Statement of Capability: Center for International Studies in Educational Research & Development

is one of the oldest, largest and most productive university-based research and development organizations dedicated to improving learning and human performance, whether on the job, in the classroom, on the field or at home.

Simply stated, we study how people can do a better job. That job might be learning to read, playing soccer, defending a nation, managing money, teaching math, inspecting container ships, leading schools, treating patients, using household appliances or responding to a crisis.

We tackle pressing problems on behalf of federal and state agencies, Fortune 500 companies, universities, the military, school boards, non-profit groups and nations from Namibia to Peru. Founded more than 40 years ago at The Florida State University, LSI is organized into a network of specialized centers that have yielded knowledge, tools and solutions that have enhanced countless lives.

A history of global engagement

LSI has specialized in international development since its earliest years. During the 30-year tenure of founder Robert Morgan, LSI firmly established a reputation as an expert manager of international development projects related to education. Now under the leadership of Laura Lang, LSI continues to focus on international development through its Center for International Studies in Educational Research and Development. Over the years LSI has worked in 25 countries and partnered with dozens of international institutions, managing more than $93 million in international projects alone.

Among the largest of these was a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) project to revamp South Korea’s public school system, a multi-year, multimillion-dollar effort that resulted in a 20 percent across-the-board increase in student achievement. LSI also managed the 10-year, $58-million Improving the Efficiency of Educational Systems project. At that time one of the largest overseas educational development projects ever funded by USAID, it took LSI advisors into 15 nations from Botswana to Haiti.

USAID has funded most of LSI’s international work. Organizations such as CARE International and the Organization of American States have also entrusted LSI with research and development work, as have government agencies in, Thailand, Namibia, South Korea, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia and elsewhere. LSI’s on-the-ground experience in these countries is extensive: our faculty and staff work closely with partners at universities and other institutions.

In Indonesia, for example, LSI is providing technical assistance in higher education instructional and research capacity to the USAID-funded Decentralized Basic Education project. LSI’s role is to develop a more comprehensive system of teacher professional development by strengthening the capacity of educators and administrators to initiate, facilitate and promote school improvement at the local level. The project has enabled eight faculty members from our partner universities in Indonesia to begin full-time, fully-funded graduate programs in FSU’s College of Education.

Improving work. Improving lives.
A campus connected to the planet

Florida State encourages and supports international study and intercultural experiences as an integral part of its mission. Several units of the university support educational research and development programs and the exchange of scholars, and provide technical assistance to organizations in the US and abroad.

**Sociocultural and International Development Education Studies Program**

The mission of this graduate-level program is to prepare students to assume leadership roles in international and multicultural education. The program prepares scholars and activists committed to education research and development in the developing world, multicultural education in the US and abroad. Program faculty members have extensive experience in educational development in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia.

**Institute for Energy Systems, Economics and Sustainability**

The institute carries out scholarly basic research and analysis in engineering, science, infrastructure, governance and the related social dimensions, all designed to further a sustainable energy economy. It unites researchers from the disciplines of engineering, natural sciences, law, urban and regional planning geography, and economics to address sustainability and alternative power issues around the world in the context of global climate change.

**William A. Kerr Intercultural Education and Dialogue Initiative**

The mission of this multi-disciplinary program, administered by Florida State’s College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, is to advance international and interfaith understanding and to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts. The initiative provides scholarships to students from post-conflict and developing nations to pursue baccalaureate and graduate degrees.

**The Center for Global Engagement**

The center coordinates international activities on campus and assists students and their families with cultural adjustment, employment matters, housing and other issues. It also runs the Global Pathways Certificate program, in which students choose a theme based on their interests and goals, then take related courses, study a language and participate in international and/or cross-cultural experiences related to the theme.

**The Global Pathways Initiative**

This initiative increases collaboration among the university’s many international and cross-cultural efforts.

**Center for Intensive English Studies**

For more than three decades CIES has taught English to international citizens from all parts of the world. Through CIES, thousands of students have strengthened their English language skills to prepare for full-time study at English-speaking universities, to prepare for successful careers requiring English fluency, and to return to their countries with strong English skills.

**International Programs**

Florida State’s International Programs is consistently ranked in the top 15 of US study abroad programs. Every year the program sends more than 1,600 students to study in locations in more than 20 countries.

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**Experience worldwide**

LSI has managed projects in the following countries:

**Africa**
Botswana
Ghana
Guinea
Liberia
Malawi
Mozambique
Namibia
Senegal
South Africa
Zimbabwe

**Latin America & The Caribbean**
Brazil
Chile
Dominican Republic
Haiti
Panama
Peru

**Asia**
Indonesia
Nepal
Pakistan
South Korea
Thailand

**The Middle East**
Egypt
Iran
Jordan
Morocco
Yemen
LSI has overseen dozens of projects across the globe in areas that include basic education (primary and secondary), higher education, vocational training, health, urban development, education technology, teacher training, rural communication, girls education, instructional design, sector assessments and evaluations. Most projects have been funded by USAID, including some subcontracted by the Academy for Educational Development, Educational Development Center, foreign governments and other institutions. These projects have included:

**Sub-Saharan Africa**

East Africa: Introducing Critical Thinking and Transformative Learning into Church Leadership Development Programs
Ghana and Senegal: Patterns of Public-Private Sector Collaboration in the Promotion of Nonformal Education and Training
Guinea Financial Management System Development
Review of Education Budgets for Improvement of Primary Education in Malawi
Skill Learning for Economic Success: Strategies of West African Women for Literacy and Numeracy Acquisition
West Africa: Informal Education Strategies for Skill Acquisition & Practical Applications of Koranic Learning

**Asia**

Educational Change through Systems Planning for the Republic of Korea
Indonesia Higher Education Development Support Project
Pakistan Primary Education Development Program
Technical Assistance in Educational Development for the Republic of Korea
Technical Assistance for the Thailand Hill Area Education Project
USAID/Indonesia Decentralized Basic Education Program

**Latin America and the Caribbean**

Development of Educational Technology in Latin America
Development of Instructional Systems Design Specialists for Latin American Countries
Educational Technology Workshop for Panama
Evaluation of Radio Santa Maria’s Adult Education Program in the Dominican Republic
Evaluation of the Peruvian Rural Communication Services Project
Systems Training for Brazilian Space Agency Personnel
Training Assistance Program in Educational Technology with the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Colombia
Training Program in Civic Education for Group of Normal School Teachers from Haiti

**The Middle East**

Egypt Local Development II Urban Project
Morocco: Analysis of Impact of Adverse Education Indicators upon Mission Program Analysis
Technical Assistance in Educational Development to University of Jordan
Training Program in Design and Production of Instructional Materials for Iran

**Global Reach**

Advancing Basic Education and Literacy Project
An Analysis of the Criteria for Research Utilization in Developing Countries
Improving the Efficiency of Educational Systems in Selected Developing Countries
LSI’s areas of expertise are:

In learning:
- Assessment
- Accommodations and modifications for students with special needs
- Communities of instruction
- Educational policy
- Learning technologies
- International development
- Leadership
- Learning disabilities
- Libraries
- Literacy
- School reform
- STEM (science, technology, engineering, math)

In teaching and learning

In human performance:
- Expert performance
- Performance improvement
- Knowledge communities

Experience worldwide

Key to LSI’s success overseas is its experience working with scholars, government officials and policy makers around the world. LSI’s international partners and collaborators include:

- Haifa University (Israel)
- Agder University College (Norway)
- Bo adiziç University (Turkey)
- Educational Technology Expertise Centre at the Open University of the Netherlands
- Liverpool Johns Moore University (United Kingdom)
- University of Bergen (Norway)
- University of Joensuu (Finland)
- Center for Life Long Learning, Korean Educational Development Institute (South Korea)
- Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women’s University (India)
- University of New South Wales (Australia)
- University of Sydney (Australia)

In addition to the partners and collaborators listed above, LSI has worked with numerous institutions in Indonesia, including:

- Institute Agama Islam State Ar-Raniry
- Institute Agama Islam State Sumatera Utara
- Institute Agama Islam State Walisongo
- Kanjuruhan University of Malang
- Muhammadiyah University of Makassar
- Muhammadiyah University of Malang
- Muhammadiyah University
- Open University
- Satya Wacana Christian University
- Syiah Kuala University
- State University of Makassar
- State University of Malang
- State University of Medan
- State University of Semarang
- State University of Surabaya
- State University of Surakarta
- Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University

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