

P.O. Box 6027
Mississippi State, MS 39762
662-325-9242
nsparc.msstate.edu



Media Contact: Laura McPhail
Communications Manager
lmcp@mail@nsparc.msstate.edu
662-717-1072

NSPARC Fact Sheet

- Originated in 1998 as the Unit for Community and Environmental Studies by Dr. Domenico “Mimmo” Parisi and Dr. Duane Gill of the Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center.
- On January 17, 2008, the Institutes for Higher Learning (IHL) established the National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center (NSPARC) as an official academic research center.
- NSPARC’s mission is to advance the use of data as a resource to drive human progress.
- Dr. Mimmo Parisi is the executive director of NSPARC. Dr. Steven Grice, Dr. Michael Taquino, and Martin Duclos are deputy executive directors. They oversee center operations and 125 employees, which include full-time staff, faculty fellows, intermittent workers, graduate students, and undergraduate students.
- NSPARC has a diverse staff, with more than a dozen languages spoken and 55 academic fields represented.
- NSPARC is currently located at The Mill, 600 Russell St., Starkville, MS 39759.
- NSPARC has developed unmatched expertise in the areas essential for innovation in the emerging data economy: data analytics, predictive analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, systems of systems, high-performance computing, and cyber-security.
- From 1998 to 2009, NSPARC’s focus was building data systems, which led to the launch of Mississippi’s State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) and associated web portal, Lifetracks. The SLDS aligns data on public K-12 education, public higher education, and workforce outcomes.
- The current focus is on data science. Areas of excellence include economic development, education, workforce development, and human services.
- NSPARC’s new 2,000 square-foot data center is located at 100 Innovation Drive in Starkville. It is capable of hosting thousands of virtual servers, dozens of physical servers, and hundreds of petabytes of storage.
- In 2017, NSPARC worked with 30 state and federal agencies and organizations, including the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Mississippi Department of Human Services,

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Mississippi Board of Pharmacy, National Skills Coalition, and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

- NSPARC provides experiential learning opportunities for hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students in every field of study, from the humanities to engineering.
- NSPARC has notable accomplishments in using data science to promote smart government, including: Lifetracks, the Mississippi Works web portal and app, the Mississippi Grad Jobs and Mississippi Tech Jobs systems, the County Records Management System (CRMS), the Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services child-abuse reporting web portal and app, the Mississippi Food Insecurity Project website, MyMDHS, and the Provider Integrated Portal (PIP).