2022 2023

Policy. Practice. Partnership.

PULTE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REVIEW

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME | Pulte Institute for Global Development
KEOUGH SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Contents

The Cover SHEAMA (Strengthening Higher Education Access in Malawi Activity) is a USAID-supported program to improve access to higher education, links to industries, and sustainable, scalable learning. The Pulte Institute's evaluation efforts focused on how effective SHEAMA's policies and interventions were at increasing the southeastern African nation's skilled and employable workforce. (see page 29). Credit: Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College – Arizona State University

Keough School Master of Global Affairs graduate student Ishika Sharan shares her team's summer fieldwork at the i-Lab Showcase in September 2023. The annual event is an opportunity to present research conducted with partners worldwide as part of the Integration Lab's (i-Lab) Global Partner Experience, allowing students to work at the front lines of today's most pressing challenges.

Introduction from Our Directors

Tracy Kijewski-Correa
William J. Pulte Director,
Integration Lab (i-Lab) Academic
Director, and Professor of
Engineering and Global Affairs

"The urgency of our work becomes more evident every day as conflict and climate change only exacerbate existing barriers to educational and economic opportunities among the most vulnerable."

As one of the faculty members engaged in forming what was then the Initiative for Global Development in 2012, I have been in awe of the Pulte Institute's ability not only to meet but exceed our hopes for what we believed could be the most transformative initiative in the University's history. Those expectations were shattered thanks to the Institute's distinctive mix of rigor, passion, and commitment to translating research into policy and practice.

I am honored to be the Institute's second William J. Pulte Director and look forward to working with our stakeholders to build on the legacy of my predecessor, **Ray Offenheiser**. Thankfully for all of us, Ray has not gone far, serving now as Director of the McKenna Center for Human Development and Global Business and Senior Advisor to Keough School Dean **Scott Appleby**.

Our review of the 2022-2023 fiscal year illustrates the depth and breadth of the Pulte Institute's research, teaching, and service around the globe. Working in over 70 countries with hundreds of partners, one of the Institute's most powerful dimensions is our capacity to accelerate impact globally.

By joining deep disciplinary expertise with local knowledge, we are lowering the barriers to conducting impactful global research and accelerating discovery — sharing lessons across global partners to further multiply impact. Our victories in Honduras can inform our work in Haiti, and what we learn in the Philippines guides leaders and researchers in Rwanda.

The Pulte Institute's extensive network of over 400 partners worldwide also creates entry points for the Notre Dame community to access leading think tanks, companies, foundations, and non-governmental organizations, particularly in the Global South. That allows our influence to radiate beyond our own work to benefit the shared aspirations our Catholic mission fosters — to honor human dignity and tackle the systemic causes of poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation that threaten lives and stifle human flourishing.

These formidable challenges can only be addressed with committed partnerships, world-class expertise, and the research infrastructure that the Pulte Institute brings to bear. The urgency of our work becomes more evident every day as conflict and climate change only exacerbate existing barriers to educational and economic opportunities among the most vulnerable.

We embrace the scale of the task and draw our motivation from the spirit of Notre Dame's founder, **Rev. Edward Sorin, C.S.C.**, who was similarly undaunted in moments of great challenge. In this review, you'll find stories of discovery, hope, and opportunity achieved through the tireless efforts of our team.

Between the lines, you'll feel our unwavering commitment to balance innovation and accompaniment as we generate the evidence necessary to promote human flourishing, particularly among those living in poverty.

Michael Sweikar

Executive Director and Keough School Term Assistant Teaching Professor

"We are unabashed about the magnitude of our ambitions to end poverty and improve health, education, and climate resilience while serving as a major player in the big picture of human flourishing."

At the Pulte Institute for Global Development, we strive to make a tangible impact on the world with new knowledge generated through innovative partnerships that connect research to policy. Under our inaugural William J. Pulte Director, **Ray Offenheiser**, the Institute demonstrated its vast reach and capacity to bring meaningful benefits to the lives of people in need. His successor, **Tracy Kijewski-Correa**, has already built on that vision, drawing on diverse disciplines, perspectives, and local knowledge to drive solutions to the world's most complex challenges.

Eight new core affiliated faculty members have enhanced the Institute's contributions to reducing poverty and inequality and mitigating climate risks among vulnerable populations. Moreover, each of our partnerships — on campus and around the world — magnify our influence. Throughout 2022-23, we established beneficial new collaborations across geographic and disciplinary boundaries to further expand human flourishing.

The stories in this review highlight these connections. They have redefined the parameters of what we thought possible, relationships that enable us to pursue the highest aspirations through promising new ways forward that only a collective effort can forge.

We convene all who have a stake in the communities we serve, bringing often unheard voices to the table. That is an act of necessity, not mere generosity. Those voices convey insights otherwise unavailable to researchers and policy-makers, who must have a concrete sense of the real-world effects of their work.

As you'll discover in the stories on these pages, that cooperative approach is powerful, and the progress it fosters is palpable. Global development can feel all too incremental for a world deeply in need. Still, we are unabashed about the magnitude of our ambitions to end poverty and improve health, education, and climate resilience while serving as a major player in the big picture of human flourishing. Moving our understanding of human flourishing from a quaint scholarly niche to a subject of significant importance will accelerate sustainable development.

These are daunting undertakings, but the Institute embraces the challenge in the spirit of the University's Catholic mission, bringing our expertise to serve the greater good.

As Professor Kijewski-Correa is fond of saying, "Any problem worth fighting for needs an army — it's time to build that army together."

The Pulte Institute worked in the conflict-affected areas of Afar and Anhara, Ethiopia, researching how children best develop social and emotional learning — skills needed for successful adulthood. Credit: USAID/Ethiopia

Pulte Family Partnership

Nancy Pulte Rickard

Chair of the Board of Directors and President of the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation

"While change may be the key to progress, it tends to unfold at a frustratingly sluggish pace. ... However, observing and absorbing the wisdom of the Pulte Institute over the past several years has enlightened our board, revealing the profound impact that dedicated organizations can have in driving positive change through policy reform."

Staking a path for charitable giving

The Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, to honor the legacy of **William J. (Bill) Pulte**, made a gift to the University of Notre Dame to establish Our Lady of the Lake World Peace Plaza, an outdoor sanctuary west of the Grotto on Saint Mary's Lake whose reflective water | table embodies peaceful coexistence and cooperation among nations.

The gift continued the Pulte family's large-scale philanthropy. In 2019, the University received a partnership gift from the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation. A portion was directed toward the endowment and directorship of the Pulte Institute for Global Development.

In 2023, another gift from the Foundation created the Pulte Platform for Policy in the Keough School of Global Affairs, which will appoint three senior faculty to advance Keough's international impact on integral human development, poverty, and peace.

Like Bill himself, the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation works to meet the needs of the most marginalized. Guided by a belief in the inherent dignity of all people, Bill freely shared his passion for world peace.

"The World Peace Plaza resonates with our mission here at Notre Dame," Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Holy Cross **Rev. William Lies, C.S.C.**, said. "It invites people to recognize one another as brothers and sisters."

Promoting tolerance, inclusivity, and respect for diversity, Bill formed a Peace Prayer Group, convening eight leaders from various faith traditions to encourage individuals and communities to embrace peace-building techniques.

"He identified the lack of peace in the world as an issue that demanded urgent attention," Bill's granddaughter **Bridget Rickard**, ND '18 said. "We are one human family, all responsible for creating a more peaceful and just world."

In 2022, Our Lady of the Lake World Peace Plaza was presented at the University of Notre Dame through the generosity and legacy of Bill Pulte, Master Builder (1932-2018).

Our Lady of the Lake World Peace Plaza

A focal point for the space is a fountain with The Prayer for World Peace engraved in six languages. The Prayer was written by **Bill Pulte** and leaders from eight different religious traditions. We thank the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation for creating a campus space emphasizing peaceful coexistence and cooperation among nations.

Credit: Courtney Carroll

Pulte Institute in the Keough School

Leaders at every level need the best available information to solve problems — and the i-Lab provides that information through rigorous research that is accessible and actionable.

Above and bottom left: The i-Lab Showcase is held annually in September with Keough School Master of Global Affairs students presenting their summer fieldwork, internships, and research activities.

The Pulte Institute significantly impacts the interdisciplinary ecosystem that supports human flourishing

Within the Keough School of Global Affairs, the Pulte Institute stands at the nexus of research informing policy on issues such as poverty, sustainability, education, and global development, translating knowledge into practical, evidence-based tools to make a tangible, positive impact on vulnerable populations.

As one of nine institutes and centers within the Keough School, the Pulte Institute has been a significant player in the study and implementation of policies that promote progress for people in need. Pulte Institute projects address the world's most pressing problems through interdisciplinary research and collaboration with external partners and funding agencies.

In addition to a range of global development courses focused on policy and practice, the Pulte Institute offers experiential learning and the opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to actively engage in real-world and personally meaningful projects.

Partnerships that build solutions

Leaders at every level need the best available information to solve problems — and the Integration Lab, or i-Lab, provides that knowledge through rigorous research that is accessible and actionable. The i-Lab is an 18-month experience that prepares Master of Global Affairs (MGA) students with the skills to work in diverse teams and to accelerate evidence to deliver more effective policies and programs by forging links between practitioners, policymakers, and those they serve.

Led by Academic Director **Tracy Kijewski-Correa**, Administrative Director **Melissa Paulsen**, Program Manager **Alan Medina Hernández**, and Faculty Advisor **Marie Donahue**, the i-Lab was established to help organizations find ways to tackle complex social challenges from collaborating with diverse disciplines to designing solutions that build legitimacy. International partners and MGA students collaborate to develop a project and produce an output — a report, case study, app, or toolkit — that helps partners meet a challenge.

PREVENT A WORSENING CHILD CARE CRISIS

Research generated from the Keough School's i-Lab shows the U.S. gets a failing grade, 43 out of 100, on supporting caregivers and care workers — both paid and unpaid. Master of Global Affairs students worked with Oxfam America to develop a U.S. Care Policy Scorecard to assess federal care policy by scoring 30 indicators related to aide work.

In one project, an i-Lab team worked with Oxfam America to develop a U.S. Care Policy Scorecard to assess federal care policy by scoring 30 indicators related to unpaid and underpaid care work, including labor conditions and wage policies. The U.S. Scorecard measures each care policy indicator in relation to its design, implementation, and impact.

With an aggregate score of 43 percent, the i-Lab found the U.S. meets less than half the criteria, and federal unpaid and underpaid care work policies are severely lacking, disproportionately harming females of color and immigrant women. The projects the i-Lab co-develops go beyond dealing with symptoms to address the root causes and present novel insights for productive reform. The i-Lab also provides ever-increasing opportunities for MGA students to explore diverse career pathways by engaging in hands-on experiences.

The core of the i-Lab experience is partnership building. Students, advised by Notre Dame faculty, develop close relationships with each other and key organizations that tackle today's most pressing challenges. Together, they explore, innovate, and build valuable solutions.

Fostering collaborative research in Africa

The Pamoja Notre Dame Africa initiative focused on integrative inquiry and professional connections hosted a two-day conference, the Pamoja Nairobi Partnership Summit, in late May at Strathmore University Business School, Kenya's leading school of management.

With administrative and financial support from the Pulte and Kellogg Institutes and Notre Dame International, the Summit was a forum for cultivating relationships among higher education leaders in Africa.

"Because the conference wasn't focused on a specific project, we could take a step back and imagine what's possible," Associate Professor of Political Science, Pulte Institute Faculty Fellow, and conference co-chair **Jaimie Bleck** said. "As a result, we are part of a richer social fabric."

When organizing the event, Bleck and her co-chair Pulte Institute Core Affiliated Faculty and Keough School Associate Professor of Geography and Environmental Policy **Ellis A. Adams**, along with Notre Dame International Kenya Director **Jackline Oluoch-Aridi** recruited high-ranking leaders from African universities dedicated to the success of their institutions.

Pamoja Nairobi Partnership Summit participants at Kenya's Strathmore University Business School in May.

Pulte Institute in the Keough School

Jaimie Bleck
Associate Professor of Political Science, Pulte Institute Faculty Fellow, and Pamoja Summit Co-Chair

"There is real potential here [on the African continent] to engage in collaborative research that feeds into Notre Dame's mission to tackle the world's most pressing challenges."

"Once alliances are formed," Bleck said, "it's easier to capitalize on the potential."

Following the Pulte Institute's example also helped. "We've recognized in Pulte parallels in what we're trying to do, but also the pragmatic savvy of making conversations happen and what it takes to sustain them," Bleck said.

With encouragement from Vice President and Associate Provost for Internationalization **Michael Pippenger**, Bleck and Adams have embraced an approach that measures success by new partnerships formed — and by how many Notre Dame students look to study abroad in Africa. "There is real potential here to engage in collaborative research," Bleck said, "that feeds into Notre Dame's mission to tackle the world's most pressing challenges."

With new bonds formed, Bleck and Adams say the focus is now on building bidirectional relationships where connection works in both directions, enabling each entity to link to the other. "A lot of partners see Africa as just a calling for help. You go, you help, you leave. We want to do it differently because Notre Dame can do better in the region," Adams said. "We're reimagining the way Notre Dame can work with Africa."

Partnering with policymakers to protect human rights

Pulte's Central America Research Alliance (CARA) is made up of Central American university partners, think tanks, and non-governmental organizations whose collective work is grounded in lived experiences to better protect human rights and understand why people migrate.

CARA Co-Directors **Tom Hare** and **Estela Rivero** joined Keough School colleagues and experts from the Organization of American States (OAS) Department of Social Inclusion and Club de Madrid to provide diplomats with expert training. The collaboration creates opportunities for dialogue among researchers, students, and policymakers.

Rev. Paul Kollman, C.S.C., top, and Pulte Institute Core Affiliated Faculty and Keough School Associate Professor of Geography and Environmental Policy **Ellis A. Adams** are among those spearheading Notre Dame's collaborative research and scholarly experiences in Africa.

The Keough School, its Pulte Institute for Global Development, and the Organization of American States shared insights and perspectives with officials on the frontlines of defending migrants' rights.

At the Keough School's Washington Office in June, speakers analyzed the dynamics and root causes of migration, asylum, human trafficking, and forced displacement in the Americas and the protective factors that allow people to stay in their country or region. They also explored how emigration affects women and girls, and how international organizations can shape public support for policies that help integrate migrants.

A common theme emerged: the need to change public conversations, which often focus on crime and perceived threats rather than migrants' humanity, and that the conversations need to be a two-way street with human dignity at the center of discussions, actions, and policies.

Keynote speaker and former Costa Rican President **Carlos Alvarado Quesada** recalled the disconnection he witnessed between rhetoric and reality several years ago while serving as a government minister. During a trip to the northern part of his country, Alvarado visited a

tent settlement of more than 10,000 migrants and was struck by the vulnerability of the families he encountered. "That's why it's essential that we speak about these narratives," he said, "and the way we look at migrants as our fellow human beings."

In June, CARA Co-Director and Senior Researcher **Tom Hare** joined Keough School colleagues and experts from the Organization of American States Department of Social Inclusion to provide diplomats with expert training.

COURSES TAUGHT BY PULTE INSTITUTE FACULTY AND STAFF

Consulting and Development
Michael Morris

Engineering for International Development I
Tracy Kijewski-Correa

Human Centered Design for Social Innovation
Melissa Paulsen

i-Lab
Tracy Kijewski-Correa
Michael Sweikar
Melissa Paulsen

Introduction to International Development Studies
Paul Perrin

Introduction to Sustainable Development
Tom Purekal

Poverty, Business, and Development
Michael Morris

Program Design, Management, and Evaluation
Paul Perrin

Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Melissa Paulsen

Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Practicum
Melissa Paulsen

Our Work By the Numbers

475+

Number of Pulte Institute
partners worldwide.

Number of **SHARE (Supporting Holistic and Actionable Research in Education)** studies underway in 2022-2023.

7

Multi-country studies
to advance USAID learning
priorities in the global
education sector.

8

Single-country studies
to support
country-specific priorities
in education.

$23,000,000

Public and private grant funding awarded
to support Pulte Institute projects in 2022-2023.

22

Languages spoken
by the Pulte Institute's
40-plus team members.

Rebuilding Cultural Enrichment in Iraq
The arts are a powerful means of expressing the identity of the diverse community of Northern Iraq, where various ethnic and religious groups coexist. However, with the rise of the Islamic State starting in 2013 and other sectarian tensions, the country's culture all but collapsed. In a USAID-funded study, the Pulte Institute collaborated with the University of Duhok in the Kurdistan region and others to help restore the fabric of communities devastated by conflict (see page 31).

14

Design thinking workshops led by Pulte Institute team members in countries across the globe.

916

Research, reports, and studies categorized in the Evidence and Learning Division's Private Sector Engagement Evidence Gap Map.

19

University partners think tanks, and non-governmental agencies working in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua with the Pulte Institute's Central American Research Alliance (CARA).

23

Global development projects underway across the Pulte Institute in 2022-2023.

8

Core Affiliated Faculty whose work is distinguished by an emphasis on proverty.

531

Number of Notre Dame undergraduate students taught by the Pulte Institute.

Our People

Katharina Anton-Erxleben
Evidence and Learning
Senior Program Associate

Carlos Diego Arenas Pacheco
Research Communications
and Events Coordinator

Jaclyn Biedronski
Evidence and Learning
Program Manager

María Chacón
Sustainability Program
Manager

Annie Conaghan
Research Associate

TJ D'Agostino
Assistant Professor
of the Practice

Sarah Genz
Entrepreneurship and Education
Program Manager

Danice Brown Guzmán
Evidence and Learning
Associate Director

Tom Hare
Senior Researcher and
Co-Director of the Central
America Research Alliance
(CARA)

Gabor Holtzer
Research Associate and
Program Coordinator

Edward Jurkovic
Entrepreneurship and Education
Program Manager II

Kara Kelly
Communications Program
Director

Andrea McMerty-Brummer
Innovation and Practice
Associate Director

Alan Medina Hernández
Integration Lab (i-Lab)
Program Manager

Michael H. Morris
Professor of the Practice

Cassidy O'Block
Institute Manager

Sean O'Neill
Program Manager and
Research Associate

Eduardo Pages
Evidence and Learning
Specialist

Michael Sweikar
Executive Director and
Keough School Term
Assistant Teaching Professor

Jean Marc Tiendrebeogo
Research Associate

Kevin Waitkuweit
Program Manager and
Research Associate

Kirianna West
Communications Specialist

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Dolan
Program Manager and Research Associate

Czesia Eid
Research Communications and Office Coordinator

Sefira Fialkoff
Policy Impact Specialist

Kevin Fink
Associate Director of Operations and Finance

Caroline Freeman
Research Associate

Shriniwas Gautam
Evidence and Learning Scientist

Tracy Kijewski-Correa
William J. Pulte Director, Integration Lab (i-Lab) Academic Director, and Professor of Engineering and Global Affairs

Lila Khatiwada
Evidence and Learning Senior Research Associate

Jennifer Krauser
Entrepreneurship and Education Senior Program Manager

Bethany Little
Program Manager and Research Associate

Aimee Lyons
Senior Program Manager

Kevin Mann
Policy Impact Specialist

Melissa Paulsen
Entrepreneurship and Education Program Director, Integration Lab (i-Lab) Administrative Director, and Term Assistant Teaching Professor

Paul Perrin
Evidence and Learning Director and Keough School Associate Professor of the Practice

Tom Purekal
Innovation and Practice Program Director, Term-Limited Professor of the Practice, and SHARE Program Director

María Estela Rivero Fuentes
Senior Researcher and Co-Director of the Central America Research Alliance (CARA)

Frederick Rossi
Evidence and Learning Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Nancy Rydberg
Senior Technical Associate Director

Notre Dame's Presidential Team Irish Award recognizes staff that exemplify the University's core values. The Pulte Institute's SHARE (Supporting Holistic and Actionable Research in Education) team received this honor in the fall of 2023. SHARE is a five-year cooperative agreement between USAID and the University that advances global education priorities to improve learning outcomes. In 2022-2023, SHARE engaged in 15 research projects around five high-priority areas.

Our Core Affiliated Faculty

"Pulte's Core Affiliated Faculty are at the nexus of research and policy. That connection is the vanguard of making a meaningful impact for vulnerable populations worldwide through evidence-based interventions."

Paul Winters
Pulte Core Affiliated Faculty,
Keough School Associate Dean
for Academic Affairs, and Keough-
Hesburgh Professor of Global Affairs

The Pulte Institute welcomes eight Core Affiliated Faculty

While the Institute's Core Affiliated Faculty bring diverse backgrounds and vast expertise in their research areas, they each emphasize poverty, the social dimensions of environmental issues, and what it means to live in a way that fulfills every person's potential.

"We're excited to connect the scholarly strengths of these Keough School Faculty with Pulte's unique infrastructure for impact evaluation, program management, and knowledge translation to accelerate key research," William J. Pulte Director **Tracy Kijewski-Correa** said. "The Institute is ideally placed to strengthen the connections between rigorous academic research and real-world policy issues while teaching and mentoring the next generation of scholars, policymakers, and practitioners."

There is a symbiotic relationship between research and policymaking, says Pulte Core Affiliated Faculty **Paul Winters**. Working together expands the capacity of the Keough School to address complex social challenges.

"Pulte's Core Affiliated Faculty are at the nexus of research and policy," Winters said. "That connection is the vanguard of making a meaningful impact for vulnerable populations worldwide through evidence-based interventions."

William J. Pulte Director **Tracy Kijewski-Correa** facilitates a design thinking workshop for Pulte Institute researchers, exploring durable solutions to the insecurity created by homelessness. The process is intended to promote continuous learning, adaptation, and innovation.

Meet the Pulte Institute's Core Affiliated Faculty

Ellis A. Adams is an Associate Professor of Geography and Environmental Policy at the Keough School. Adams' work examines the social, political, institutional, and governance dimensions of environmental and natural resources, particularly water in the Global South. His current research converges on three main domains: urban water insecurity, water policy and governance, and gender, water, and sustainable development. He is a co-principal investigator on a National Science Foundation-funded project, Analyzing the Magnitude, Variability, and Governance of Infrastructure-Mediated Flows in Atlanta, with collaborators at Georgia State University.

Krister Andersson is the Notre Dame Professor of Sustainable Development at the Keough School. Andersson studies the politics of environmental governance with a particular focus on local institutional arrangements and the role they play in explaining policy outcomes. The National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and numerous other agencies and private foundations have funded his field-based research program.

Alejandro Estefan is an Assistant Professor of Development Economics at the Keough School. His research focuses on understanding the major causes of economic growth to guide policy decision-making including the factors lifting individuals out of poverty and the effects of public investments in schooling. Estefan's research approach relies on applying rigorous econometric techniques to uncover the crucial causal mechanisms underlying economic development by analyzing longitudinal datasets and structural theory.

Emily Grubert is an Associate Professor of Sustainable Energy Policy at the Keough School. A civil engineer and environmental sociologist, Grubert studies how we can make better decisions about large infrastructure systems, particularly related to the justice-centering decarbonization of the U.S. energy system. She analyzes life cycle assessments and socio-environmental impacts of future policy and infrastructure, exploring how community and societal priorities can be best incorporated into multi-criteria policy and project decisions.

Lakshmi Iyer is a Professor of Economics and Global Affairs at the Keough School and a faculty fellow at its Kellogg Institute for International Studies and Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies. As a development economist, Iyer examines the distribution of political power within emerging market countries, including the legacy of colonial rule, the division of authority between politicians and bureaucrats, and the determinants and consequences of women's political participation. Iyer co-leads the Building Inclusive Growth (BIG) Lab, a research center in the Department of Economics, that brings together some of the world's best researchers to develop innovative, long-lasting solutions to help vulnerable populations in developing countries.

Sisi Meng is an Assistant Teaching Professor of Economics and Technology for Development at the Keough School and a faculty affiliate of Notre Dame's Environmental Change Initiative. Meng's research focuses on environmental and natural resource economics, the interdisciplinary studies between labor, health, development, socioeconomics, and geography, and applying GIS techniques to spatial cost-benefit analysis of complex environmental issues.

Daniel C. Miller is an Associate Professor of Environmental Policy and director of the sustainable development concentration for the Keough School's Master of Global Affairs program. His research focuses on international environmental politics and policy, exploring the socioeconomic and ecological impacts of conservation funding in tropical countries and how trees and forests contribute to human well-being in rural areas worldwide. He coordinates the Forests and Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement (FLARE) network.

Paul Winters is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Global Affairs at the Keough School. Winters' research focuses on rural poverty and food insecurity, and the evaluation of policies and programs addressing these issues. He formerly served as Associate Vice President of Strategy and Knowledge and Director of Research and Impact Assessment at the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Rome. Winters is a member of the Food System Economics Commission, an independent academic commission supporting policy with research on sustainable food systems.

Our Global Reach

The countries in **Gold** represent the locations of the Pulte Institute's 100-plus global development projects.

The projects listed are from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

WORLDWIDE / MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

- USAID LASER (Long-term Assistance and Services for Research) PULSE (Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine)
- USAID ERIE (Expanding the Reach of Impact Evaluation)
- USAID SHARE (Supporting Holistic and Actionable Research in Education)
- USAID RTAC (Research Technical Assistance Center)
- USAID Self-Reliance Learning Agenda
- USAID Private Sector Engagement
- USAID Center for Development Research
- BHP Rights-Based Water Governance
- Catholic Relief Services Measures of Human Dignity
- Technology for Food and Water Systems
- Chemonics International Data for Development

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

- CARA (Central American Research Alliance) G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training Program Evaluation) (El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica)
- Response Initiative for Cold-Chain Development (Belize)
- Promoting Community Resilience: Impact Evaluation of the U.S. Disaster Relief Program (United States, Puerto Rico)

CARIBBEAN

- Strong Beginnings: Developing the Whole Child (Haiti)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- South Sudan Education
- South Sudan Humanitarian Assistance Evaluation
- ADAPT - Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya)

SOUTH AMERICA

- USAID Paraguay Rule of Law and Culture of Integrity
- Digital Agriculture (Ecuador)

The Pulte Institute fosters and sustains high-impact remind us of the constant and increasing demands for and resource bases of international organizations, non-lives and stifle human flourishing to have a positive impact

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

- Higher Education Partnership (Algeria)
- USAID LASER PULSE Support to Traditional Cultural Practices (Northern Iraq)

MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

Since 2013, the Pulte Institute has hosted over 220 Mandela Washington fellows from 40 different countries across Sub-Saharan Africa.

- Angola (8)
- Benin (2)
- Botswana (4)
- Burkina Faso (6)
- Burundi (1)
- Cameroon (1)
- Cape Verde (2)
- Chad (1)
- Comoros (1)

- Cote d'Ivoire (8)
- Eswatini (2)
- Ethiopia (8)
- The Gambia (1)
- Ghana (8)
- Guinea (3)
- Kenya (13)
- Lesotho (5)
- Liberia (3)

- Madagascar (3)
- Malawi (3)
- Mali (3)
- Mauritania (3)
- Mauritius (7)
- Mozambique (5)
- Namibia (7)
- Niger (5)

- Nigeria (22)
- Republic of the Congo (5)
- Rwanda (2)
- Sao Tome and Principe (1)
- Senegal (10)
- Sierra Leone (1)

- South Africa (13)
- South Sudan (3)
- Sudan (3)
- Tanzania (9)
- Togo (1)
- Uganda (8)
- Zambia (9)
- Zimbabwe (23)

multinational partnerships The complex challenges that society faces on top of poverty and environmental degradation equitable international partnerships that can address these growing deficits. By creating synergies among the expertise governmental organizations, governments, and the private sector, the Institute is identifying key obstacles that threaten faster, more efficiently, and more equitably than can be achieved when working in silos.

OUR WORK TO FIGHT POVERTY AND TRANSFORM LIVES

Global Poverty

"The complexity of these issues demands that we — as a Catholic University — consider how these conditions impact the whole person and each person's ability to fully flourish."

Tracy Kijewski-Correa
William J. Pulte Director

Fighting poverty in all its forms

At the Pulte Institute, we stand at the nexus of research informing policy on issues such as sustainability, education, and global development, translating knowledge into practical, evidence-based tools to make a tangible, positive impact on vulnerable populations across the globe.

We're also operating alongside our partners, building durable solutions in parts of the world where it has proven most challenging to eradicate poverty — in the Global South and conflict-affected areas.

As we continue our mission to improve lives, these features make our work distinctive in the fight against poverty:

- **We are leveraging the strengths of diverse perspectives and disciplines** to tackle poverty's many facets.

- **We recognize that solutions will only be found by working in and with** front-line communities.

- **We know that lasting change demands a commitment to translate findings into policy and practice** around the globe.

This distinctiveness is possible thanks to our research's many manifestations:

- **Policy and Program Evaluation:** The Institute evaluates the effectiveness of existing policies and programs and identifies how to scale their impacts to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

- **System Strengthening:** The Institute develops and applies novel diagnostic tools to uncover why poverty persists and where to focus our efforts and investments to strengthen systems.

- **Innovation and Co-Creation:** The Institute works with local partners to innovate new policies, programs, and interventions, along with the evidence base necessary to ensure they can be sustained and faithfully replicated.

"It is a grim outlook for billions of people living below the poverty line globally. We need to reverse the status quo," William J. Pulte Director **Tracy Kijewski-Correa** said. "Just as poverty is more than a lack of material wealth, it is also often tied to systemic inequality and marginalization from society. The complexity of these issues demands that we — as a Catholic University — consider how these conditions impact the whole person and each person's ability to fully flourish."

OUR WORK TO FIGHT POVERTY AND TRANSFORM LIVES

Sustainability

Cultivating innovation to boost tolerance and palm oil yields

By providing a more amenable environment for pests that destroy crops, climate change reduces agricultural yields and increases food insecurity. To combat the threat, farms often use excessive and ineffective chemicals that degrade the soil, further diminishing their output.

Growing practices for palm oil, the most widely traded vegetable oil worldwide, have been linked to deforestation. Ecuador, the third largest palm oil producer in Latin America, is seeking to improve the agricultural practices of its palm farms to prevent further environmental degradation and enhance the income of small-scale producers.

Under an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme, the Inter-American Development Bank partnered with the Pulte Institute and SATagro to monitor crop development in near real-time to determine the impact of environmental threats and agricultural interventions, producing data to improve decision-making and productivity.

Core Affiliated and Keough School Faculty **Paul Winters** and **Alejandro Estefan** oversee the initiative. Its goal is to reduce deforestation and crop degradation while promoting conservation and sustainable use of the Amazonian landscape.

"The data is used for mapping, showing farmers where to apply fertilizers via the SATagro app," Estefan, assistant professor of development economics, said. "It is an environmentally friendly way of increasing crop yield."

SATagro, a digital agriculture start-up that works with small-scale farmers, uses satellite imagery from NASA and the tools of traditional Geographic Information Systems to assist growers. The SATagro team distributes information capsules that provide recommendations to achieve the project's goals.

"Farmers can also fertilize, plant, and spray with unprecedented precision, using dynamically generated prescription maps which are compatible with a range of agro-machinery," Estefan said. "SATagro's imagery allows for field-level detail that was previously unavailable. With our help, palm oil farms are seeing much better outcomes and significantly cutting their nitrogen fertilizer use."

The Pulte Institute is working with SATagro, a digital agriculture start-up that partners with small-scale farmers to use satellite imagery and Geographic Information Systems tools to help growers achieve better outcomes and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Credit: Melvin Migin / Alamy

OUR WORK TO FIGHT POVERTY AND TRANSFORM LIVES

Sustainability

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Dolan
Program Manager and Research Associate

"There is growing momentum to push for improved, coordinated water management at the national and international levels. But what about the private sector? Without their buy-in, this crisis will only accelerate."

SHRI (Sustainability and Human Rights Initiative) is making water central to climate action

In March 2023, the United Nations hosted the first conference on water in 46 years. SHRI, housed in the Pulte Institute, was one of 200 groups invited to present its efforts to combat water insecurity. Around 2 billion people live in areas where water is scarce. Yet water remains undervalued and mismanaged, and its role in tackling climate change, migration, and poverty needs greater acknowledgment — especially from industry actors. Mining, for example, is a critical sector for the energy transition and often operates on Indigenous land in areas of high water scarcity.

SHRI leverages the broader framework of the UN and the expertise of Notre Dame faculty and researchers across disciplines — engineering, global affairs, law, and business — to find solutions to promoting ethical stewardship practices. SHRI's approach involves communities, businesses, and governments working together to protect and manage this vital resource.

"There is growing momentum to push for improved, coordinated water management at the national and international levels," Pulte Program Manager **Lizzie Dolan** said. "But what about the private sector? Without their buy-in, this crisis will only accelerate."

The team, which includes **Ellis A. Adams**, **Leonardo Bertassello**, **Diane Desierto**, **Dolan**, **Kevin Fink, Marc Mueller**, **Ray Offenheiser**, and **Tom Purekal**, offers states and corporations a research-based approach, incorporating ethical and legal understandings of regulatory and operational processes to facilitate efforts to fulfill the human right to safe, clean water.

In March 2023, SHRI (Sustainability and Human Rights Initiative) presented its efforts to combat water insecurity at the United Nations Water Conference. **From left to right:** Eawag - Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology Principal Investigator and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences Adjunct Associate Professor **Marc Müller**; Professor of Law and Global Affairs **Diane Desierto**; Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences Postdoctoral Research Associate **Leonardo Bertassello**; Pulte Institute Program Manager and Research Associate **Lizzie Dolan**; Pulte Core Affiliated Faculty and Keough School Associate Professor of Geography and Environmental Policy **Ellis A. Adams**.

A National Guardsman assists in communications support for first responders and government agencies after Hurricane Maria. Credit: Dudley Little / Alamy

Improving existing disaster response practices

Communities most vulnerable to climate change are at risk for higher disaster impacts. The increasing threats made the Pulte Institute's research approach useful to an organization striving to identify the best interventions.

In 2022, Global Ministries, the international mission, humanitarian relief, and development organization of The United Methodist Church, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) partnered with the Pulte Institute's Evidence and Learning Division to conduct an impact evaluation for its United States Disaster Response program.

From 2017 to 2020, the USDR program conducted extensive hurricane relief efforts across the southern U.S. and Puerto Rico.

"For nearly two decades, Global Ministries and UMCOR's disaster prep initiatives have made a real difference, providing critically needed support for hundreds of thousands of people," Pulte Institute Evidence and Learning Director **Paul Perrin**

said. "But crucial gaps remained, and they turned to us to further refine their strategy." Perrin collaborated on the project with Core Affiliated Faculty and Keough School Assistant Teaching Professor **Sisi Meng**, and Senior Research Associate **Lila Khatiwada**.

Disaster resilience is a broad concept, making measurement challenging. The Pulte Institute's evaluation consisted of a mixed-methods approach integrating comparative household surveys with focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

The findings have helped Global Ministries and UMCOR prioritize efforts that have the most significant long-term impact and incorporate more technology to aid in disaster planning and resource allocation, including platforms to gather real-time information from affected individuals to optimize the distribution of food, water, medical supplies, and personnel.

The findings also highlight the importance of looking at social and demographic data to help identify vulnerable populations, such as older adults or those with disabilities, who may need additional support during and after a storm.

Flooded streets in San Juan, Puerto Rico, after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. Credit: Alessandro Pietri

Global Education

"The Pulte Institute plays an important agenda-setting role for the USAID Center for Education, working with leadership to shape learning agendas and amplify local voices, creating a culture of evidence-based decision making to inform policy and practice efforts."

Tom Purekal
Innovation and Practice Program Director,
Term-Limited Professor of the Practice,
and SHARE Program Director

A school-age boy works on a lesson in Vinzons, Camarines Norte, Philippines. Credit: Tatiana Grunina

High-quality education accessible to all powers a better world

The Pulte Institute, in conjunction with partners — including Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives and the Global Center for the Development of the Whole Child — conducts rigorous research to address pressing education needs, from early childhood to adult learning, investigating how policymakers and educators can create more meaningful and beneficial learning environments.

The Pulte Institute's work is rooted in understanding the complex relationship between poverty and education, helping students worldwide expand what they know, enhance their problem-solving skills, and become engaged and productive members of their communities.

Through its research, the Institute identifies intervention efforts designed to create more equitable systems. It empowers people to overcome poverty-related barriers while excelling at

identifying where and how to intervene in low- and middle-income countries, knowing it requires a comprehensive approach considering specific contexts, needs, and resources. Collaboration, evidence-based decision making, and a commitment to long-term sustainability by engaging locally-based research partners are critical to the process.

Those demonstrated commitments inspired the U.S. Agency for International Development to award the Pulte Institute the largest federal grant in Notre Dame's history in 2020 with a project called SHARE (Supporting Holistic and Actionable Research in Education). Through its research, the Institute is helping the U.S. Government determine how to effectively direct billions of dollars of funding to global education, a major catalyst in the fight against poverty.

Education changes lives, providing freedom, dignity, and opportunity — empowering individuals from the most marginalized communities.

In 2022-2023, the Pulte Institute, in collaboration with local stakeholders, including government officials, community leaders, and non-governmental organizations, conducted research around the world to combat global poverty through education.

Uganda non-state schools' assessment

Non-state pre-primary and primary schools play a substantial role in providing education in Uganda. Nearly 60 percent of the country's schools are private, and pre-primary education is exclusively private sector led.

The assessment considered the quality, access, regulation, and financial sustainability of non-state, urban schools following nearly two years of COVID-19-related closures. SHARE found that quality education was bolstered by responsiveness to parents, and active oversight of learning. At the same time, high fees, inaccessible physical spaces, and a lack of teacher training hindered it.

Faith-founded schools subsidized significantly more students than non-state schools, and the pandemic reduced parents' ability to pay tuition, leading to a decline in enrollment.

Coming off the research findings, the Pulte Institute team, together with partner ResilientAfrica Network at Makerere University School of Public Health in Kampala, facilitated a policy dialogue with key actors from the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, and private school associations to discuss the findings and actionable recommendations as they prepare to develop policy guidelines for private schools nationwide.

"Emerging from this researcher, practitioner, and policymaker dialogue is a commitment to improve pre-primary and primary school access to traditionally marginalized groups," Primary Investigator **Nancy Rydberg** said. "These leaders hope to pass policy to provide tax exemptions for schools that subsidize low-income learners and invest in enhancing accessibility for learners with disabilities."

Children at a private school near Kampala, Uganda. Credit: Alamy

Primary Investigator **Nancy Rydberg** works with partners at the Resilient AfricaNetwork, steered by the Makerere University School of Public Health in Kampala, Uganda, to unleash the team's creativity to solve complex challenges. Credit: Makerere University - ResilientAfrica Network

OUR WORK TO FIGHT POVERTY AND TRANSFORM LIVES

Global Education

Above and right: Transition-to-English Plus (T2E+) in Ghana was one activity the Pulte Institute evaluated to gauge whether it met the minimal benchmarks to improve reading performance for primary-grade learners. The phonics-based program taught students how to read by connecting letters associated with words to corresponding sounds. Credit: USAID / Ghana

Inclusive education in Uzbekistan

Increasing supportive environments for students with disabilities is a priority for parents, teachers, and policymakers across Uzbekistan.

SHARE's research found gaps in messaging. For example, teachers noted a gap in parents' understanding of the importance of socialization in improving skill development and overall educational achievement among students with disabilities.

To help the Uzbekistan government facilitate the efforts of administrators, teachers, specialists, and parents, SHARE developed a framework to proactively guide their process of developing inclusive and accessible classrooms, offerings, and teaching styles to meet students' needs.

Principal Investigator **TJ D'Agostino** says the study is poised to make an impact in Uzbekistan and beyond. "This

research has informed the design of a $25 million investment by USAID for inclusive education reform. The methods we use serve as a model for how systems thinking can be applied to rapidly diagnose the needs of education networks globally."

Impact on reading outcomes as part of Ghana's Transition-to-English activities

Although access to education for Ghana's children has increased dramatically in recent decades, literacy — both in English and local languages — has not seen the same improvement. USAID/Ghana's Transition-to-English Plus (T2E+) activity sought to bolster literacy nationwide by using various outreach tools, including radio lessons, teacher training, learning materials, and scripted curricula.

The T2E+ activity began in 2021 to improve English reading skills by teaching knowledge and skills transferable from one language to another.

In evaluating the program, SHARE analyzed its strengths and weaknesses. The study found the T2E+ activity effective at boosting literacy and identifying transferable lessons for other low- and middle-income countries facing similar challenges.

"Comprehension and critical thinking skills gleaned from reading are critical to boosting students' academic success," Program Manager **Bethany Little** said. "Policy leaders working with stakeholders to foster language and literacy development can derive valuable insights from Ghana's T2E+ activity, which supports children's learning in multiple languages and the transfer of skills from one language to another."

LIBROS (Learning to Improve Books Resource Operational System) Cambodia

To ensure children's access to books as they develop as readers, SHARE researched how to improve Cambodia's supply chain by analyzing Track and Trace — a digital textbook supply management system.

SHARE found that Track and Trace saved time, money, and human resources. With Track and Trace, it takes between two to four weeks rather than three to four months to conduct textbook forecasting and planning. Track and Trace also helped improve textbook accessibility. Nearly 60 percent of school directors reported they received textbooks within the first three months after making their request.

"The TnT (Track and Trace) digital book supply platform helped to increase transparency and accountability in the primary-level textbook supply chain," Project Manager **Andrea McMerty-Brummer** said. "Before, there was limited data and accountability in the textbook supply chain. TnT boosted transparency, minimized inefficiencies, and increased accessibility to textbooks by facilitating direct communication between school directors, publishers, and other supply chain actors."

Barriers to school re-entry faced by young adults in Ethiopia

Since 2020, Ethiopia's northernmost Tigray region has been at the center of a civil conflict involving ethno-regional militias, the federal government, and the Eritrean military. The violence has triggered a refugee crisis, displacing 5.1 million people in 2021. The impact on children's education outcomes is among the most pervasive consequences.

Focusing on barriers to educational access, SHARE's research on Reading for Ethiopia's Achievement Developed II identified obstacles and paths to student success.

Working with USAID/Ethiopia, SHARE analyzed the leading causes of absenteeism in the states of Afar and Amhara. They found reasons for absences typically fall into four categories: economic barriers (the need for children to work, food insecurity), conflict and war-related barriers (psychological factors, deaths of family members), beliefs and values

Global Education

Above and right: The war in Ethiopia's Tigray region has deprived children of an education. Concerned about the long-lasting impact, the Ethiopian government, local partners, and USAID/Ethiopia are using the Pulte Institute's findings to craft an effective policy response. Credit: Massimo Bonannini / Alamy

about education (many parents do not see the benefit, although adolescents expressed a positive view of education), and gender-specific barriers.

Concerned about the long-lasting impact of academic disruption, the Ethiopian government, local partners, and USAID/Ethiopia are using their findings to craft an effective policy response.

"Rather than just let students drift into full or even partial failure, the Ethiopian government has taken an interest in the policy process, especially how the implementation phase can be strengthened and supported," Project Manager **Bethany Little** said. "Our work helps to unlock the key factors behind absenteeism and pinpoint key messages for decision-makers."

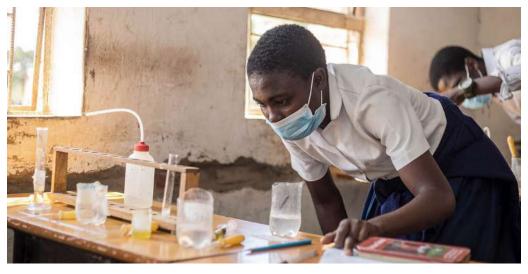**LITES (Language of Instruction Transition in Education Systems) in the Philippines**

In low- and middle-income countries, over half of children cannot read and understand a simple story by age 10. This learning crisis threatens countries' efforts to build human capital and achieve Sustainable Development Goals, undermining poverty reduction.

The LITES study seeks to understand key elements needed to affect progress in the language of instruction policy — critical areas for addressing learning poverty. Through research on policy design and implementation, the LITES study supports literacy acquisition in bilingual environments in upper primary schools.

First lirst language (L1) instruction has yet to be prioritized in the Philippines, where over 120 languages are spoken. Often, these languages are used for instruction until Grade 3. The LITES project team is working with in-country partners to conduct a root cause analysis to determine if being taught in the mother tongue when starting school improves or impairs learning outcomes.

Although from Grade 4 on, English is used as the primary language of instruction, research suggests that students learn best when starting in a language they can speak and understand, leading to a more positive attitude towards school.

"Implementing multilingual education policies is a major challenge," Primary Investigator **TJ D'Agostino** said, "especially in a context as linguistically diverse as the Philippines."

The Pulte Institute found that USAID's efforts to improve the quality, access, and affordability of higher education in Malawi have been a success. Credit: Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College — Arizona State University

Sara Zimmerman Duterte

Philippines Vice President and Secretary of Education

"The Pulte Institute's research findings are significant when reviewing the implementation of mother tongue-based multilingual education. Together, let us work towards the goal of English language proficiency within the context of a multilingual nation."

Philippines Vice President and Secretary of Education **Sara Zimmerman Duterte** expressed her appreciation to the project team, saying she is grateful to have partners committed to gathering empirical evidence. "The Pulte Institute's research findings are significant when reviewing the implementation of mother tongue-based multilingual education," Duterte said. "Together, let us work towards the goal of English language proficiency within the context of a multilingual nation."

SHEAMA (Strengthening Higher Education Access in Malawi Activity)

Malawi, a nation of 20 million, has 80,000 secondary school graduates yearly. Many of them have no access to higher education. Simultaneously, Malawi's higher education system suffers from low enrollment, with inadequate distance learning programs. The result is a non-equitable workforce currently unable to sustain the country's economic growth.

In partnership with USAID and Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College — Arizona State University, the Pulte Institute's

evaluation efforts focused on how effective SHEAMA's interventions were at increasing Malawi's skilled and employable workforce — mainly through opportunities for adolescent girls and young women, marginalized and vulnerable young men, and persons with disabilities by increasing capacity and fostering collaboration among five of Malawi's public universities.

"We found SHEAMA has been successful in providing equitable access and reinforcing the capacity of the country's higher education systems," Project Manager **Sean O'Neill** said. "SHEAMA has also helped students acquire the skills and experience needed to make better career decisions."

By creating a collaborative model for distance and e-learning, university partners now offer joint academic programs that extend nationwide. They also split the cost of new degree programs, majors, minors, and certificate courses.

"SHEAMA's comprehensive program improved academic and social integration," O'Neill said. "Facilitating financial aid awards has also helped to put students on paths to academic success."

OUR WORK TO FIGHT POVERTY AND TRANSFORM LIVES

Migration and Resettlement

"The complex phenomenon of migration demands research approaches that better capture the well-being of individuals."

Tom Hare
Senior Researcher and
Co-Director of CARA

Going beyond the root causes of Central American migration

According to UN data, in 2020 nearly 300 million people resided outside of their country of birth for one year or more. Never have people moved in such large numbers and from such diverse regions worldwide.

The U.S.-Mexico border is a particular case where hundreds of thousands of people from across Latin America congregate to seek passage to what, for them, is the promise of a better and safer life. Migrants risk their families, their livelihoods, and their lives to escape from poverty, violence, and political turmoil. "The complex phenomenon of migration demands research approaches that better capture the well-being of individuals," Senior Researcher **Tom Hare** said.

The Pulte Institute and its Central America Research Alliance (CARA) — which brings together scholars and researchers from the United States, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico — have a clear mission: identifying and addressing the systemic causes of the southern border crisis through comprehensive, research-driven approaches that help develop policies so migrants are not forced to make the heart-wrenching choice between risks at home and hazards of the journey north.

CARA promotes scalable solutions that empower people to stay in their home countries.

One of its recent surveys revealed that most of Hondurans (55 percent) desire to migrate within the next three years. Previous research has confirmed that the motivations are:

- A complex interplay of gang and domestic violence.
- Lack of quality job opportunities.
- Political instability.
- Distrust of public officials.
- The corrosive effects of corruption and autocracy within countries with previously democratic institutions.

While previous studies have highlighted economic aspects, cultural factors, such as a society-wide conception of migration as a rite of passage, have also been identified.

CARA's work delves deeper, exploring the individual experiences of poverty and human dignity: migrants' perceived ability to deal with difficulties, mental well-being, and psychological resilience.

Central American refugees board a truck in Tapachula, Mexico. Credit: Saeschie Wagner/ Shutterstock

OUR WORK TO FIGHT POVERTY AND TRANSFORM LIVES

Just Systems and Effective States

Pulte Institute researchers collaborated with colleagues from Purdue and Indiana Universities, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, and the University of Duhok in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Together, they conducted an interdisciplinary study to document and support the restoration of agricultural customs in Northern Iraq that were threatened among minority groups affected by the Islamic State. Credit: LASER PULSE/Purdue

Informing Congress on how to revive and strengthen traditional cultural practices in Iraq

In June 2023, Pulte Institute researchers visited Capitol Hill to brief Senate Foreign Relations staff and the offices of Indiana's **Sen. Mike Braun** and **Sen. Todd Young** on the impact of the USAID-funded LASER (Long-term Assistance and Services for Research) PULSE (Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine) initiative that supports traditional agriculture in Northern Iraq.

The Institute teamed up with colleagues from Purdue and Indiana Universities, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, and the University of Duhok in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. Collaborating on ethnographic analysis, cataloging wild plants, and conducting market research on the region's olive oil industry, the interdisciplinary study supported the restoration of agricultural customs that were threatened among minority groups affected by the Islamic State.

The rise of the militant organization and other sectarian tensions led to violence that killed tens of thousands of Iraqis and displaced millions between 2014 and 2017. Efforts since then have focused on stabilizing the country and promoting reconciliation.

"Agriculture is a core component of heritage and plays an important role in re-balancing societies and bringing people together," Principal Investigator **Sean O'Neill** said. "A sense of belonging is often tied to agroecological practices. Cultivating this shared knowledge can create stability, foster social cohesion, and improve livelihoods."

The research centered around people's identity and what improvements would help them feel secure in their homeland. In recent years, the U.S. Department of State has pushed for culture to be elevated in development work.

"No one lives in only one element," Pulte's Innovation and Practice Program Manager **Tom Purekal** said. "People's lives occupy many spheres: ethnic, economic, health, faith. That's why this project was so important; it pushed for development that factored in people's full identities and took a significant step in uniting communities."

Pulte's **Tom Purekal**, far right, and his research team visited Capitol Hill to brief lawmakers on the impact the Northern Iraq project delivered. Credit: LASER PULSE/Purdue

Business and Development

Bob and Fran Zielsdorf

Zielsdorf Family Partnership for Corporate Engagement

Established in 2018, the Partnership connects start-ups, entrepreneurs, and industry with the Pulte Institute so they, too, can benefit from the unique infrastructure for impact evaluation and program management.

Mobilizing market-based solutions for development impact

The USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) commissioned the Pulte Institute's Evidence and Learning Division to "dramatically increase Private Sector Engagement (PSE) across the Agency."

PSE policies cover a range of issues, including:

- **Streamlining regulations and providing support** to facilitate private-sector investments.
- **Encouraging companies to engage** in socially responsible activities.
- **Aligning private sector engagement with global objectives**, such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, to address issues like poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability.

The Pulte Institute's PSE Evidence Gap Map systematically reviews and categorizes existing evidence to inform the decisions of policymakers, researchers, and development professionals about allocating resources toward further research.

"It is an interactive tool used to support evidence-based decision making," Evidence and Learning Director and Keough School Associate Professor of the Practice **Paul Perrin** said. "Policymakers and practitioners use it in helping to ensure that decisions and investments are grounded in a strong empirical foundation."

The Pulte Institute's PSE Evidence Reports on "Incentives and Barriers for Private Sector Engagement in Humanitarian Assistance"

and the "Value Added of Private Sector Engagement in Humanitarian Assistance" have delivered recommendations that prompted USAID/BHA to act.

The PSE Evidence Gap Map was cited in USAID's 2022-2026 Agency Learning Agenda as an example of the types of activities that assist in maximizing the productive use of research. And providing a graphical display of areas with strong, weak, or non-existent evidence on the effect of interventions has improved USAID staff and partners' success in engaging the private sector in different humanitarian contexts.

The process of creating a PSE Evidence Gap Map involves the following steps:

- **Gather existing research, reports, and studies** on PSE in development.
- **Categorize existing evidence into different themes to identify focus areas.** The Pulte Institute's focus areas include Environment/Climate Change, Education and Social Services, and Humanitarian Assistance.
- **Create a matrix** highlighting each focus area's existing evidence and research.
- Within the map, **pinpoint areas with limited or no research available**. These are the "evidence gaps" that need further exploration.

Check out the Pulte Institute's interactive tool used to support evidence-based decision-making at ***https://go.nd.edu/usaid-pse-egm***.

Entrepreneurship and Education Program Director **Melissa Paulsen** helped to write a case study to examine a marketing strategy for Rawabi — the first planned city built in the West Bank as part of the inaugural Reimagining Business Excellence program held in July at Notre Dame's Jerusalem Global Gateway.

International research hub advances STEM collaboration

The Pulte Institute is working with the U.S. Department of State on a program facilitated by the U.S. Embassy in Algiers to accelerate research and implementation across STEM disciplines in the North African country. The research hub seeks to bolster capacity exchange, public-private collaboration, and domestic and international cooperation among Algerian and North American universities.

In February 2023, Pulte's Entrepreneurship and Education Program Director **Melissa Paulsen**, along with the University's IDEA (Innovation, De-Risking and Enterprise Acceleration) Center's Assistant Director for Researcher Engagement **Steve Asiala**, and Director of De-Risking **Ben Hoggan** traveled to the Sidi Abdellah campus in Algiers to lead a workshop on reducing risk when commercializing research for new products and services.

The strategies deployed aim to create a robust research ecosystem, including student formation, production, and commercialization activities. The Notre Dame team also works with mathematics and artificial intelligence faculty members to create curricula that involve students at every stage in the research-to-commercialization pipeline.

Pulte launches workshop at inaugural MENA conference

In association with partners at the Mendoza College of Business, the Pulte Institute led a workshop as part of the inaugural Reimagining Business Excellence program. Organized by Notre Dame's Jerusalem Global Gateway, the initiative serves entrepreneurs in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region who seek to increase their organization's social responsibility efforts.

Drawing on cutting-edge research and addressing real-world problems ranging from social responsibility in business to sustainable entrepreneurship, the week-long session focused on a case study to understand how a marketing strategy for Rawabi — the first planned city built in the West Bank — could support the practical applicability of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

"Our participants represented different backgrounds, skill sets, and industries; all, however, were focused on equity and prosperity in the MENA region," Entrepreneurship and Education Program Director **Melissa Paulsen** said. "We supported their individual and business needs while cultivating areas for collaboration and furthering the common good."

Partnering to drive research and innovation, the Pulte Institute organized a workshop on how to reduce risk when commercializing new products at Algeria's Sidi Abdellah University Campus in February 2023.

OUR WORK TO FIGHT POVERTY AND TRANSFORM LIVES

Business and Development

"As we look to the future, there is no more important place than the continent of Africa. Our interaction with you and your membership in the Notre Dame family makes us a more international, global university."

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
President of the University of Notre Dame

Celebrating the ninth cohort of Mandela Washington Fellows

The Mandela Washington Fellowship at the University of Notre Dame is designed to empower young African leaders and advance their skills to further excel in their respective sectors and communities.

With corporate support from IBM and Capsim, the Initiative is hosted by the Pulte Institute — in close collaboration with Notre Dame's IDEA (Innovation, De-Risking, and Enterprise Acceleration) Center and its Mendoza College of Business and — and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

With a focus on Leadership in Business, the program helps Fellows develop leading-edge knowledge and skills by purposefully engaging in direct experience and focused reflection. The Fellows participate in community service, cultural networking, and community engagement activities to enhance their critical thinking and innovative problem-solving skills.

Selected through a rigorous and competitive application process, the Fellows are between the ages of 25 and 35 and have established records of accomplishment in promoting positive change in their organizations, communities, and countries.

In June, President **Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.**, welcomed 23 Fellows from 18 African nations to campus.

"As we look to the future, there is no more important place than the continent of Africa," Fr. Jenkins said. "Our interaction with you and your membership in the Notre Dame family makes us a more international, global university."

This year's cohort traveled to Detroit to learn about technology trends in the automotive industry at Ford Motor Company and how to use strategic philanthropy to drive meaningful change. The Fellows toured and stayed at The Inn at St. John's, a resort where 100 percent of the profits go to the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation. The innovative business model helps the foundation increase its impact.

The cohort also went to Chicago to meet with leaders at Amazon, the Chicago Council of Global Affairs, and IBM, where they participated in a daylong design thinking session. Additionally, they met with South Bend innovators **Andrew Wiand**, ND '11, '12, whose startup EnFocus has introduced innovative approaches to catalyze economic development; **Maria Gibbs**, ND '17, and **Dustin Mix**, ND '10, '13, whose firm INVANTI matches aspiring entrepreneurs to local problems; and **Sara Stewart**, whose Unity Gardens Inc. provides free, healthy food to people in need while promoting physical health through nutrition.

Since 2014, the Pulte Institute has hosted over 220 participants from 40 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Photos from the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders at the University of Notre Dame. In addition to workshops and coaching sessions that range from leadership and wellness to managing non-governmental organizations and developing public-private partnerships, the Fellows also experience Fourth of July celebrations at South Bend's Four Winds Field and whitewater rafting.

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Celebrating the ninth cohort of Mandela Washington Fellows

The Mandela Washington Fellowship at the University of Notre Dame is designed to empower young African leaders and advance their skills to further excel in their respective sectors and communities.

With corporate support from IBM and Capsim, the Initiative is hosted by the Pulte Institute — in close collaboration with Notre Dame's IDEA (Innovation, De-Risking, and Enterprise Acceleration) Center and its Mendoza College of Business and — and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

With a focus on Leadership in Business, the program helps Fellows develop leading-edge knowledge and skills by purposefully engaging in direct experience and focused reflection. The Fellows participate in community service, cultural networking, and community engagement activities to enhance their critical thinking and innovative problem-solving skills.

Selected through a rigorous and competitive application process, the Fellows are between the ages of 25 and 35 and have established records of accomplishment in promoting positive change in their organizations, communities, and countries.

In June, President **Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.**, welcomed 23 Fellows from 18 African nations to campus.

"As we look to the future, there is no more important place than the continent of Africa," Fr. Jenkins said. "Our interaction with you and your membership in the Notre Dame family makes us a more international, global university."

This year's cohort traveled to Detroit to learn about technology trends in the automotive industry at Ford Motor Company and how to use strategic philanthropy to drive meaningful change. The Fellows toured and stayed at The Inn at St. John's, a resort where 100 percent of the profits go to the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation. The innovative business model helps the foundation increase its impact.

The cohort also went to Chicago to meet with leaders at Amazon, the Chicago Council of Global Affairs, and IBM, where they participated in a daylong design thinking session. Additionally, they met with South Bend innovators **Andrew Wiand**, ND '11, '12, whose startup EnFocus has introduced innovative approaches to catalyze economic development; **Maria Gibbs**, ND '17, and **Dustin Mix**, ND '10, '13, whose firm INVANTI matches aspiring entrepreneurs to local problems; and **Sara Stewart**, whose Unity Gardens Inc. provides free, healthy food to people in need while promoting physical health through nutrition.

Since 2014, the Pulte Institute has hosted over 220 participants from 40 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Photos from the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders at the University of Notre Dame. In addition to workshops and coaching sessions that range from leadership and wellness to managing non-governmental organizations and developing public-private partnerships, the Fellows also experience Fourth of July celebrations at South Bend's Four Winds Field and whitewater rafting.

Health and Well-being

Biological samples and reagent kits being transfered to Belize's national reference laboratory. Credit: Belize Ministry of Health and Wellness

Effective health service delivery around the globe

Keeping biological samples, medications, testing supplies, and vaccines at temperatures that do not exceed manufacturer requirements is crucial for public health. Yet this process has proven complex in many low- and middle-income countries.

Recognizing the need to revamp these systems, known as the cold chain, the Pulte Institute, in conjunction with faculty from Notre Dame's Eck Institute for Global Health, helped to forge partnerships, resulting in a new solution in Belize that can be scaled to other countries. The goal was to monitor the existing biological sample transfer from regional laboratories to the country's national reference laboratory and offer solutions to ensure samples remained at the proper temperature throughout the journey.

The project evaluated current procedures used to deliver specimens and designed a pilot implementation strategy to address areas of improvement within the country's existing cold-chain protocol. "It provided tangible evidence that the current system for sample referral from hospitals to the Central Medical Laboratory does not meet acceptable quality standards and must be improved," Belize Ministry of Health and Wellness Senior Medical Technologist **Aldo Sosa** said.

For many diagnostic tests, including for COVID-19, if the sample is not maintained at a specific temperature, then the pathogen trying to be tested may degrade.

"The solution was developed in collaboration with the Belize Ministry of Health and Wellness and validated in the field to ensure it works effectively," Associate Director of Operations and Finance **Kevin Fink** said. "A high-quality cold chain allows health workers to deliver life-saving vaccines and other important medicines to remote and sometimes marginalized communities."

The team is now helping to deliver samples from rural community clinics that offer prenatal care. Obstetric panels are used to identify health problems in pregnancy, looking for diseases and infections that can affect the health of a woman and her unborn baby. The results guide treatments to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

Cold chain equipment is delivered to the Belize Ministry of Health and Wellness. Credit: UNICEF/GOB2022

Pulte Institute research finds that water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) are essential to the fulfillment of women's rights as well as their economic and social development. Credit: UNICEF.org

Danice Brown Guzmán
Associate Director of Evidence and Learning

"Water-quality data continues to drive the narrative of what safe water means without considering other elements like mental health and gender disparities."

Expanding approaches for water, sanitation, and hygiene

Water insecurity is a daily challenge for billions of people around the world. To improve water access and quality, a Pulte Institute project highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach to WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) to advance health and well-being.

The study, "Measuring Transformative WASH: A New Paradigm for Evaluating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Interventions," is a collaboration between Pulte Institute Associate Director of Evidence and Learning **Danice Brown Guzmán**, Core Affiliated Faculty and Keough School of Global Affairs Associate Professor **Ellis A. Adams**, and University of Miami Associate Professor **Justin Stoler**.

Guaranteeing equitable access to safe water by 2030 is Goal 6 of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, individuals tasked with retrieving water, often women and children, may also face discrimination, threats

to mental and physical well-being, and increased home absenteeism. Such metrics are often overlooked when considering the impact of WASH initiatives.

"For many women, the water crisis is personal. They are responsible for finding a resource their families need to survive — for drinking, cooking, sanitation, and hygiene. They may walk long distances on challenging terrain to collect water or pay large amounts of money to middlemen to secure water," Guzmán said. "Water-quality data continues to drive the narrative of what safe water means without considering other elements like mental health and gender disparities."

When assessing the impact of WASH programs, the metrics used to evaluate the program's success are usually so focused on water quality improvement that the true impact of the intervention is under-represented. "Such a blind spot can have major implications for measuring the success of larger goals like the SDGs and the design of future WASH programs," Guzmán said.

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Support Means Impact

Photo In summer 2023, the Pulte Institute hosted 23 of Africa's brightest emerging leaders for six weeks of entrepreneurship training in collaboration with campus and community partners. The young leaders visited South Bend's Studebaker Building to meet with enFocus, a non-profit founded by Andrew Wiand, ND '11, '12, that brings together recent graduates with organizations needing innovative solutions.

Delivering results

The Pulte Institute for Global Development focuses not only on human needs but on human flourishing. Our commitment to translating research findings into action fulfills the University's mission "to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good."

Thanks to our benefactors, the Pulte Institute continues to advance that mission by placing a premium on game-changing innovations and durable solutions to some of our world's most vexing challenges, leveraging our convening power and scholarly expertise to be a model for the most productive and efficient use of resources, and aligning development actors across the University and around the world in support of common objectives.

We are deeply thankful to those whose support makes our work possible. Your contributions allow us to make a significant impact and improve the lives of vulnerable populations around the world. Thank you.

The back cover Pulte Institute Evidence and Learning Scientist Shriniwas Gautam and his family take in Our Lady of the Lake World Peace Plaza, sponsored by the legacy of William J. Pulte and the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation. Credit: Eva Amatya

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