

# CAPABILITY STATEMENT



**LEARNING SYSTEMS INSTITUTE**  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

**The Learning Systems Institute (LSI)** at Florida State University is at the forefront of developing innovative solutions that bridge theory and practice in education. Our experts' advanced research provides not only state-of-the-art methods but also a clear path for implementation. We have been providing innovative work for more than 55 years.

Our expert faculty and staff have delivered systems that measurably improve the learning and performance of organizations and individuals in Florida and worldwide. Our work has earned LSI an international reputation for efficient and effective management and technical work that meets clients' needs.

LSI is a leader in multidimensional education projects and capacity building for reforming and strengthening educational systems. LSI faculty and staff have expertise in performance improvement, learning technologies, international development, higher education capacity building, pre-service teacher education, teacher training, instructional design and curriculum development, STEM education, education technology, policy and standard development, literacy, and inclusive education. LSI has extensive experience implementing educational programs in Florida, the United States, and 49 countries worldwide, with a strong record of managing multi-million-dollar research and service projects.

Since 1969, LSI awards have exceeded \$800 million and the institute worked on 34 projects in the fiscal year 2023-24 including work in Egypt, Malawi, the Philippines, Rwanda, Uzbekistan, and Zambia. LSI currently employs more than two hundred faculty personnel, researchers, and support staff serving a variety of international clients.

## **LSI's International Work**

LSI has worked on more than 1,000 projects and overseen dozens globally. Areas of activity include basic education (primary and secondary), higher education, vocational training, pre-service teacher training, health, urban development, education technology, teacher training, reading/literacy instruction, rural communication, girls' education, instructional design, accommodations, and modifications for students with special needs; learning disabilities libraries; STEM (science, technology, engineering, math); expert performance improvement; learning technologies; sector assessments and evaluations.

LSI has provided technical assistance to developing countries, many funded directly or indirectly by the U.S. State Department, UNICEF, and other international donors. Most of these international projects aim to improve primary, secondary, and tertiary education and support educational reforms that call for pre and in-service teacher education, curriculum, and materials development for all these levels, including technical and vocational training for workforce development.

## **FCR-STEM**

The Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (FCR-STEM) was created by the Florida Legislature and competitively awarded to Florida State University in 2007. The mission of FCR-STEM is to help the State of Florida improve STEM teaching and learning in grades K-12 and prepare students for higher education and STEM careers. Through impacts on teacher knowledge and classroom practice, FCR-STEM strives to improve student achievement, narrow student achievement gaps, and increase student pursuit in STEM fields.

Through research conducted at FCR-STEM, our staff works to answer the question, "How can we improve STEM integration and teaching and learning for all students?" Our staff advocates for a scientific approach to educational research and supports the use of open science and experimental design in our work. The work includes reports of the impact of educational interventions on student learning in mathematics and statistics through various teacher learning programs involving formative assessment, Cognitively Guided Instruction, lesson study, and statistics curriculum and professional learning opportunities.

# OUR EXPERTISE

For more than 55 years, LSI has been innovating and expanding its expertise. We are a multidisciplinary research and development organization dedicated to innovating learning to improve human performance. LSI's project-based teams feature top researchers from multiple departments at FSU and leading institutions globally. The team of researchers housed at LSI constitutes the institute's core faculty. Faculty members from across the university are frequent contributors to the institute. LSI's faculty members have expertise in research design and methodology across a range of approaches and techniques.

## Teacher Training/Learning

LSI has equipped tens of thousands of educators and industry professionals for success on the job by developing and delivering capacity-building workshops where participants enhance their content knowledge, improve their skills, and apply new learning in the real world.

## Instructional Design & Curriculum Development

LSI supports millions of students, educators, and professionals by developing teaching and learning resources based on the expertise of subject area experts. Award-winning educators and the latest research in learning and cognition, instructional design, and teaching methods.

## Higher Education Capacity Building

LSI has engaged in higher education capacity building for more than 50 years. We take a collaborative, peer-to-peer approach to develop the skills of higher education faculty in various areas, including instruction, research, and administration.

## Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation

LSI faculty are experts in a wide range of research methodologies and evaluation approaches, from large-scale randomized controlled trials to qualitative case studies. We have experience conducting research, monitoring, and evaluation worldwide, including in conflict and crisis settings.

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## Literacy

LSI faculty have deep expertise in promoting literacy in contexts around the world. Current and past projects have involved literacy materials development, teacher training, coaching, and literacy assessment development. Using evidence-based approaches, LSI faculty develop contextually-appropriate approaches in improving literacy outcomes.

## Education Technology

For more than 40 years, LSI has been at the forefront of advancements in educational technology. Our faculty and staff have built applications and solutions used by millions of educators and students. Some of those innovations include CPALMS, the MySTEMKits curriculum with 3D printable manipulatives, CMAP for curriculum planning, and numerous apps and platforms. LSI creates applications that enhance teaching and learning.

## STEM Education

LSI houses The Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (FCR-STEM), a multidisciplinary research center created by the Florida Legislature. The FCR-STEM's mission is to help the State of Florida improve STEM teaching and learning and prepare students for higher education and STEM careers. These broad goals are addressed primarily through high-quality research, teacher professional development, and the development of innovative resources and tools to support instruction aligned with curriculum standards.

## Policy and Standards

In the U.S. and in countries around the world, LSI advises policymakers on setting standards, developing benchmarks, and setting education sector policies related to teachers and student outcomes.





*CPALMS is a unique platform developed by LSI to support K-12 education in Florida and used by millions from all around the globe. More than 260,000 K-12 Florida educators and approximately three million Florida students actively use CPALMS to access educational resources, information to help them teach and learn, and software applications to support them throughout. CPALMS is the State of Florida's official source for standards information and course descriptions. It provides access to thousands of standards-aligned, high-quality instructional and educational resources designed specifically to support standards-based instruction. Over the years, CPALMS has become a platform of tools and continues to grow the level of support it provides to the entire state and the world. During the year, the CPALMS team worked on multiple projects and grants.*

## **CPALMS Impact**

CPALMS now offers more than 13,000 high-quality educational resources developed by FSU faculty and K-12 educators. During the pandemic, LSI made all the CPALMS resources accessible to students, parents, and educators around the globe to support them in teaching and learning from home. More than 20 million students depended on CPALMS during that period. Since CPALMS started offering educational resources, more than one billion resource views/downloads have been delivered. During the last year, CPALMS had more than 70 million resources delivered to Florida's educators and students. A unique type of resource, CPALMS includes 500+ Perspectives Videos which are standards-aligned short (~5-min.) video resources highlighting experiences and ideas from experts, teachers, professionals, and skilled enthusiasts. The CPALMS video production team ensures videos are ready for teachers and students to understand technical content, learn new approaches to teaching, and highlight the appearance of STEM concepts in practical, real-world situations.

## **Original Student Tutorials**

CPALMS also features over 1,300 Student Tutorials which are interactive online lessons for students to explore math, science, English language arts, and social studies content. The development of these tutorials is a collaboration between K-12 educators, subject specialists, instructional designers, graphic designers, narrators, and others who collectively spend 200-400 labor hours to create each tutorial. During the last year, several tutorials crossed a million views.

# 1B

**MORE THAN ONE  
BILLION RESOURCE  
DOWNLOADS/VIEWS  
ON CPALMS.ORG**

# 40K

**DESIGNED AND DELIVERED  
INTENSIVE PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FOR OVER  
40,000 TEACHERS**

# 3M

**APPROXIMATELY  
3,000,000 FLORIDA  
STUDENTS ACTIVELY  
USE CPALMS**

# 300K

**OVER 300,000  
FLORIDA EDUCATORS  
HAVE AN ACTIVE  
CPALMS ACCOUNT**

## **FSU InSPIRE**

LSI plays a vital role in FSU's InSPIRE initiative, leading the workforce development component and STEM outreach in K-20 education with the goal of training teachers and providing industry certifications to participants. LSI's innovative approach to professional learning and workforce development aims to transform education and build a prepared workforce across the

panhandle of Florida. LSI's programs engage educators in cutting-edge fields like aerospace engineering and advanced manufacturing while creating an AI-empowered and ready workforce. Additionally, through InSPIRE, LSI is committed to providing exceptional and unparalleled opportunities for military families, including comprehensive after-school and summer programs designed to enrich and enhance students' educational experiences while simultaneously providing military members and spouses with comprehensive workforce training opportunities.

# RECENT LSI PROJECTS

LSI is currently working on international projects with education professionals from Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia, Egypt, Lebanon, Mexico, and South Africa. This past year, we worked on projects with 13 countries. The work being conducted by the LSI faculty and staff in the United States and around the world will allow educators all over the globe to impact millions of students.



## Transforming Teacher Education - Zambia

The Learning Systems Institute (LSI) at Florida State University is leading a five-year, \$15 million project sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development to improve pre-service teacher training in Zambia. LSI faculty, in collaboration with partners School-to-School International and the University of Zambia, works with 12 universities and colleges of education in the country to improve the training of primary grade teachers. Over the five-year period,

the “USAID Transforming Teacher Education Program” will give more than 60 Zambian teacher educators the skills to deliver effective instruction to 9,000 college and university students studying to become primary grade teachers.

## Community College Administrator Program

Since 2014, LSI has worked with the U.S. State Department and in partnership with Santa Fe College to conduct the Community College Administrator Program. The initiative is intended to enhance international understanding of U.S. community colleges and U.S. community college systems. Overall, approximately 250 individuals from more than 200 institutions in 15 countries have participated in the CCAP.



## Tuzone Gusoma Schools and Systems - Rwanda

In conjunction with FHI 360 and its partners, the Learning Systems Institute is working to ensure that literacy instruction of Kinyarwanda (an official language in Rwanda) in pre-primary and lower primary schools is high quality, inclusive, and effective. LSI helped to roll out a previously developed module on teaching literacy skills in the Kinyarwanda language that was delivered to instructors from Teacher Training Colleges across Rwanda. The LSI team also completed a Baseline Situation Assessment and a Rapid Situation Assessment presenting the findings to 50 national stakeholders. Finally, the LSI team worked closely with the Rwanda Education Board to establish a Teaching Practice Advisory Group. This group will review and refine the Teaching Practice Framework.



## Strengthening Teacher Education Practice - Malawi

LSI is leading a \$15.6 million project sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development to improve teacher training in Malawi. The Strengthening Teacher Education and Practice Activity will improve the higher education system that trains primary school teachers in the country as well as the professional development practices that support teachers through their careers.

LSI faculty is working with 16 teacher training colleges across the country to improve teacher education programs and develop new training materials related to literacy and numeracy education. Another part of the project will provide support to the Ministry of Education to deliver continuous professional development courses to teachers who are already in classrooms. The STEP project is a landmark investment by USAID to support the institutions of higher education that provide pre-service teacher education.



## ABC+: Advancing Basic Education - Philippines

The ABC+: Advancing Basic Education in the Philippines project worked with DepEd, local governments, and the private sector to address factors that contribute to low learning outcomes in Bicol (Region V) and Western Visayas (Region VI) and implemented a smaller set of interventions in select School Divisions in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). LSI worked with Bicol University and Western Visayas State University to design modules for university courses on early literacy development to strengthen the pre-service preparation of future teachers. The project also focused on fostering a more equitable, inclusive, and nurturing climate for learning in the early grades as part of its social and emotional learning (SEL) focus.



## Education for Excellence Program - Uzbekistan

To support the Ministry of Public Education in achieving its reform agenda, USAID initiated the four-year, \$29.5 million Uzbekistan Education for Excellence Program in December 2019. The LSI team provided training, facilitation, and guidance on the development of the new curriculum standards for math, Uzbek language arts, and English as a foreign language. In addition, the LSI team helped the ministry in evaluating, choosing, and customizing textbooks for teaching English as a second language.

This is a significant transformation of the education system in the country that will have a very long-lasting effect.

LSI also led the development of a digital platform that houses all the curriculum standards and curricular materials, including textbooks and supplemental resources, and can be used by all 300,000 teachers in Uzbekistan.



# WORKING WITH LSI

At LSI, our mission is to improve learning and human performance globally, utilizing innovative approaches and implementation techniques. LSI is at the forefront of developing solutions that bridge theory and practice in education. Our experts' advanced research provides state-of-the-art methods and a clear path for implementation. For more than 55 years and in 49 countries, LSI has delivered systems that measurably improve the learning and performance of organizations and individuals in Florida and worldwide.

LSI is dedicated to researching and developing instructional and non-instructional interventions to improve performance. Our efforts focus on how individuals and organizations perform complex tasks and how we can help them achieve their performance goals. Our analytical approach is systemic, and our solutions are interdisciplinary, incorporating cognitive and educational psychology as well as instructional and information technology. Our ability to reach any faculty member or department at Florida State University and year-round availability allow our LSI faculty and staff to provide unmatched resources and results.

At LSI, you have one point of contact that can reach any department or faculty member on FSU's campus including:



We have expertise managing both prime and sub awards of all sizes.

**ACTIVITY  
IMPLEMENTATION**

EVALUATIONS

MATERIALS  
DEVELOPMENT

TEACHER TRAINING



**AVAILABLE  
YEAR-ROUND**

LSI at Florida State University offers unmatched access and availability to our faculty.

*For five decades, LSI has been trusted by the U.S. Government, the State of Florida, and global partners to continually deliver measurable results.*

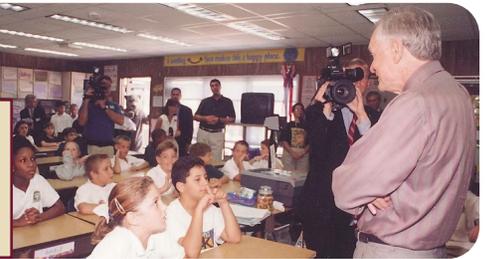
## 1969: KOREAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM REFORM

The reform efforts helped reshape Korea's education system during the 1970s. LSI contributed to modernization efforts that later produced measurable improvements in student achievement and system performance.



## 1989: FLORIDA 'SCHOOLYEAR 2000' INITIATIVE

A major system evaluation of Florida public education was conducted, and large-scale system design principles emerged that led to a major educational restructuring effort aimed at shifting from a teaching-centered to a learning-centered model.



## 2005: DHS PORT SECURITY

LSI created a uniform, comprehensive set of courses for port employees to more effectively prevent, deter, and respond to terrorist acts at the nation's busy seaports. The PortStar system launched in 2010 with 530 lessons in eight separate courses.



## 2024: GATES FOUNDATION PRE-SERVICE TEACHER

LSI received its first-ever grant from the Gates Foundation to examine the knowledge and pedagogy of student teachers who have completed their pre-service teacher training in public colleges of education in Zambia.



## 2025: EDUCATORS SHAPING FUTURES

LSI partnered with the World Bank Group, UNESCO, and the Ministry of Education to host Educators Shaping Futures in Ethiopia. More than 340 policymakers, teacher educators, researchers and practitioners from 41 countries attended.



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[lsi.fsu.edu](https://lsi.fsu.edu)