

**Media Contact:** Laura McPhail  
Communications Manager  
[lmcp@mail.nsparc.msstate.edu](mailto: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 science 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, 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.
- NSPARC’s current focus is on data science. Areas of excellence include economic development, education, workforce development, and human services.
- NSPARC’s new 3,300 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 terabytes of storage.
- NSPARC provides experiential learning opportunities for hundreds of undergraduate and graduate

P.O. Box 6027  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
662-325-9242  
[nsparc.msstate.edu](http://nsparc.msstate.edu)



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, MyMDHS, the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy MAPP system, the Mississippi Student Financial Aid web application, and the Provider Integrated Portal (PIP).