

## Public Services Institute & Joint Center for Policy Research

### **Shara L. Davis**

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Shara L. Davis is Director of the Public Services Institute (PSI) and its Joint Center for Policy Research (JCPR) at Lorain County Community College. She has a Masters degree in Political Science which she earned in 1987. She began her career in marketing and policy research and has extensive experience in research design and application. Ms. Davis has been formerly trained by nationally recognized consultants in civic engagement techniques. She has strong process design and facilitation skills. She has been with the Public Services Institute for 13 years and throughout her 20 year career has provided consultation and services to more than 400 organizations representing a range of policy areas including economic development, education/workforce development, health care, recreation, environment, government, social services, philanthropy, and news media. Much of her work has focused on workforce development and intergovernmental relations.

Shara is founding director of the Joint Center for Policy Research, the information arm of the Institute, which she grew to a full service research center and cost recovery unit of the College in just 4 years. In addition to data, research, and evaluation services, Shara developed a local GIS Partnership, which has become self-sustaining and experienced tremendous growth within a period of 3 years. In her current capacity, she also provides leadership to the Lorain County Community Alliance, which is a local council of governments housed within PSI.

Prior to her tenure with Lorain County Community College, Shara served as Assistant Director for Research for the Center for Urban Studies at the University of Akron. She used her research expertise and experience to create and establish a full-capacity research laboratory for the Center for Urban Studies between 1987 and 1991. During her eight years with the University of Akron, Shara also taught undergraduate courses including Introduction to Government and Politics, Current Policy Issues, and Introductory Research Methods. Some of her clients have included Region 8 School-to-Work, the Regional Workforce Partnership, the EnterpriseOhio Network of the Ohio Board of Regents, the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center, Auburn Career Center, Polaris Career Center, Westshore Vocational Education District, Higher Education in Economic Development (HEED) Initiative, the Lorain County Employment Network (local one-stop), the City of Brunswick, the City of Oberlin, the Ohio Grant Makers Forum, the Stocker Foundation, the Lorain County Consortium for Child and Family Health Services (CFHS), Lorain County Children Services, Lorain County Metropolitan Housing Authority, Lorain City Schools, Elyria City Schools, Midview Schools, Avon Lake City Schools, the Chronicle Telegram, and many others.