Our Vision

Empowering People Through Information and Technology
The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies informs and illuminates the nation’s major public policy debates through research, analysis, and information dissemination in order to: improve the socioeconomic status of black Americans and other minorities; expand their effective participation in the political and public policy arenas; and promote communications and relationships across racial and ethnic lines to strengthen the nation’s pluralistic society.
In 2000, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies proudly celebrated thirty years of "empower- ing people through information and technology." Our thirtieth anniversary coincided with the dawn of a new century, a new millennium, and a new presidential election. This was a memorable mile- stone in the life of this unique institution.

We began the year by convening our quadrennial Eighth National Policy Institute, whose theme was: "Black Economic Advancement in the New Millennium: Globalization, Education, and Technology." As it turned out, this theme shaped the agenda for much of our work in 2000.

We believe that the key to our place in the new century will be determined, in large measure, by how we relate to the critical forces embodied in globalization, education, and technology. The Joint Center's own contributions on these subjects are summarized in this Annual Report, which highlights our activities and accomplish- ments.

In this short space we want to pay tribute to our rich history. The Joint Center was born in the aftermath of three major events in the life of the nation: passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965; the 1967 election of black mayors in Cleveland, Ohio, and Gary, Indiana; and the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968. In 1970, we opened our doors as a nonpartisan organization with a mission to assist newly elected black officials, whose numbers were beginning to grow, especially in the South. Through publications, seminars, training, and technical assistance, we gave these new officials the "schooling" they needed in such fields as administration, planning, and budgeting.

Black elected officials became the new "freedom fighters" with access to the political power to leverage economic opportunities and protect civil rights. When the Joint Center began in 1970, there were just 1,469 such officials. Today there are
nearly 9,000, who came into office with exceptionally good political experience and management skills.

The Joint Center has broadened its reach and agenda as well, placing more emphasis on research and disseminating information to both elected and appointed officials and others—civil rights and community leaders, scholars, business and labor leaders—who are influential in the public policy arena.

In 1990, we underscored the importance of economic empowerment as the necessary twin of political empowerment. In 1993, we opened an office in Johannesburg, South Africa, where we focus on both the political and the economic empowerment of black South Africans. Today, that office has a staff of eight Americans and South Africans and conducts work in other countries as well.

Among our major accomplishments was our commissioned research on the macroeconomic and demographic impact of HIV/AIDS on the workplace and communities in South Africa. AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Africa for adults between the ages of 15 and 49. The ramifications of this epidemic on Africa’s ability to increase its resources, stimulate growth, and maintain stability are staggering. Our comprehensive research will help target efforts to address HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

We continue to reach out to new audiences at home and abroad and are involved in numerous collaborative activities with other minorities. We look back over our past thirty years with great pride and the knowledge that this research and public policy institution has made a difference in the lives of many people and their leaders.

Our vision, captured by our theme, continues to be "Empowering People Through Information and Technology." We believe that one of the strongest testaments to the vitality of the Joint Center is that it has withstood the test of time.

Our success is due to an excellent staff, of course, but in a more fundamental way it is due to the many foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals that provide essential financial support. We are grateful to them for their investment in us. We are also indebted to our board of governors, which has provided the policy guidance and leadership of this institution for three decades.

Andrew F. Brimmer
Chairman

Eddie N. Williams
President
The 2000 elections, more than any other, demonstrated with astounding clarity that every vote counts. That fundamental democratic principle formed the foundation of much of the Joint Center’s work throughout the year. In an important presidential election year, our research focused on analyzing the candidates’ platforms and assessing what impact their plans and proposals would have on the economic well-being of African Americans and other minorities. Given the year’s politically charged atmosphere, it was essential that we provide the facts and figures to policymakers and the broad electorate and weigh in on long-term policy issues—including education, access to quality health care, employment, financial security, and political representation.

During the Republican and Democratic national conventions, we released our quadrennial convention publications, *Blacks and the 2000 Republican National Convention* and *Blacks and the 2000 Democratic National Convention*. Both examined the likely impact of African Americans on the November elections and looked at black trends in partisanship, voting behavior, and public opinion. With black voters representing key blocs in Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Louisiana, Ohio, New Jersey, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee, the convention reports revealed the importance of the black vote for both the Democratic and Republican parties. The reports were widely covered by the media, which used them extensively as primary sources for reporting on black convention delegates and black voting behavior.

Just prior to the November elections, the Joint Center released its signature National Opinion Poll results on politics. The 2000 poll revealed that among African Americans, Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore had grown increasingly popular during the preceding year while Republican candidate George W. Bush, already unpopular, had become more so. Significantly, the poll found that Gore’s favorable rating among African Americans had nearly reached President Clinton’s rating among blacks. It also found that blacks supported proposals that would improve the quality of care from HMOs and were more likely than whites to support Gore’s proposals for Social Security reform rather than Bush’s proposals.

The poll results and other key analyses were presented at a major news conference that attracted national and local print and electronic media. Following the elections, we released *Black Vote 2000*, a report that exhibited just how significant the black vote had been in November. Black voter turnout did increase, and blacks were overwhelmingly Democratic in their partisanship in 2000—even more so than in the 1996 elections. And although the black share of the national vote remained at the 1996 level, it increased dramatically in several states, including Florida, where it rose by 50 percent. African American voters made a significant difference in several important statewide contests. We also released *Black Elected Officials: A Statistical Summary, 1999*, a product unique to the Joint Center that documents the growth of black elected officials annually. The summary reported that the number of black elected officials reached 8,936—a historic high.

In sum, Joint Center research on black voter behavior and public opinion clearly illustrated the power—both real and unrealized—of the black vote.

As the 2000 Census approached, we completed a two-year project entitled *Overcoming the Undercount: Promoting African American Participation in the 2000 Census*. This project culminated in a workshop held during the Joint Center’s Eighth National Policy Institute in January. The workshop featured experts from the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights,
and the Joint Center. Taking advantage of the Internet’s mass reach, the audio version of the workshop was posted to the Joint Center’s web site. We launched a national promotional campaign among the leading black media in the top five metropolitan markets, which coincided with ongoing Joint Center web site promotions, to increase both awareness of and participation in the census. The result? Black leaders and communities were educated on the significance of the census, its uses, and the impact its results would have on political representation and power, enforcement of civil rights laws, and the availability of funds for public programs. Preliminary Census Bureau releases estimate that the 2000 undercount of African Americans may have been as low as 1.6 percent, a considerable improvement over the undercount in the 1990 Census.

During the year, the U.S. Census Bureau awarded the Joint Center with Census Information Center (CIC) status. This status was granted based on the Joint Center’s established reputation and our capacity to provide data and analyses on minority populations via our unique DataBank. As a CIC, the Joint Center has priority access to the full array of data products released by the Bureau and will serve as a repository of census data.

Increasing political participation is the cornerstone of much of our work. But increased participation does not translate into real progress unless it is partnered with sustainable economic power. To accelerate our efforts to address issues of economic development in minority communities, the Joint Center’s Minority Business RoundTable (MBRT) continued to advocate for policies that advance minority business development in America. MBRT’s efforts to help make access to capital readily available and to facilitate subcontracting partnerships with majority-owned corporations could help level the playing field for many minority firms at a time when minority population growth is at an all-time high. Minority groups are expected to make up 90 percent of the country’s projected population growth between now and the year 2050. Not only will minorities represent the dominant consumer market, they will be the major source of our future workforce.

Congress and the White House invited the Minority Business RoundTable to discuss policies that benefit and encourage minority entrepreneurship. During the Minority Enterprise Development Week conference cosponsored by the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency, MBRT hosted a CEO workshop on corporate partnerships and released its first policy paper, Developing Best Practices for the 21st Century: Effective Minority Supplier Development Programs. The workshop was one of the best attended events of the conference and received wide national media coverage. A delayed audiocast of the MBRT workshop was carried on the Joint Center’s web site. Through the workshop and policy paper, MBRT engaged opinion leaders, minority business leaders, and corporate America in discussions on innovative ways to include minority businesses in strategic alliances. MBRT plans to release additional public policy issue papers that support economic development for the minority business community.

A centerpiece of our pre-election research was a series of analyses that examined how the presidential candidates’ competing platform proposals...
Our Programs

would affect the lives and economic livelihood of African Americans. Written by experts in diverse fields, they covered such high-visibility campaign topics as tax cuts, Social Security reform, education vouchers, and Medicare and health care access. They also projected the likely impact the two candidates’ strikingly different proposals for using the federal budget surplus would have on minority employment prospects over the next 10 years. The analyses received significant attention when released at a pre-election Washington news conference by a group of distinguished experts, including Andrew Brimmer, the Joint Center’s chairman and a former Federal Reserve Board member. The event was carried live by C-SPAN, and the full text of the six specialized reports was published electronically via the Joint Center’s web site.

At the Joint Center’s South Africa office, our economic research continued to grow. We commissioned six South African organizations to conduct a comprehensive analysis of what is required for the new South Africa to build a strong economic infrastructure. They analyzed a range of critical challenges, from determining how to ensure a more equitable distribution of farmland to include blacks, to identifying ways to empower the disabled to become economic contributors to the society. The findings from this research project, entitled Strengthening Economic Growth Analysis (SEGA), will provide local leaders, the national government, and nongovernmental organizations with the critical data and recommendations they need to formulate more effective policies.

CONFRONTING THE TRUTH ABOUT AIDS

As part of the same SEGA project, the Joint Center’s South Africa office commissioned a literature search on HIV/AIDS to determine what research exists on the current and projected macroeconomic and demographic impact of the epidemic on the public and private sectors, on the workplace, and in communities. The results were reported in Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS on South Africa and Its Implications for Governance. Already a runaway catastrophe throughout the African continent, this disease has become a pandemic with global reach. Our research review provides precise information needed to attack the HIV/AIDS crisis in South Africa.

To make sure HIV/AIDS is on the agenda of as many programs as possible in South Africa, we added a new training component to our ongoing Education for Democracy Initiative, which trains women and girls to be leaders in South Africa. Participants learned about HIV/AIDS in order to become leaders in AIDS awareness and prevention education.

Here at home, the still rising incidence of HIV/AIDS in the African American community has made this one of the most urgent public issues to address. We released the preliminary findings from a survey of black elected officials on their knowledge and views about the AIDS epidemic in African American communities. The findings, along with commissioned papers on epidemiology, access to health care, and the financing of treatment and other services for HIV/AIDS sufferers in black communities, were presented at a special forum held during the Joint Center’s Eighth National Policy Institute.

The survey results underscored black leaders’ rapidly growing awareness of the epidemic’s seriousness among blacks and their desire to see government resources and energy applied to addressing it.

We also published HIV/AIDS Prevention Education for African American Youth: Approaches, Issues and Recommendations, a report based
Joint Center grant recipients report on their analyses of the economic impact of HIV/AIDS at a conference in South Africa.

H. Carl McCall, state comptroller of New York, delivers the keynote speech at the Joint Center’s thirtieth anniversary dinner.

Gayla Cook and the South Africa Staff

Jennifer C. Friday
Deitra Lee

Financial Supporters

Team
Gayla Cook and the South Africa Staff
Jennifer C. Friday
Deitra Lee

Wilhelmina A. Leigh
Margaret C. Simms
Carola H. Tyson

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Gayla Cook and the South Africa Staff
Jennifer C. Friday
Margaret C. Simms

Margaret C. Simms
Carola H. Tyson

FTW

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Gayla Cook and the South Africa Staff
Jennifer C. Friday
Margaret C. Simms

Financial Supporters

on our earlier community education experiences. It identifies effective approaches for reaching teenagers with messages about prevention before they begin practicing high-risk behavior. The report was widely distributed at the Eighth National Policy Institute and to health, political, and community leaders for their use in HIV/AIDS prevention education.

Delivered to every household, and public forums and town hall meetings were held in the community.

Continuing our emphasis on forming strategic alliances, we launched a web site for our Network of Alliances Bridging Race and Ethnicity (NABRE) as well as a companion Youth NABRE web site. These launches completed our earlier work in establishing these networks, which include a diverse group of 129 local and national organizations that work to overcome racial and ethnic divisions.

NABRE and Youth NABRE allow individuals and organizations to share “best practices” and “lessons learned” in confronting racial issues. The web sites, integrated into the Joint Center’s main web site, feature online seminars, chat rooms, and relevant resource links. The Youth NABRE web site specifically focuses on the 51 youth-oriented diversity projects supported by the Lucent Technologies Foundation.

The Joint Center: Making Global Connections

In our thirty years of experience, we have found that information and expertise increase in power when linked and shared with the skills and needs of others.

We have continued exporting our expertise internationally, and we have helped bring together the minority CEOs of multi-million dollar corporations here in the United States. We have found entrepreneurial leaders and grassroots organizations that already excel at what they do and have accelerated the impact of their work by linking them with one another in new networks, both organizational and electronic.

And we continue to provide citizens and policy influencers with an expanding resource for obtaining the most vital and relevant information on public policy issues that affect African Americans and other minorities.

As our society enters the new century, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies is empowering people through information and technology.
Events

“Mobilizing to Fight HIV/AIDS in the African American Community” ✦ Forum held with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Washington, D.C., January

Eighth National Policy Institute ✦ Cosponsored with the Congressional Black Caucus, the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, the National Association of Black County Officials, the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Caucus of Black School Board Members, and the National Conference of Black Mayors, Washington, D.C., January

Corporate Leadership Forum ✦ Washington, D.C., May

Joint Center Annual Dinner ✦ Washington, D.C., May

“Why More of America’s Youth Are Saying ‘No’ to the Army” ✦ Forum, Washington, D.C., May

International Dialogue on the Democratic Republic of Congo ✦ Roundtable discussion with former Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi, held jointly with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., June

“Corporate Connections and Partnerships: A Business Imperative” ✦ Forum held as part of the annual Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week conference hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency, Arlington, Va., September


Moonlight Cabaret ✦ Benefit, Washington, D.C., November

NEW MEDIA

Launch of Youth NABRE website ✦ Online, September

Launch of NABRE website ✦ Online, November
Access to Health Care in a Managed Care Environment  ❖ Darrell J. Gaskin

Black Elected Officials: A Statistical Summary, 1999  ❖ David A. Bositis

Blacks and the 2000 Democratic National Convention  ❖ David A. Bositis

Blacks and the 2000 Republican National Convention  ❖ David A. Bositis

Effective Minority Supplier Development Programs (Minority Business RoundTable Issue Paper Number 1)

Environmental and Health Summaries for the Scarboro Community (series):
  Number 1: “Releases of Contaminants from Oak Ridge Facilities and Risks to Public Health”
  Number 2: “Oak Ridge Reservation Annual Site Environmental Report, 1998”
  Number 3: “Scarboro Community Environmental Study”
  Number 4: “An Analysis of Respiratory Illnesses Among Children in the Scarboro Community”

HIV/AIDS Prevention Education for African American Youth: Approaches, Issues, and Recommendations  ❖ Wilhelmina Leigh


Resolving the Digital Divide: Information, Access, and Opportunity  ❖ Copublished with the President’s Information Technology Advisory Committee

Scarboro Community Assessment  ❖ Jennifer C. Friday and Robin Turner

1999 National Opinion Poll: Education  ❖ David A. Bositis

2000 National Opinion Poll: Politics  ❖ David A. Bositis

FOCUS Magazine

Newsletter for the Joint Center Research Network  ❖ South Africa Office

ELECTRONIC

The Big Picture: Public Policy and the Long-Term Economic Outlook for African Americans  ❖ Andrew F. Brimmer

The Bush and Gore Education Proposals: Implications for African Americans  ❖ Margaret C. Simms

The Bush and Gore Social Security Proposals: Implications for African Americans  ❖ Cecilia Conrad

DataBank Factsheets: “MBRT”; “Computer Use”; “Consumer Expenditures”  ❖ Roderick Harrison and Cassandra Cantave

Economic Impact of HIV on South Africa and Its Implications for Governance  ❖ South Africa Office


Employment and Income: Background to Campaign 2000  ❖ Gerald Jaynes

Gore v. Bush: Competing Tax Plans  ❖ Andrew F. Brimmer

Medicare, Healthcare, and the Gore and Bush Campaigns  ❖ Thomas Boston
### Sources

**BALANCE SHEETS: December 31, 2000 and 1999**

#### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>General Operating Fund</th>
<th>Endowment Fund</th>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Grants receivable</td>
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<td>35,618</td>
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<td>70,155</td>
<td>79,386</td>
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<td>300,000</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses and advances</td>
<td>72,813</td>
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<td><strong>11,494,233</strong></td>
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#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

**Liabilities:**

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<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<td>Accrued salaries, benefits, and taxes</td>
<td>235,004</td>
<td>277,704</td>
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<td>Other accrued liabilities</td>
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<td>Unearned grant revenue</td>
<td>76,315</td>
<td>25,736</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>971,661</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,006,154</strong></td>
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**Unrestricted:**

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<tr>
<td>Designated—unrealized gains (losses)</td>
<td>(44,343)</td>
<td>(720,581)</td>
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<td>Weaver Memorial Funds</td>
<td>394,432</td>
<td>390,562</td>
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<td>Program Development Fund</td>
<td>838,102</td>
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<td>Undesignated</td>
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<td>2,052,414</td>
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<td><strong>Total unrestricted</strong></td>
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**Temporarily restricted**

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<td>1,723,691</td>
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<tr>
<td>6,234,514</td>
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<td>6,234,514</td>
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**Total net assets**

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<td><strong>938,307</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,522,572</strong></td>
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**Total liabilities and net assets**

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>1999</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,909,968</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,584,265</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,494,233</strong></td>
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</table>

#### Finances

The balance sheets and statements of activities for 2000 and 1999 are summarized on these pages. At the end of each year, the auditors present to the board the audited financial statements and an evaluation of our internal financial controls.

Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

#### Percentage of Revenue by Source

- **24%** Government
- **34%** Corporation
- **22%** Earned Income
- **18%** Foundation
- **2%** Individual & other
## Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Operating Fund</th>
<th>Endowment Fund</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues and gains</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and contributions</td>
<td>1,914,377</td>
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<td>1,276,237</td>
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<td>Investment income (loss)</td>
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<td>(721,085)</td>
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<td><strong>Other support</strong></td>
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<td>Satisfaction of program restrictions</td>
<td>1,493,201</td>
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<td>1,493,201</td>
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<td>Interfund allocation of accumulated earnings</td>
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<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program services</strong></td>
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<td>Economic Advancement</td>
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<td>Communications and Marketing</td>
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<td>International Affairs</td>
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<td>Allocated support services</td>
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<td>Management and administration</td>
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<td>Program-related support services</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decrease in unrestricted net assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Changes in temporarily restricted net assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>(1,493,201)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>(59,098)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets</td>
<td>(586,303)</td>
<td>(2,134,708)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, beginning of year, as restated</strong></td>
<td>1,524,610</td>
<td>11,718,973</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, end of year</strong></td>
<td>938,307</td>
<td>9,584,265</td>
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* Left the staff during the year.
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David A Bositis, Senior Research Associate, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Speaks with reporters following the 2000 National Opinion Poll press conference.

Eddie N. Williams greets A. Demetrius Brown, President, FUCI Metals USA, Inc., at the Joint Center’s Annual Dinner.

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