



The **INSTITUTE** for
Public Policy & Economic Development

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From the Executive Director:

2009 Indicators Report & Forum

The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development (the “Institute”) is pleased to announce that its 2009 Lackawanna/Luzerne Counties Indicators Report will be released at our annual forum on Thursday, May 14th. The event will take place at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, from 8 a.m. until noon. Breakfast will be served.

This is the Institute’s fourth year of releasing its Indicators Report. Included in the 2009 edition will be additional indicators including, among others: gross domestic product, export transactions, employees and payroll, PSSAs, drop out rate, classrooms of the future, sales tax generation, and additional crime and social service indicators.

The event will feature the reports release and will highlight key indicators; Task Force chairs will present reports on the progress each made in the prior year; and a panel of County Commissioners from Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties will provide insight on the report’s findings. A question and answer session will follow.

Each attendee will be provided with the 2009 Indicators Report.

To register for the event, visit www.institutepa.org or complete the registration form included in this newsletter.

At the first Indicators Forum in 2006, four tasks were formed from the visioning and planning session, the housing task force completed one of their short term goals in the fall of 2008 — The Housing Education Website.

Updates to the housing education website are made on a regular basis. Participation in the blog is also welcome: <http://www.nepahousing.org> . Submit education articles to doddo@institutepa.org .

The **INSTITUTE** for
Public Policy & Economic Development

*A partnership among Keystone College, King's College, Luzerne County Community College,
Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Wilkes-Barre,
University of Scranton, & Wilkes University*

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009

2009 Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicators Report & Regional Forum

Price: \$50 [On-site: \$55] **Time:** 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
(registration begins at 8:00 AM)

Location: Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Registration includes:
Breakfast
Indicators Presentation
Indicators Report (\$30 value)
Task Force Reports
County Commissioner Roundtable Discussion

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I would like to register for 2009 Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicators Regional Forum

Name: _____

Method of Payment (circle one):

Check American Express MasterCard Visa Discover

Company: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____
(as it appears on credit card)

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature : _____
(for credit card transaction)

Submit Registration Forms By:

Mail: The Institute- 7 South Main St., Suite 201 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 *T (570) 408-9850 F: (570) 408-9854
120 Wyoming Avenue, Third Floor, Scranton, PA 18503 *T:(570) 207-0340

Institute Updates

Housing Task Force Update

The Housing Task Force conducted its Housing Symposium on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at Quality Inn, in Pittston. The event was open to housing industry professionals, including: builders, developers, real estate professionals, and local government officials from Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. The event was attended by over 70 housing industry practitioners.

Dr. David Crowe, Chief Economist at the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), served as the event's keynote speaker. As chief economist, Dr. Crowe is responsible for NAHB's housing and economic trend forecasts, survey research and analysis of the home building industry and consumer preferences, as well as microeconomic analysis of government policies that affect housing.

Crowe highlighted current regional, state-wide and national housing trends. He provided insight on the housing marketing recovery, which he forecasts will turn around in 2010.

Additional presentations were made by Charlie Kasko, Chair of the Housing Task Force, who presented on new educational housing websites available to residents of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties; Jesse Ergott, Executive Director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Lackawanna County, who presented on foreclosure mitigation; and Joseph Terrana, President of the Luzerne County Housing Partnership, who presented on new homebuyer tax credits.

Institute Research

Lackawanna & Luzerne County Birth & Death Rates 1990-2007

This recently released research summarizes total annual births and deaths in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The report examines difference in births and deaths by gender and some racial/ethnic categories. While the report shows that there were more deaths than births in the time period examined, the region's death rate is declining and its birth rate is increasing. The Institute will prepare a comparison of birth-death rates against net migration to determine true population changes (Summer '09).

NEPA Factbook

This informative book summarizes Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' many attributes and opportunities. The Factbook highlights living, working, playing, and learning in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Recession Tracker

The Recession Tracker is a bi-monthly report covering the region's current economic indicators. In addition, each edition highlights responses from area residents to questions relating to specific indicators. The Institute envisions that by the end of 2009, the Recession Tracker will continue as one of its regular publications, and will be entitled, the "Economy Tracker." The first edition is available at: <http://www.institutepa.org/tracker>.

Scholarly News

Faculty Research Symposium

The Institute's Second Annual Faculty Research Symposium was held on Friday, April 3rd at Marywood University, in Scranton. The event was conducted by the Institute's Academic Advisory Council. Faculty of member institutions presented research on a number of diverse topics. In all, over 30 faculty members were involved.

Keynote speakers who presented during the luncheon included: Daniel Flynn, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Research, Tech Transfer, Economic Development & Graduate Studies at The Commonwealth Medical College; Loren D. Prescott, Jr., Dean of the Law School Planning Initiative at Wilkes University; Gregory K. Hunt, FAIA, Founding Dean of the new School of Architecture at Marywood University; Bernard Graham, Ph.D., Dean of the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy & Nursing at Wilkes University.

Thank you to all Academic Advisory Council members who helped plan this event. Proceedings from the symposium will be available in early summer on The Institute's website at www.institutepa.org/facultyresearch.

Intern Update

The Institute is currently recruiting students for the summer and fall 2009 semesters. Please contact Marla Doddo at doddo@institutepa.org for more information.

During the spring semester, the Institute attended several employment/ internship fairs to recruit students. Students of any major will be considered for these positions. Positions are available in both the Lackawanna County office located in Scranton, or the Luzerne County office located in Wilkes-Barre.



Pictured: Justin Winters, of Marywood University, and Emily Elms, of the University of Scranton

Our Mission

The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development (the "Institute") strives to assist in the revitalization communities through the utilization of our expertise and resources, including member universities, colleges, and their respective faculties and students.

The Institute serves as a resource and consultant for communities to develop more effective and efficient government, best practices, preparation of applied research, strategy development, and processes for implementation. Based on these efforts, the Institute develops models for replication by other municipalities confronting similar challenges.

Welcome New Advisory Board Members

The Institute is happy to announce that the following individuals will be joining its Advisory Board: Dr. Robert D'Alessandri, President and Dean, The Commonwealth Medical College, Brian Grove, Chesapeake Energy, Robert Luciani, Prudential Retirement Services, and Scott Weiland, Vice President, Chamber Operations, The Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

The Institute Advisory Board and Founder

William P. Montague Founder <i>Mark IV Industries</i>	Brian Grove <i>Chesapeake Energy</i>	Anne Munley, IHM, Ph.D. <i>Marywood University</i>
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