Regional Crime Mapping in the Upper Shore

On December 1, 2007, Washington College, and its Department of Sociology and Anthropology received more than $95,000 from the State of Maryland's GOCCP Statistical Analysis Center to support an assessment of regional crime mapping across Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Talbot and Queen Anne's counties and their inclusive municipalities and towns.

Since 2003, the College has operated a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Laboratory undertaking a broad array of state, county, and local mapping projects. This is the first criminal justice related award for Washington College from GOCCP and places the College among an elite group of other Maryland research institutions working on law enforcement and crime issues.

Throughout the year the project evaluated current crime data collection methods and conducted a pilot project that explored the benefits of regionalization of mapping resources. Recommendations for future mapping were provided to the state in November.

The project kick-off meeting, attended by over 40 law enforcement representatives from throughout Maryland, county sheriffs, local police chiefs, county GIS coordinators, representatives from the state funding agency, and College project faculty, was held at the College in mid-January.