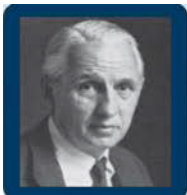


History at a Glance

1960s

Country Forum

The Institute on Man and Science was officially founded in 1963 with Everett Clinchy serving as founding president.



Notable figures come to Rensselaerville including United Nations Secretary General U Thant, ambassadors to the United Nations, plus experts on space, science, history, philosophy, medicine, and current social issues.

1970s

Community Renewal

The dedication of the Guggenheim Pavilion in 1971 included an extraordinary program called "The Trial of Technology."

A 1972 "Man in the Media" program featured three influential women Lenore Hershey, Duncan McDonald and actress Geraldine Fitzgerald.



Issac Asimov began his long relationship with The Institute as a stand-in for someone else who could not make it in 1972. The early affinity led to 18 years of summer programs at The Institute that became known as "Asimovia." As one of the most prolific writers of all time, Issac had a lot of ideas and knowledge to share with people who came each summer. The thinking generated there often led to new ideas for action by The Institute.

Hal Williams was named president of The Institute in 1972. Hal's focus was to stop talking about problems and start tackling them. Hal put into practice many of the ideas generated by The Institutes' early programs.

In 1973, the *New York Times* advertised the sale of a dying company town called Stump Creek in Western Pennsylvania. The Institute purchased the town in which 90 of the 100 homes didn't have indoor plumbing. The Institute engaged the citizens and worked alongside them as they rebuilt homes and created a vital water source.



In 1977, following the successful Stump Creek demonstration project, The Institute purchased and facilitated self-help rehabilitation efforts in a second dying town—Corbett, NY.



1980s Self Help

The Institute's work in showing other people how to help themselves led to the development of the Small Town Environmental Program (STEP) and an increased clarity about the individuals who spark change: Sparkplugs.

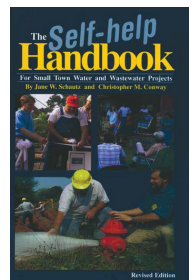
The Institute forged a partnership with Ross Swimmer, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation that resulted in 25 new homes for residents of Bell, OK, and a 16-mile water line that was completed with volunteer Cherokee labor. It was the largest public works project in modern times and laid the groundwork for an additional 100 miles of lines — proving the sustainability and durability of the self-help approach.



The work with small towns and the notions around self-help and self-reliance led to the moniker “The think tank with muddy boots” which was conferred on The Institute by *The Wall Street Journal*.

In 1983, The Institute on Man and Science officially changed its name to The Rensselaerville Institute.

In 1986, The Institute published *The Self-Help Handbook* written by STEP director Jane Schautz. This book has become the bible for community self-help projects across the US. STEP received three national environmental awards from Renew America — one in 1990 for Drinking Water Improvement, another in 1996 for Improved Public Health and in 2000 for Environmental Sustainability.



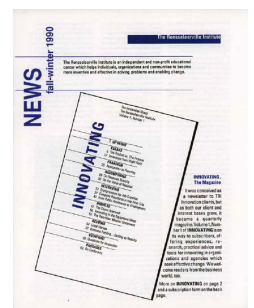
1990s

Innovation & Outcome Funding

The Institute's self-help projects led it to apply its thinking elsewhere, improving results of communities and organizations.

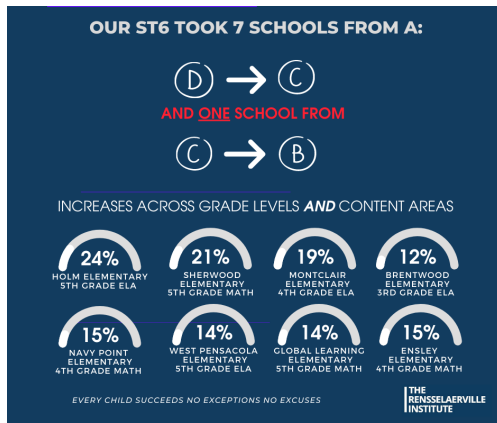
In 1991, Arthur Webb, Bill Phillips, and Hal Williams published the book *Outcome Funding. A New Approach to Targeted Grantmaking* — a guide to help grant makers become investors achieving results.

In 1990, The Institute created a quarterly journal called *INNOVATING* with articles focused on change for Human Gain. *INNOVATING* had instant readership from people who had long asked for The Institute to put to writing the practices and thinking that drove success on the ground.



2020s Pandemic Response

During the COVID-19 pandemic The Institute innovated to help clients succeed. Between 2019-2020 over 3,500 students benefited from the School Turnaround program, including 500 who attended virtually. Principals met their leadership targets and over 100 teachers received extensive professional development. Moreover, the Community Sparkplugs initiative supported over 1,100 children through seven projects in Renton, WA, and New Haven, CT.



In 2023, The Institute is back in Hawaii, working with a new group of leaders to continue its mission of increasing student achievement.

Between 2018-2023 The Institute became an External Operator for three schools in Pensacola, FL. Seven schools from the same district participated in School Turnaround, moving off the state's watch list.

In 2020, Mildred Toliver became the president of The Rensselaerville Institute.

In 2019-2023, The Peter & Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation teamed with The Institute to assist schools and communities in Hartford and New Haven, CT.

In 2020-2022, the Kellogg Foundation partnered to support School Turnaround in Lowndes County, AL.

In 2022, The Beard Foundation sponsored an Accelerated Leadership program for 10 start-up non-profit organizations led by The Institute.