Atlanta Workforce Development
- Engaged by U.S. Forest Service to develop cutting-edge program for identifying heir properties
- Developed custom web application for UGA to help demonstrate the university’s statewide impact
- Launched new leadership training program with six state agencies
- Developed online Georgia tutorial on wastewater treatment that will serve as national training tool for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Developed new certificate training program for Georgia Charter Schools Association
Measuring Reach

Hosted
179 international training delegates & scholars

Worked on
311 unique client projects

Recorded over
23,000 registrations for traditional classroom trainings

Worked with
11 downtowns on planning & development

Touched
159 Counties
483 Cities
34 State Agencies

Completed
34 human resources management projects

Enrolled
46,680 participants in distance learning courses

Engaged
99 students

Boasted
2,255 state graduates from leadership & financial programs