Popular Government

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ON THE COVER

From 1980 to 1996, the number of people in prison for drug offenses increased by 1,132 percent, and drug offenders' share of the total population in state prisons grew from 5 to 23 percent.

COVER ARTICLE

2 Combating Illicit Drug Use: Some Basic Questions

Stevens H. Clarke

The United States has been fighting a "war on drugs" for two decades. Has the war been successful? Are there more cost-effective ways of waging it than incarcerating drug users or eradicating drugs at their source?

FEATURE ARTICLES

21 Helping Small Businesses after Hurricane Floyd

Scott Daugherty

Eastern North Carolina's small business sector bore a disproportionate hare of the damage caused by Hurricane Floyd in fall 1999. Together federal and state government mounted a major recovery effort. The state, with the assistance of the Small Business and Technology Development Center, played an unusually aggressive role.

31 A Primer on Nonprofit Organizations

Gita Gulati-Partee

Even though state and local governments are increasingly collaborating with nonprofit organizations, some government officials may be skeptical of their value. The questions and answers in this article are intended to help officials better understand how they can work with nonprofits to stretch tax dollars and benefit communities.

37 Achieving Better Group Performance

John B. Stephens

Instead of trying to find common ground on a controversial issue, what if members of a committee or task force were to "reach for higher ground"? This metaphor describes an approach to group process that the author and some of his colleagues are promoting in their work with groups.

ESSAY

45 Successful Multicampus Governance: The North Carolina Model *John L. Sanders*

Mindful of a trend evident in other states to devolve authority for higher education from central governing boards to local campuses, the Institute's former director suggests that North Carolina's present system serves the needs of the governor, the General Assembly, and the state well.

DEPARTMENTS

48 At the Institute

Institute Launches Center for Public Technology Grantham Joins Institute Faculty