



2025 END OF THE YEAR REPORT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The meaningful work we accomplished throughout 2025 at the Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions (ISPS) would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, partners, volunteers, and donors. This year's report highlights our efforts to advance student success, foster economic vitality, and promote community engagement—all from a nonpartisan perspective.

Notably, our dedicated student fellows rose to the challenge of organizing a statewide conference—created by students, for students. This inaugural event focused on cybersecurity and was designed for faculty leads and students across the Florida College System.

We invite you to explore this report and reflect on the initiatives we delivered throughout Florida. As we close the chapter on 2025, we look forward to building on this momentum for a productive and engaging 2026.

Together, with your continued support, we remain committed to our mission: to enhance, educate, and engage with the Florida College System and our communities within the State of Florida and beyond.

With Gratitude,
Kimberly G. Jackson, Esq. | ISPS Executive Director



ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions (ISPS) at St. Petersburg College (SPC) aims to ENHANCE understanding, EDUCATE students and citizens, and ENGAGE conversation in support of effective, solution-oriented public policy. Housed on the SPC Seminole Campus, ISPS provides a forum to explore local, state, national and international issues.

The vision for the Institute originated in the mid-2000s when in recognition of the late Congressman C.W. Bill Young’s leadership in Washington and Tallahassee as well as his commitment to educational and economic development initiatives, the Florida Legislature designated funds to establish the Institute.

ISPS seeks to educate the community in the following ways:

Promote student engagement

Enhance civic and community involvement

Serve as a center for public discourse

Identify economic initiatives





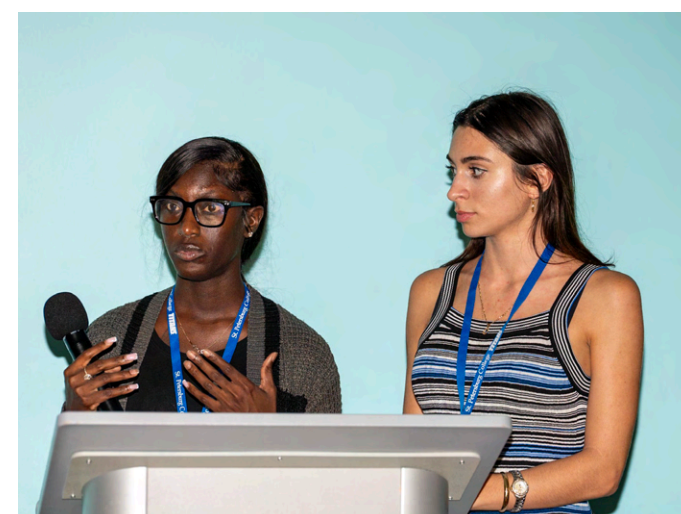
CONGRESSMAN C.W. BILL YOUNG

The vision for the Institute originated in the mid-2000s with the late Congressman C. W. Bill Young and then St. Petersburg College President Carl M. Kuttler Jr. In recognition of Congressman Young's leadership in Washington and Tallahassee as well as his commitment to educational and economic development initiatives, the Florida Legislature in 2007 and 2008 appropriated a one-time \$7.5 million endowment to establish the government institute.

Based at SPC, it is designated as an institute serving the entire Florida College System. It was envisioned as a way to offer a broad array of research, training, educational, and policy analysis to support activities at the local, state, regional, and national levels of government. The Institution came to fruition in 2010 under the former College President, Dr. Bill Law.

Watch our short documentary highlighting Congressman C.W. Bill Young and the history of ISPS by visiting the web-link below:

stpe.co/congressmanyongdocumentary



ISPS STAFF AND FELLOWS

The Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions (ISPS) fellows initiative is an internship opportunity available to students within the Florida College System. Our purpose of having student fellows is to add value to their academic and professional careers while supporting ISPS's mission of fostering growth through student and community engagement.

FELLOWS EXPERIENCE

KIMBERLY G. JACKSON, ESQ.

Executive Director

SAM JENKINS

Associate Director

MICHAEL BALLARD

Senior Administrative Student Assistant

TIMOTHY SCOTT

Accountant/Business Manager

MATTHEW LEE

Marketing & Communications Manager

SHARON PANOV

Senior Administrative Services Specialist

MORGAN LABITA

Student Fellow

RICHARD BLADYKAS

Student Fellow

HELENA PANUTHOS

Student Fellow

PAUL TAMAYO

Student Fellow

JAQUE FIELDS

Student Fellow

LILY SHORES

Student Fellow

SASHA HOSSAIN

Student Fellow

From August 2024 to November 2025, the ISPS Fellows made lasting contributions that strengthened the Institute's mission of civic engagement and public policy education across Florida. This dynamic cohort advanced institutional capacity through research, teamwork, policy simulations, and event leadership, while also expanding community partnerships in areas such as veterans' affairs, environmental sustainability, and cybersecurity.

Their dedication and commitment to creating engaging programs, workshops and opportunities for educational growth and discussion open to the public not only elevated ISPS's visibility and programming, but also fostered their own professional growth as organizers, communicators, and leaders.

Collectively, the fellows demonstrated how a student-led innovation can drive meaningful civic impact, leaving a legacy of collaboration and capacity-building that will continue to shape and support the Institute's mission of fostering local and statewide engagement.

INAUGURAL STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE

As part of our mission to foster collaboration and elevate the educational experience for Florida College System students, ISPS hosted it's inaugural cybersecurity conference initiative - hosted by students, for students.

The Inaugural Student-Led Conference offers a unique opportunity for students across the state to gain valuable leadership experience, connect with subject-matter experts, and expand their professional networks. Aside from being a great out-of-classroom experience, cybersecurity career-focused students enhance their understanding of civic literacy by crafting innovative public-policy proposals to address a hypothetical cyberattack scenario.

Student leaders accomanied by their respective college's faculty lead, attended speaker sessions addressing Public Safety, Ethics, Workforce, and Artificial Intelligences' role in the sphere of cybersecurity. It's our vision that this conference initative can serve as a bridge to connect cybersecurity professionals and public policy leaders to streamline communication and understanding for building innovative policy solutions.



Participating College Partners



Florida State College
at Jacksonville



St. Petersburg College



GRAND DEBATE




GRAND DEBATE

Americans hear a great deal of talk about crucial policy issues that affect their lives. To expand and enhance that discussion, the Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions (ISPS) proudly hosts a yearly, competitive forum for Florida college students to debate these issues – the Grand Debate.

Crafted to prepare today's students to become tomorrow's future leaders, this statewide initiative brings together students and faculty from across Florida's "Great 28" state colleges to engage in friendly rivalry to debate relevant issues of the day. Beyond sharpening public speaking and debate skills, participants gain valuable networking opportunities with college-wide peers, government officials and business leaders from across the state.

Building on this mission, the 2025, Fourth Annual Grand Debate gathered finalists from St. Petersburg College, Daytona State College, Hillsborough College, Eastern Florida State College and Palm Beach State College on Nov. 6 to tackle a timely question: Should the government regulate social media content moderation policies?

To reach the final competition, participating colleges first hold preliminary rounds on campus. From there, finalists dive into research on the predetermined topic approved by ISPS and its college partners. Remaining unbiased throughout the process, students are required to research both sides of the argument and receive their stance the morning before the competition. The views expressed in the Grand Debate do not represent those of participants or ISPS.

All Participating College Partners to Date



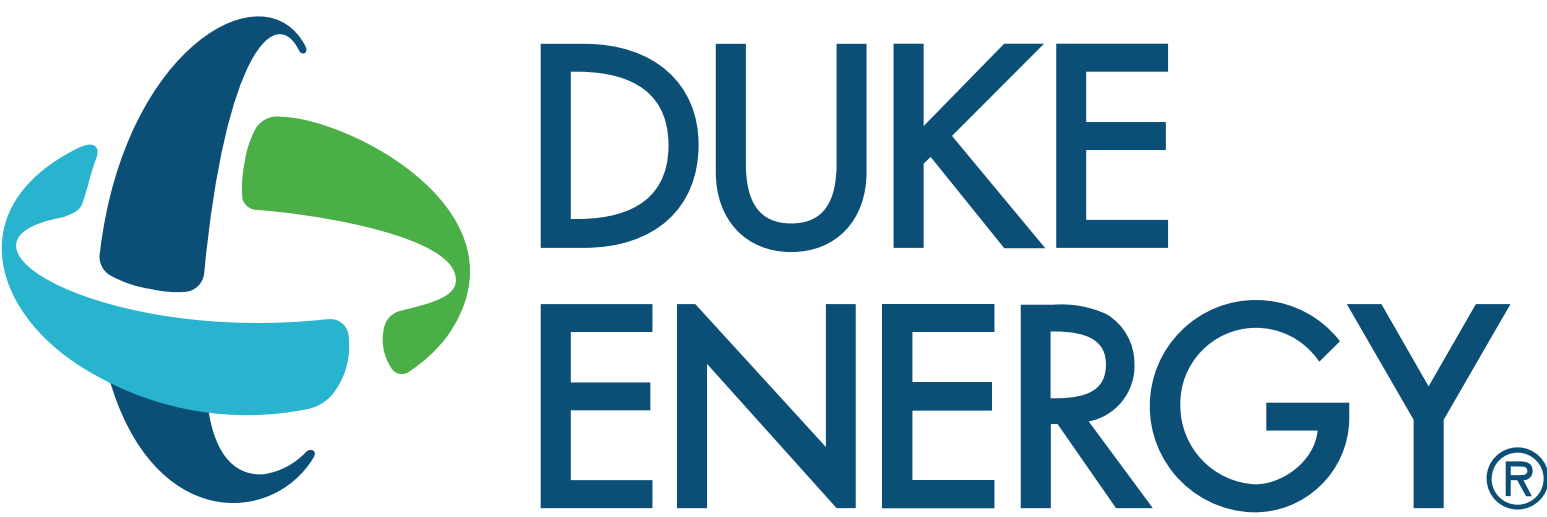
2025 PARTNERS



St. Petersburg College Model United Nations



2025 SPONSORS



NEWS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

- Morgan Labita - January 23rd
- Lily Shores - January 24th
- State of the Beaches - April - May
 - Podchaser
 - TBBW
 - St. Pete Catalyst
 - The Gabber
 - Spectrum Bay News 9
 - St. Pete-Clearwater Sun
 - News Channel 8
 - Fox 13 News
 - St. Pete - Clearwater Sun
 - The Gabber
 - St. Pete Catalyst
 - WMNF
- Colleges come together for ISPS student Cyber Security conference – July 25th
- Impact Council Tackles Crisis Communications Ahead of Hurricane Season – July 31st
- ISPS hosts student-led Cyber Security conference – August 1st

News articles respectively provided by the following organizations:



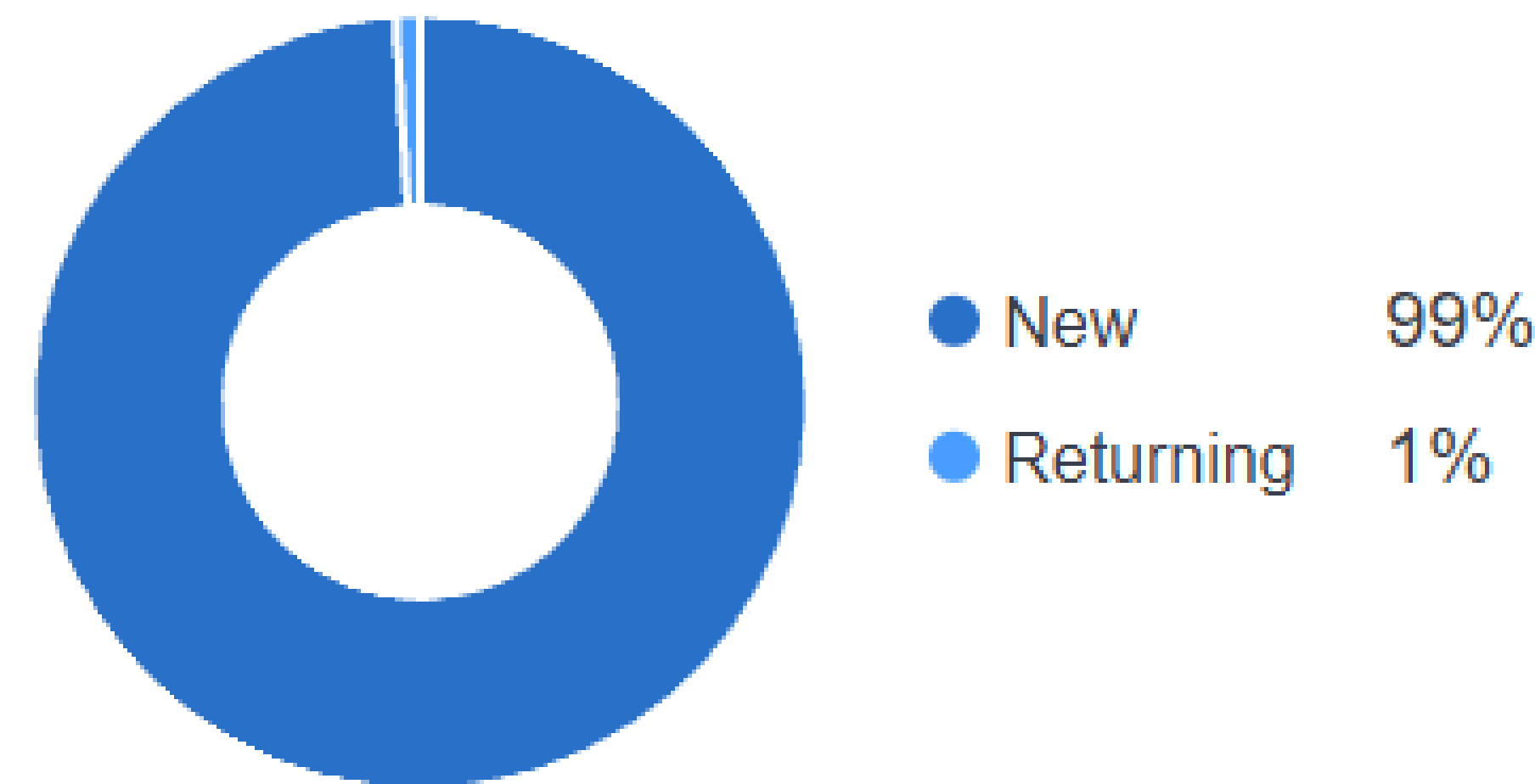
WEBSITE METRICS

Top Posts/Pages

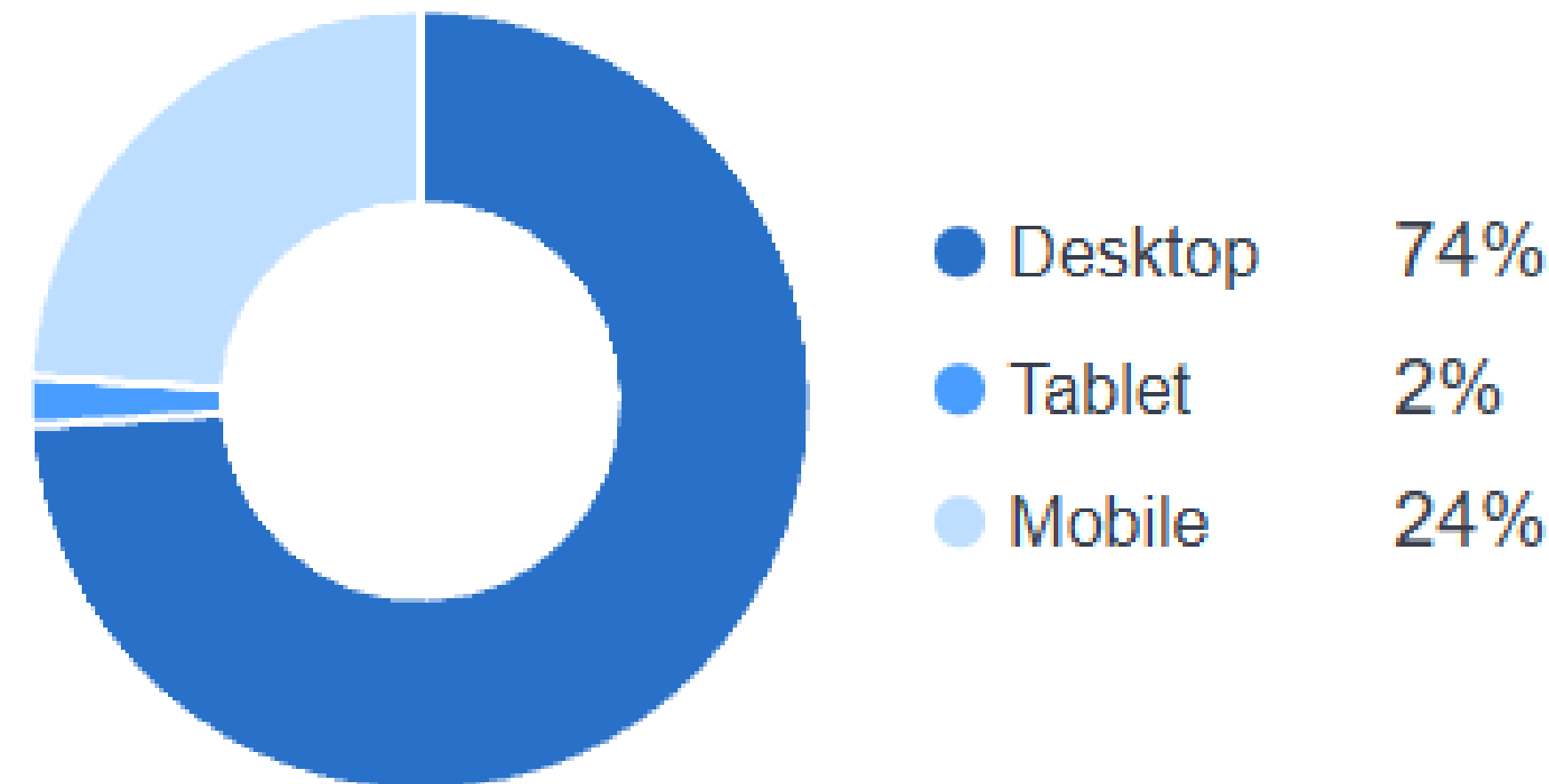


1.	Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions Enhance. Educate. Engage.	3,311
2.	Events Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions	1,227
3.	Inaugural Student-Led Cybersecurity Conference Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions	767
4.	2025 State of the Beaches – Mayor’s Town Hall Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions	675
5.	2025 Fourth Annual Grand Debate Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions	583
6.	Contact Us Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions	516
7.	The Future of Florida’s Transportation Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions	454
8.	The Nursing Workforce Dilemma in Florida – Part II: From Classroom to Career Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions	390
9.	Grand Debate Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions	359
10.	Board of Directors Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions	345

New vs. Returning Visitors

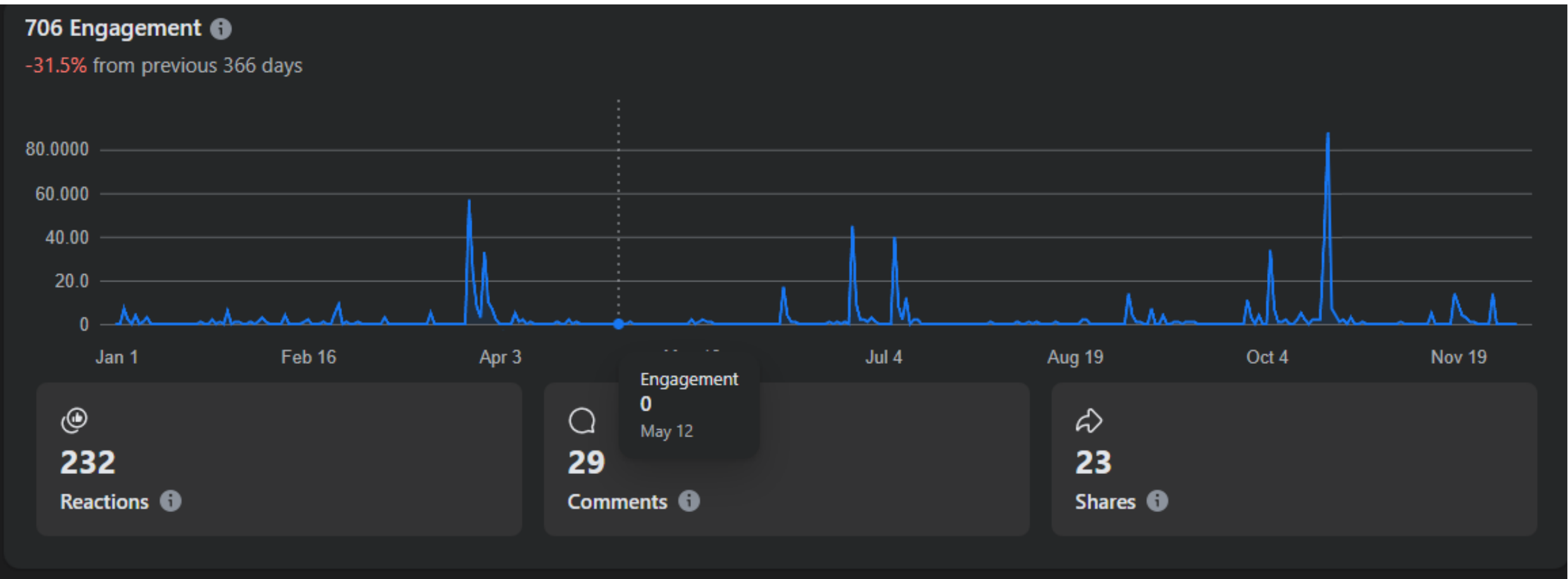
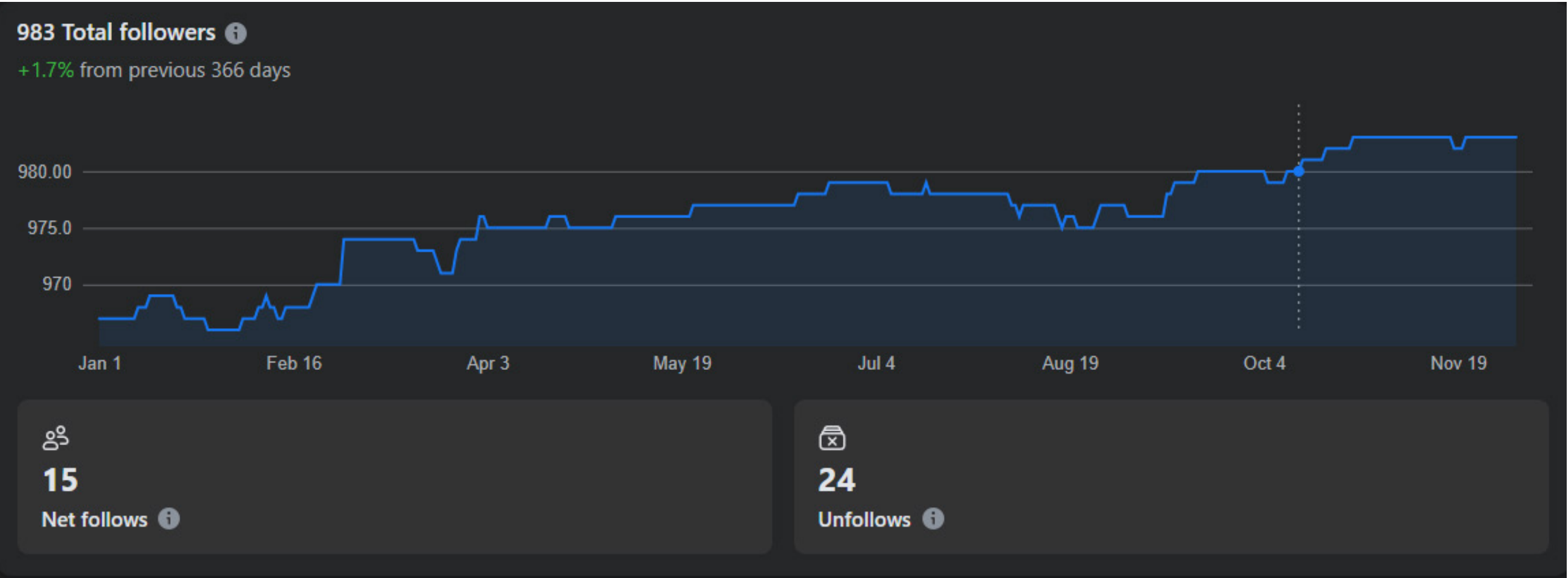


Device Breakdown

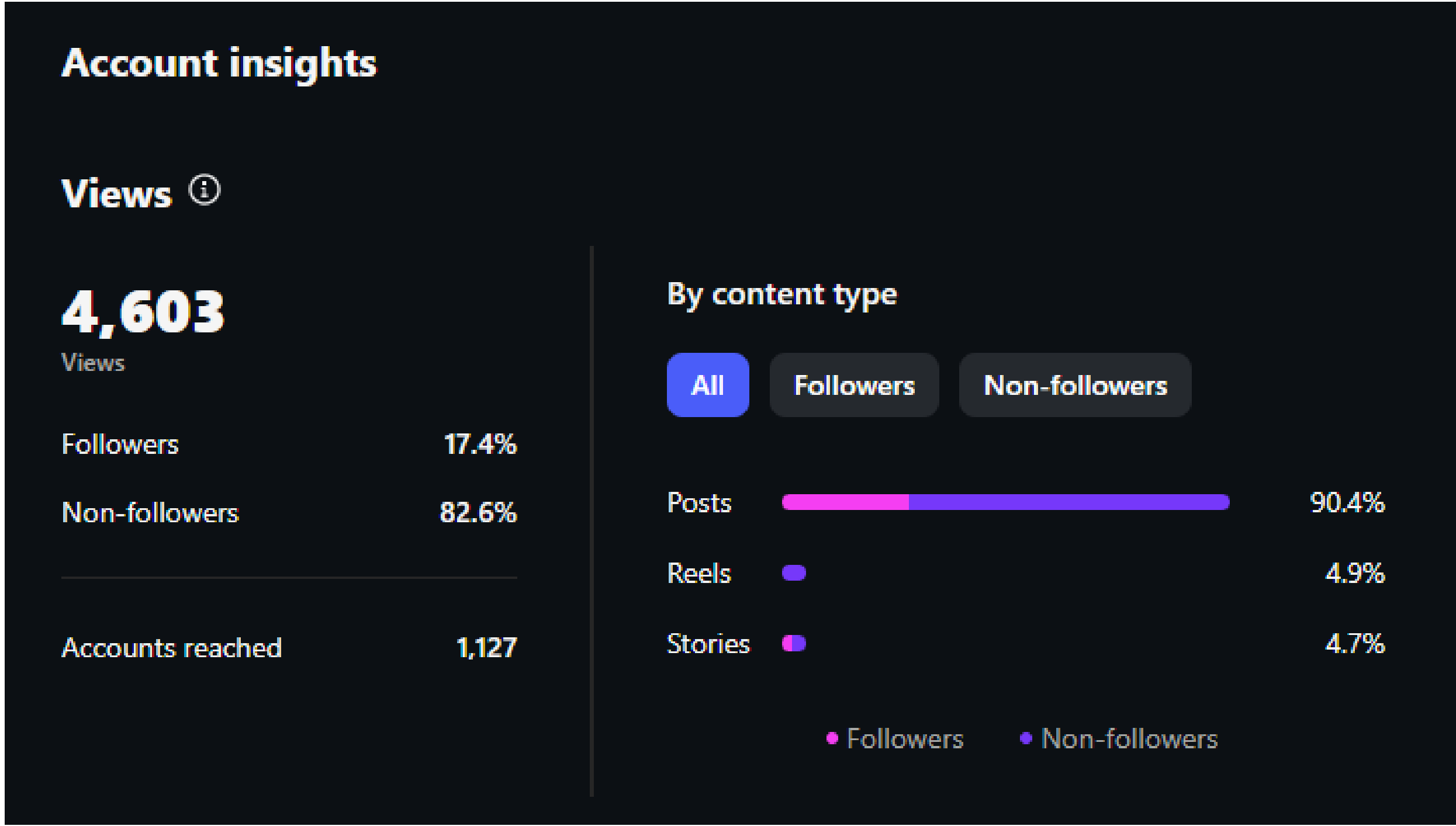


META (FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM) METRICS

FACEBOOK INSIGHTS | 983 Followers



INSTAGRAM INSIGHTS | 264 Followers



LINKEDIN METRICS



Highlights

Data for 1/7/2025 - 1/6/2026

6,259

Impressions

211

Reactions

4

Comments

13

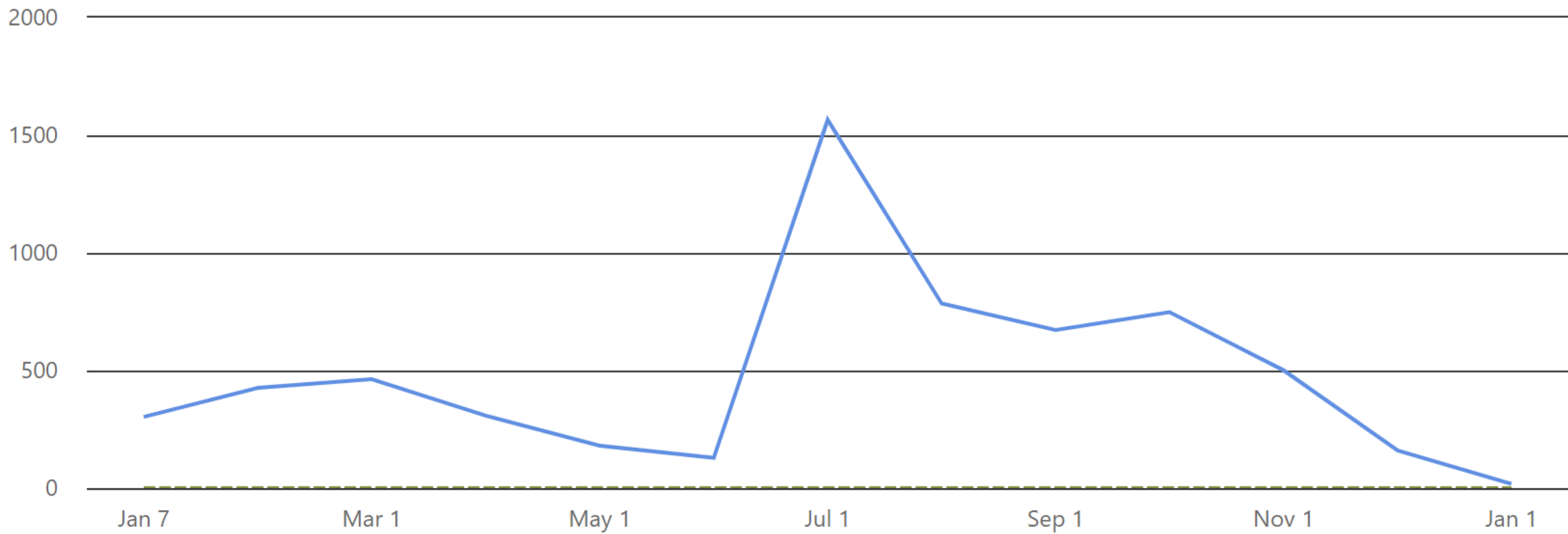
Reposts

Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions

208 followers

Metrics

Impressions



Organic

6,259

Sponsored

0

Programs

February 26th, 2025 @ USF's Marshall Student Center - MSC 4100 (6:00 pm to 7:30 pm)

The Future of Florida's Transportation

ISPS and our panel of experts, including Vickie Chachere (Event Moderator), Journalist and Communications Consultant, Greg Lovelace, Senior Vice President of Marketing and Business Development, Port Tampa Bay, Jason Jackman, Senior Research Associate, Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida and Gina Dew, Government Relations Director, Tampa International Airport, will discuss Florida's infrastructure, emerging developments, and how it impacts our statewide workforce.

News

- Board of Directors Updates
 - ISPS will host a [quarterly](#) Board of Directors' meeting on February 10th.
 - The various working committees of the board will host their quarterly meetings the week prior on February 3rd.
 - Michelle Grimsley is a speaker at [TEDxBradenton](#).
- Team Updates
 - [Jamal Sowell](#), current Vice President of Government Relations at Florida A&M University (FAMU) and former Florida Secretary of Commerce, and [Bemetra Simmons](#), President and CEO of the Tampa Bay Partnership, were featured on the fourth and fifth episodes of the Economic Interview Series.
 - ISPS attended all the Grand Debate preliminary rounds across the state of Florida at Eastern Florida State College, [Palm Beach State College](#), Hillsborough Community College and St. Petersburg College.
 - [Lily Shores](#) joined the ISPS team as our 4th Student Fellow. We are proud to continue to expand our team.
 - ISPS published its [November](#) and [December](#) newsletters.
- Staff Updates
 - The News Service of Florida [honored](#) Kimberly G. Jackson as a 2024 Florida Impact Awards recipient.
 - Aron Bryce completed his Master of Science in Leadership with a concentration in Organizational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University and received the Leadership St. Pete Alumni Association Community Service Award.
 - Sam Jenkins completed the Nonprofit Leadership Center's Certificate in Leadership.
 - Student Fellows, Katie Algarin and Morgan Labita, helped lead SPC's MUN team that brought home many accolades from NMUN DC 2024.



Kindly follow us on:



Kimberly G. Jackson, Esq.
Executive Director
ISPS

Programs

January 29th, 2025 @ Poynter Institute (12:00 pm to 1:00 pm)

International Careers: Focus for the Future

In collaboration with St. Petersburg College's (SPC) Model United Nations (MUN) team, join ISPS as we educate the public on the importance of international opportunities in college and beyond. ISPS Student Fellow and SPC MUN team member, Katie Algarin, will serve as the moderator.

January 30th, 2025 @ Poynter Institute (5:30 pm to 8:00 pm)

Speaker Appreciation Gathering

ISPS enjoyed hosting past program speakers, who gave us their time and talent over the past five years.

February 26th, 2025 @ USF's Marshall Student Center - MSC 4100 (6:00 pm to 7:30 pm)

The Future of Florida's Transportation

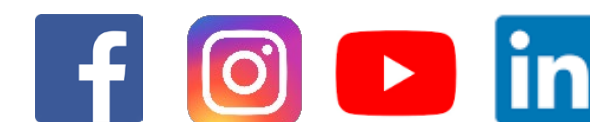
ISPS and our panel of experts, including Vickie Chachere (Event Moderator), Journalist and Communications Consultant, Wade Elliot, Senior VP of Marketing and Business Development, Port Tampa Bay, Jason Jackman, Senior Research Associate, Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida and Gina Dew, Government Relations Director, Tampa International Airport, will discuss Florida's infrastructure, emerging developments, and how it impacts our statewide workforce.

News

- Board of Directors Updates
 - ISPS will host a [quarterly](#) Board of Directors' meeting on February 10th.
 - The various working committees of the board will host their quarterly meetings the week prior on February 3rd.
 - Brett Bina was a panelist at a Titan Investors' event in Tampa.
- Team Updates
 - ISPS published its [2024 End of the Year Report](#).
 - The ISPS Team presented to the University of South Florida's International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Student Chapter.
 - Sasha Hossain joined the ISPS team, our 5th Student Fellow.
- Staff Updates
 - Lily Shores and Sasha Hossain were accepted into The Washington Center Academic Internship for Summer 2025.
 - Michael Ballard is a recipient of the Florida Senate scholarship with SPC.
 - Sam Jenkins attended SPC's Grant Writing Workshop.



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Executive Director
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March Report for Spring 2025 ~

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC
POLICY SOLUTIONS

Programs

March 4th, 2025 @ Miami-Dade College West Campus, Room 1109 (10:00 am to 11:30am)

Everglades: Past, Present, & Future

Join us for an engaging panel discussion exploring the rich history, current challenges, and promising future of the Florida Everglades. This session will examine the critical role the Everglades play in Florida’s ecosystem, the successes and setbacks of restoration efforts, and the ongoing strategies to preserve this unique natural treasure.

March 5th, 2025 @ SPC Gibbs Campus (10:00 am to 11:30am)

Listening to Kids with Judge Irene Sullivan

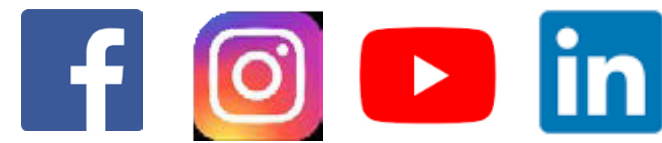
In partnership with the St. Petersburg and Clearwater Bar Associations, the program will focus on therapeutic justice in lieu of litigation while highlighting diversion, rehabilitation and foster kids issues.

News

- Board of Directors Updates
 - ISPS will host a [quarterly](#) Board of Directors’ meeting on
 - The various working committees of the board will host their quarterly meetings the week prior on
 - Jeff Johnson And Tom resign
 - Tampa Magazine: InterView: Nikki Gaskin-Capehart <https://www.pcul.org/pcul-articles/tampa-magazine-interview-nikki-gaskin-capehart>
- Team Updates
 - Attended the Joing Delegation Meeting
 - Economic Partnership with Patrick Luce
- Staff Updates
 - recommended a paid position Summer Fellowship Position by the Florida Council of 100



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April Report for Spring 2025 ~

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC
POLICY SOLUTIONS

Programs

April 24th, 2025 @ Madeira Beach City Hall (5:30 pm to 7:00pm)

State of the Beaches: Mayors' Town Hall

ISPS and the Pinellas Beaches Chamber will host a conversation about the state on the beaches with several beach mayors. Each mayor will have the opportunity to share what is happening in their respective cities.

April 25th, 2025 @ Gandy Beach (9:00 am to 11:30am)

Third Annual Earth Week Beach Clean Up

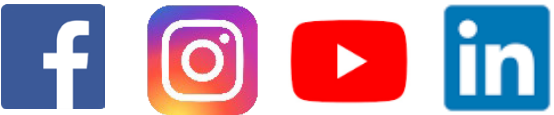
Join ISPS in partnership with Keep Pinellas Beautiful (KPB) at Gandy Beach to keep our beaches clean! This is a great opportunity for students seeking volunteer hours for scholarships and citizens of Tampa Bay seeking to make a positive impact in their communities.

News

- Board of Directors Updates
 - ISPS will host a [quarterly](#) Board of Directors’ meeting on May 12th, 2025.
 - The various working committees of the board will host their quarterly meetings the week prior on May 5th, 2025
- Team Updates
 - ISPS published its [March](#) newsletter.
 - SPC’s Model United Nations (MUN) Team won five awards at MUN Italia. Student Fellow Katelyn Algarin was the Head delegate for France in NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). ISPS is proud to support Model UN.
 - ISPS is producing a Student-led Conference on cybersecurity, in partnership with Alex Jordan, the Director of Operations, Emergency Management, Safety and Security with the Florida College System Chancellor’s office. We have hosted two introductory sessions with colleges from around the state.
 - ISPS is preparing for the annual audit of the 24-25 Fiscal Year.
 - ISPS is planning for the 25-26 Year, including programming engaging with the Florida College System.
- Staff Updates
 - Executive Director Kimberly Jackson and Associate Director Sam Jenkins appeared on Radio St. Pete to promote the two beach programs.
 - Michael Ballard shadowed the organizing committee at the University of Florida’s Future of Florida Summit. Thank you to the Bob Graham Center at the University of Florida for their support with the conference.



Kindly follow us on:



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Executive Director
ISPS



May Report for Summer 2025 ~

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC
POLICY SOLUTIONS

Programs

April 24th, 2025 @ Madeira Beach City Hall (5:30 pm to 7:00pm)

State of the Beaches: Mayors' Town Hall

ISPS and the Pinellas Beaches Chamber hosted 100 people (virtually and in person) for the 3rd state of the beaches conversation. It was featured in [FOX-13 – Tampa Bay](#), [WFLA News Channel 8](#), [Spectrum Bay News 9](#), [St. Pete Catalyst](#), [Radio St. Pete](#), [Tampa Bay Business & Wealth](#), [The Gabber Newspaper](#), [The St. Pete-Clearwater Sun](#), [I Love the Burg](#), [Tampa Bay Times](#), and [Tampa Bay Newspapers](#).

April 25th, 2025 @ Gandy Beach (9:00 am to 11:30am)

Third Annual Earth Week Beach Clean Up

Over 150 people joined the cleanup with ISPS and Keep Pinellas Beautiful at Gandy Beach. Volunteers picked up over 700 pounds of trash. Thank you to RBC Wealth Management for their sponsorship of the program.

July 10-11th, 2025 @ SPC Seminole Campus

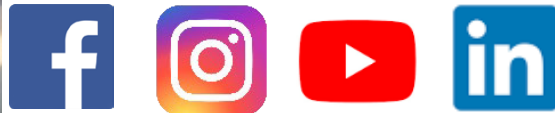
Student Conference

The Inaugural Student Conference offers a unique opportunity for students across the state to gain valuable leadership experience, connect with subject-matter experts, and expand their professional networks. Student-led and student-run, the conference will be hosted by the Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions (ISPS) at St. Petersburg College, for the benefit of the Florida College System.

News

- Board of Directors Updates
 - ISPS will host a [quarterly](#) Board of Directors’ meeting on August 11th, 2025.
 - The various working committees of the board will host their quarterly meetings the week prior on August 4th, 2025
 - The Board approved a budget amendment for an OPS Career Level 3 Senior Administrative Services Assistant position.
- Team Updates
 - ISPS published its [April](#) newsletter.
 - ISPS onboarded three new student fellows for the summer term: Paul Tamayo, Richard Bladykas, Helena Panuthos. Michael Ballard and Morgan Labita are staying on the team as well.
 - ISPS is moving into Thrive DTSP, a collaborative coworking office space.
- Staff Updates
 - Michael Ballard was awarded the most outstanding student in the Public Policy & Administration program.

Kindly follow us on:



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Executive Director
ISPS



June Report for Summer 2025 ~

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC
POLICY SOLUTIONS

Programs

July 10-11th, 2025 @ SPC Seminole Campus

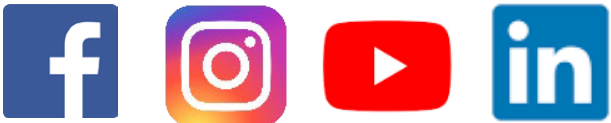
Student Conference

The Inaugural Student Conference offers a unique opportunity for students across the state to gain valuable leadership experience, connect with subject-matter experts, and expand their professional networks. Student-led and student-run, the conference will be hosted by the Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions (ISPS) at St. Petersburg College, for the benefit of the Florida College System.

News

- Board of Directors Updates
 - ISPS will host a [quarterly](#) Board of Directors’ meeting on August 11th, 2025.
 - The various working committees of the board will host their quarterly meetings the week prior on August 4th, 2025
- Team Updates
 - ISPS published its [May](#) newsletter.
 - ISPS is in the process of finalizing the audit.
 - ISPS launched the [Economic Fellows Blog](#) on the website with Principal Economists, Jeremy Bess and Patrick Luce.
 - The Spring ISPS Mentorship Cohort highlighted the meaningful connections and progress between Dr. Tom Furlong and Kaitlyn Doukas, as well as Jeff Johnson and Odell August, demonstrating the program’s continued impact on fostering leadership and professional growth.
 - Aron Bryce, Statewide Coordinator, and Matthew Lee, Communications Coordinator, will attend the Florida Chamber’s 2025 Florida Learners to Earners Workforce Solution Summit.
- Staff Updates
 - Michael Ballard, Student Fellow, was selected as the recipient of the Summer 2025 Honorable Senator Donald Sullivan scholarship.

Kindly follow us on:



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Executive Director
ISPS



August Report for Fall 2025 ~

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC POLICY SOLUTIONS

Programs

July 10-11th, 2025 @ SPC Seminole Campus

Student Conference

ISPS hosted the Inaugural Student Cybersecurity Conference. Students across the state gained valuable leadership experience, connected with subject-matter experts, and expanded their professional networks. Student-led and student-run, we are proud of the ISPS Fellows, who took the lead organizing the event. It was a successful outreach across the Florida College System. A photo album of the Thursday night reception can be found [here](#), along with a LinkedIn [album](#) across the conference. More media is expected as well.

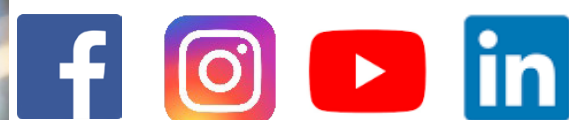
By the numbers:

- 11 out of the 28 Florida colleges were represented
- 35 students attended
- 25 staff and faculty leads attended
- 15 speakers and judges participated

News

- Board of Directors Updates
 - ISPS will host a [quarterly](#) Board of Directors’ meeting on August 11th, 2025.
 - The various working committees of the board will host their quarterly meetings the week prior on August 4th, 2025
- Team Updates
 - ISPS published its [June](#) newsletter.
 - ISPS received a clean audit for the 24-25 Fiscal Year.
 - Jaque Fields, an SPC student in the Paralegal Studies Program, joined the ISPS Team as a Student Fellow. We are grateful to all the students in the 2025 Summer Fellows Cohort.
- Staff Updates
 - Aron Bryce, Statewide Coordinator, wrote a [blog post](#) for the Leadership St. Pete Alumni Association.
 - Michael Ballard, Student Fellow, was announced as the Vice President of the newly established National Society of Leadership and Success chapter.

Kindly follow us on:



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September Report for Fall 2025 ~

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC POLICY SOLUTIONS

Programs

September 19th, 2025 @ State College of Florida - Lakewood Ranch Campus (1:00 pm to 2:00 pm)

The Nursing Workforce Dilemma in Florida – Part II: From Classroom to Career

In partnership with State College of Florida, join the Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions for an insightful panel discussion on the future of nursing in Florida. This timely program will bring together leading voices in nursing education, healthcare administration, and workforce policy to explore current challenges and innovative solutions in the nursing profession.

September 25th, 2025 @ Florida State College at Jacksonville - Jacksonville Downtown Campus, Room 140 (1:00 pm to 2:00 pm)

Driving the Future: The Rise of Autonomous Vehicles in Florida

Engage with the Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions for a forward-looking panel discussion on how Florida is preparing the workforce for the fast-emerging autonomous vehicle (AV) industry. As driverless technology transforms transportation, logistics, and public infrastructure, Florida’s colleges are playing a vital role in equipping students with the skills and training needed to thrive in this rapidly changing field.

News

- Board of Directors Updates
 - ISPS will host a [quarterly](#) Board of Directors’ meeting on November 3rd, 2025.
 - The various working committees of the board will host their quarterly meetings the week prior on October 27th, 2025.
 - Valerie Lavin was selected again as a member of the 2025 Titan 100 group, Tampa Bay’s Top 100 CEOs and C-Suite Executives.
- Team Updates
 - ISPS published its [July](#) newsletter.
 - Michael Ballard was recommended for hire for the OPS Senior Administrative Assistant position on the ISPS Team.
 - Sam Jenkins, Associate Director, and ISPS were featured in a St. Petersburg Foundation [report](#) about the St. Pete Catalyst Impact Council.
 - Michael Ballard, Student Fellow and Chair of the Inaugural Student-led Cybersecurity Conference, was [published](#) in the St. Pete Catalyst about the conference.
- Staff Updates
 - Michael Ballard was nominated as a finalist to receive the Florence Coles Ballenger Endowed Scholarship for the Fall Semester at SPC.

Kindly follow us on:



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Executive Director
ISPS



October Report for Fall 2025 ~

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC
POLICY SOLUTIONS

Programs

October 7th, 2025 @ SPC Tarpon Springs Campus - Chris Sprowls Workforce Innovation Hub (11:00 am to 12:00 pm)

Advancing Workforce with 3D Printing

Experts from various industries will explore the latest advancements, challenges, and opportunities in 3D printing technology. This session will cover its impact on manufacturing, education, and beyond, providing insights into how this transformative technology shapes the world. Don't miss the chance to gain valuable knowledge and engage with thought leaders in this cutting-edge field!

October 10th, 2025 @ SPC Gibbs Campus – Student Success Building (12:00 pm to 3:00 pm)

Veteran Benefits with Stetson University

In partnership with Stetson University and Beverly Young, we are proud to host a veterans support program to them access benefit resource information.

News

- Board of Directors Updates
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 - The various working committees of the board will host their quarterly meetings the week prior on October 27th, 2025.
- Team Updates
 - ISPS published its [August](#) newsletter.
 - ISPS will apply for the [Tampa Bay Lighting Foundation Community Hero Nonprofit Grant](#).
 - The ISPS team will be traveling across the state to attend the preliminaries of participating colleges in the Grand Debate, including St. Petersburg College, Hillsborough College, Eastern Florida State College, Palm Bach State College and Daytona State College.
 - In partnership with Josh Humphries, ISPS will host “Civics in Action: The Florida Forum,” a student-centered public affairs series spotlighting Florida’s government leaders and the institutions that shape daily life across the state with the Grand Debate student finalists.
 - In partnership with Dean Hernandez-Agosto and the City of Clearwater, ISPS will host a program on the state of small business in Florida to network and educate small business owners.



Kindly follow us on:



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ISPS



November Report for Fall 2025 ~

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC
POLICY SOLUTIONS

Programs

November 6th, 2025 @ SPC Seminole Campus - Digitorium (5:30 pm to 7:00 pm)

2025 Grand Debate

ISPS hosted its fourth annual Grand Debate at the St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus, bringing together students from across the Florida College System—including St. Petersburg College, Daytona State College, Eastern Florida State College, Palm Beach State College, and Hillsborough Community College. During the event orientation, students heard from Pinellas County Commissioner Kathleen Peters. The students then took the stage with Eastern Florida State College taking first place, St. Petersburg College earning second, and Daytona State College placing third. To conclude the event, students enjoyed a dolphin cruise around John’s Pass on Friday.

News

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 - ISPS hosted a [quarterly](#) Board of Directors' meeting on November 3rd, 2025.
 - The various working committees of the board hosted their quarterly meetings the week prior on October 27th, 2025.
- Team Updates
 - ISPS published its October newsletter.
 - From October 26, 2025 - November 8, 2025, our website reached 1,730 Total Page views.
 - The ISPS team [traveled](#) across the state to attend the preliminaries of participating colleges in the Grand Debate, including St. Petersburg College, Hillsborough College, Eastern Florida State College, Palm Bach State College and Daytona State College.
 - In partnership with Josh Humphries, ISPS hosted “[The Florida Forum](#),” a student-centered (Grand Debate cohort focused) public affairs series spotlighting Florida’s government leaders and the institutions that shape daily life across the state with the Grand Debate student finalists. In the first iteration, we hosted Rachael Bonlarron, Comcast’s Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs, and Melissa McKinlay, WGI’s vice president for government relations, to talk about county government.



Kindly follow us on:



Kimberly G. Jackson, Esq.
Executive Director
ISPS

COMPLIANCE - STATE AND INSURANCE FILINGS

Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions, Inc.
Compliance Reporting Requirements
Fiscal Year End March 31, 2026

2025 State Reporting

Department	Document	Due Date	Frequency	Purpose
FL Dept of Revenue	Certificate of Tax Exemption	2028	5-year term	Exemption from Sales Tax
FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Annual Application	March 12, 2026	Annually	Solicitation of Contributions
FL Dept of Corportations	Annual Report	May 1, 2026	Annually	Registration of Corporate entity
FL Dept of Financial Services	Public Depositor Annual Report	#####	Annually	Funds deposited in a qualified bank

2025 State Insurance Coverages

Carrier	Policy	Period	Frequency	Purpose
Arthur J Gallagher Risk Management	Directors & Officers Insurance	06.07.25 - 06.07.26	Annually	Directors & Officers Insurance
US Liability Insurance Company	Liability Insurance	11.03.25 - 11.03.26	Annually	Liability Insurance

Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions, Inc.
Donations & Receipts
Fiscal Year April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

Account	Date	Type	Name	Memo/Description	Program	Amount
444100 Donations	5/7/2025	Deposit	Nikki Gaskin Capehart	Donation	General Donation	200.00
444100 Donations	12/19/2025	Deposit	Ida Lewenstein	Donation	General Donation	500.00
Subtotal						700.00
485000 Conference/Event Sponsorships	5/7/2025	Deposit	RCB Capital markets	Sponser Beach Clean-Up 04/25/2025	Beach Clean-Up	2,000.00
485000 Conference/Event Sponsorships	9/9/2025	Deposit	Sembler Company	TOP Jewish Foundation (Sembler	Grand Debate	2,000.00
485000 Conference/Event Sponsorships	9/16/2025	Deposit	Orlando Health (Bari Becker)	Sponser Nursing Workforce 09/19/25	Nursing Workforce	1,500.00
485000 Conference/Event Sponsorships	10/9/2025	Deposit	Rays Foundation (Devin O'Connell)	Rays Foundation	Grand Debate	1,000.00
485000 Conference/Event Sponsorships	12/9/2025	Deposit	Duke Energy Corp (Jeff Baker)	Duke Energy Corporation	Grand Debate	10,000.00
Subtotal						16,500.00
442400 In-kind donations	3/31/2026	In-Kind	Cambria Hotel	Two-Night Stay	Grand Debate	385.00
442400 In-kind donations	3/31/2026	In-Kind	Hubbards Marina	Dolphin Watch Cruise	Grand Debate	450.00
442400 In-kind donations	3/31/2026	In-Kind	SPC	In-Kind Facilities	General Donation	8,829.28
Subtotal						9,664.28
Grand Total						26,864.28
Fundingraising Goal						15,000.00
Excess over Goal						11,864.28



INTERNATIONAL CAREERS FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE

Wednesday, January 29th, 2025 | 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Poynter Institute | 801 Third St. South St. Petersburg, Florida 33701



NORA AVDULLAHU

Project Manager,
Abt Global



CHRISTOPHER KIYASEH

Irregular Threats Analyst,
C4ADS



FANA HALIESELESSIE

US Diplomat,
Department of State



MAYA HADLEY

M.A. Candidate and Public Service Fellow,
John Hopkins School of Advanced
International Studies



THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA'S TRANSPORTATION

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Wednesday, February 26th, 2025 | 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

USF Marshall Student Center, Room MSC 2500 | 4103 USF Cedar Cir, Tampa, FL 33620



VICKIE CHACHERE Event Moderator
Journalist and Communications Consultant



JOSE DE JESUS
Director of Engineering
Port Tampa Bay



JASON JACKMAN
Senior Research Associate
Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)



BEAU ZIMMER
Communications Manager
Tampa International Airport



EVERGLADES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 | 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Miami Dade College West Campus | 3800 NW 115th Ave. Doral, FL 33178

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Co-Moderator

KIMBERLY G. JACKSON, ESQ.

Executive Director
Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions



Co-Moderator

MARK CHIAPPONE

Associate Senior Professor
Miami Dade College



DR. PAUL HINDSLEY

Chief Economist
The Everglades Foundation



DR. TODD CROWL

Professor; Director, Institute of Environment
Florida International University (FIU)



JIM MURLEY

Former Chief Resilience Officer
Miami-Dade County

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





2025 STATE OF THE BEACHES MAYOR'S TOWN HALL

Thursday, April 24th, 2025 | 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Madeira Beach City Hall | 300 Municipal Dr, Madeira Beach, FL 33708

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Event Moderator
AL RUECHEL
Former Spectrum Bay News 9 News Anchor



JOHN DOCTOR
Mayor of Treasure Island



ANNE-MARIE BROOKS
Mayor of Madeira Beach



DIANTHA SCHEAR
Mayor of Indian Shores



TIM THOMPSON
Vice Mayor of Redington Beach



KAREN LOVE
Mayor of Gulfport



THIRD ANNUAL EARTH WEEK BEACH CLEAN UP

Friday, April 25th, 2025 | 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Gandy Beach | 1 Gandy Blvd North, St. Petersburg Florida, 33702

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NURSING WORKFORCE DILEMMA IN FLORIDA PART II: FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

 **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH**

 **SCF LAKEWOOD RANCH CAMPUS**



Moderator
DR. TAMMY SAWMELLE
Dean of Nursing
State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota



DR. LOUISANA LOUIS
Chair of the Board of Directors
Florida Center for Nursing



JUDY YOUNG
Chief Nursing Officer
Manatee Memorial Hospital



STEPHANNIE SHARP
Director of Nursing Operations
Orland Health - Bayfront Hospital



DRIVING THE FUTURE: THE RISE OF AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES IN FLORIDA



1:00 PM - 2:00 PM



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH



FSCJ DOWNTOWN CAMPUS



Moderator

DR. DOUGLAS BRAUER

Dean of Engineering
Florida State College at Jacksonville



DR. SANDY BEAUMONT

Senior Manager - Recruitment
Workforce & Development
Jacksonville Transit Authority



PAUL SOAR

Professor of Engineering Technology
Florida State College at Jacksonville



MARK REID

Co-Founder & SVP of Public Affairs
Beep, Inc.

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE



INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC POLICY SOLUTIONS

ENHANCE. EDUCATE. ENGAGE.

ADVANCING WORKFORCE IN 3D PRINTING



11:00 AM - 12:00 PM



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH



CHRIS SPROWLS WORKFORCE INNOVATION HUB



Moderator

CHAD MAIRN

Innovation Lab, Professor
St. Petersburg College



DAVID YOCUM

Director of Operations
FloridaFutureFactory



TIMOTHY WIDMANN

Innovation Hub Coordinator
St. Petersburg College



FLORIDA FORUM: WHY COUNTIES MATTER

 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

 **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH**

 **VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE ON ZOOM**



Moderator
JOSH HUMPHRIES
Grand Debate Facilitator
Friend of ISPS



RACHAEL BONLARRON
Director of Government & Regulatory
Affairs
Comcast



MELISSA MCKINLAY
Vice President for Government
Relations
WGI, Inc.

GRAND DEBATE



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The logo for the Tampa Bay Rays, featuring the word "RAYS" in a large, blue, stylized font with a yellow star above the "Y".

The logo for the Tampa Bay Rowdies, featuring the word "ROWDIES" in a large, green, stylized font with two yellow stars above it.

The logo for Sembler, featuring a red and white stylized "S" followed by the word "SEMBLER" in a large, bold, red font.

The logo for Duke Energy, featuring a blue and green stylized "D" followed by the words "DUKE ENERGY" in a large, bold, blue font.