



## **The Ohio State University -- June 3rd, 1999 -- Announcement**

### **URBAN AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS INITIATIVE (URAI)**

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The Ohio State University has allocated new central funds for an Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative. Additional matching funds have been contributed by the Departments of Geography, Economics, and Sociology, and by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The School of Public Policy and Management, and the City and Regional Planning Section of the Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture are also major supporters of the initiative. The Center for Mapping has played a crucial role in equipping a laboratory for these research activities. The initiative grew from the ongoing support for the Committee on Urban Affairs by the Urban Universities Program of the state legislature. The new funds and the continuing UUP support, provide us with an excellent foundation for a new center, and will allow a substantial enrichment of the academic research mission in urban and regional analysis.

The emerging center now has the ability to marshal considerable research resources and direct them towards specific research problems. Concrete examples include (1) gathering data, materials, cases, readings and technical information for research projects; (2) archiving and creating data sets for a wide range of users; (3) helping to create proposals for external funding; and, (4) forming collaborative linkages between faculty and others with common research interests. In the near term we will be seeking a data manager who will serve the needs of researchers and help to handle requests for data, information, contract research, maps, etc. A number of Graduate Research Assistantships are also being awarded.

The data center and data manager within the Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative will archive and update existing data sets, help faculty and students create new ones, and assist researchers in the use of those data sets. In addition, we intend to carry out research to assist national, state and local organizations in answering questions of immediate policy importance that relate to the mission of the initiative. In addition some funds will be used for the Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Program, competitive grants, workshops and focus groups with faculty

across campus, and for site visits and exchanges with established urban centers.

The center we are developing will provide a cohesive urban and regional policy presence for OSU at the local, state, national and international levels. As we move forward, we will seek advice and invite comments from specialists in allied fields and related policy areas.

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For additional information, or to express an interest in the Urban and Regional Analysis Initiative, please contact **Professor Edward J. Malecki** in the Department of Geography (614-688-5688; e-mail [malecki.4@osu.edu](mailto:malecki.4@osu.edu)) or **Associate Professor Hazel A. Morrow-Jones** in the City and Regional Planning Section of the Austin E. Knowlton School of Architecture (614-292-1027; e-mail [morrow-jones.1@osu.edu](mailto:morrow-jones.1@osu.edu)).