

The INSTITUTE for

Public Policy & Economic Development

at Wilkes University

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



Indicators Report and Task Force Work Update

The registration for our 2015 Indicators Forum is currently open and you can access the form at [this](#) site. Our seven task forces have been working on the following briefs or policy papers for the past year and the findings will be presented at the forum on May 21, 2015.

This year, our Education and Workforce Development Task Force is developing a policy position that comprehensive career readiness programs be implemented in PA school districts.

Our Planning, Land use, Transportation, and Infrastructure Task force is working to ascertain local officials' interests in developing sustainable practices and policies at the local government level.

The Housing Task Force prepared a brief on accessible housing that will include a supply and demand analysis comparing the stock of accessible affordable housing to the number of people who need it.

This year, our Health and Health Care Task Force is examining autism as a public health concern and public policy issue in NEPA.

Our Jobs, Economy, and Economic Development Task Force will describe the different ways to measure the economy while comparing and contrasting the different indicators for Lackawanna and Luzerne counties.

The Energy Task Force will discuss implementation of the energy economic development strategy and a brief on the natural gas pipeline infrastructure in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This year, the Public Safety Task Force is also working on implementation of an evidence based school enrichment program uncovered in 2012 research. SHINE (Schools and Homes in Education) is to improve student attendance, performance, education attainment, and reduce youth involvement in criminal activity.

We would like to thank our task force chairs, members and student interns for helping to make this year's community-based research interesting, informative, and critical to decision making in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

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**Committed to
research
and analysis
leading to
revitalization and sus-
tainability for private,
public, and non-profit
organizations**

Spring Interns 2015

The Institute would like to thank our Spring 2015 interns for all of their hard work throughout the semester. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Keystone College

Ha Kieu

Marywood University

Ali Alhamdan

Penn State—Wilkes-Barre

Brady Sutliff

King's College

David Forrest

Elizabeth Spicer

Robert Werner

Wilkes University

Eric Klemchak

James Messina

If you are interested in a competitive internship, please contact our Research Assistant Nimita Patel for eligibility criteria at patel@institutepepa.org or via phone at 570-408-9850 or visit our [Student Internships](#) website.

Polling Program

The Institute recently started a polling program where students from all of our nine institutions will be asked to complete opinion polls regarding topics that are relevant to the age group. For example, our first poll—assessing post-graduation plans for the students who are currently enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs at our member institutions. The responses will be analyzed and the findings will be published in late spring 2015. We intend to publish similar findings regarding topics that interest and directly or indirectly influence the student population.

Quarterly Economy Tracker

Our second Quarterly Economy Tracker was published in the for Winter 2014-2015 and it focuses on healthcare employment, immigration and impact on employment, municipal indicators, education, and occupation data. The Quarterly Economy Tracker—Spring 2015 will be published on our website by the end of March as well so look out for that and our earlier versions at this [link](#)!

Completed and On-Going Projects

Wyoming County— Preparation of an economic development strategy for both the Chamber and the County [as part of the County's 2015 Comprehensive Plan update].

Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance— Conduct various education and training needs assessments in Wayne and Pike County and synthesize results with demographic, workforce, economic development, occupations, and business composition to identify education and training opportunities at the secondary and post secondary or Wayne & Pike County residents and employers and to aid in business attraction.

Strategic Plan for Town of Bloomsburg— Completing the first phase of a downtown strategy for the Town of Bloomsburg. The client, Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc. (DBI) commissioned the first phase in February and the second and third phases are tentatively planned for the remainder of 2015.

Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry— GWBCBI commissioned The Institute to provide reports and data on the region's economy and workforce as part of the new members and benefits program.

Client List

Arts & Culture

Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Luzerne County Cultural Council

Corporate

Borton Lawson
Facility Design & Development, Ltd.
Transcontinental Pipeline Company, LLC
Ufberg Law
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins

Economic Development

Carbon County Chamber and Economic Development Corp.
Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc.
Forum for Pennsylvania's Heartland
Great Valley Technology Alliance
Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry
South Valley Partnership
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce

Education & Workforce Development

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
King's College
Lackawanna County Workforce Investment Board
Luzerne Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board
Wall Street West/WIRED
Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance
Wilkes University

Government

Appalachian Regional Commission

Borough of Factoryville

City of Nanticoke

City of Scranton

Civic Research Alliance

Columbia & Montour Counties

Lackawanna County

Local Government Commission

Luzerne County

Luzerne County Municipal Cooperation Commission

Wilkes-Barre City

Wyoming County

Health & Healthcare

Healthy Northeast Pennsylvania Initiative
Moses Taylor Hospital
The Commonwealth Medical College
The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education
Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

Non-Profit Organization

Arbor Housing & Development
Carbondale YMCA
Central Susquehanna Community Foundation
Jewish Community Center
Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation
Municipal Cooperation Commission
Nicholson Heritage Association
Pennsylvania Economy League
United way of Susquehanna County
United Way Wyoming Valley

The Institute prepares the following products:

- ⇒ Market and Feasibility Studies
 - ⇒ Indicators – Indexes
- ⇒ Community Health Assessments
 - ⇒ Housing & HUD AI Studies
- ⇒ Economic Development Strategies
- ⇒ Economic and Tax Impact Studies
 - ⇒ Industry Studies
 - ⇒ Workforce Studies
 - ⇒ Education Studies
- ⇒ Economic and Demographic Profiles
- ⇒ Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation Support
 - ⇒ Research Validation and Peer Review
 - ⇒ Site Selection Research
- ⇒ Stimulus Project Analyses and Monitoring
 - ⇒ Arts & Culture Studies
 - ⇒ Tourism Strategic Plans
 - ⇒ Comprehensive Plans
 - ⇒ Asset Maps

If you or your firm is interested in becoming our next client, please contact us at info@institutepea.org.

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**Locations in Scranton
& Wilkes-Barre, PA**

*Mailing address:
85 South Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701*

The Institute provides research, technical assistance, and facilitation and convening services to the private and public sector to develop:

- market and feasibility studies
- community/health assessments
- impact reports
- economic and community development plans
- strategy development planning and collaborative processes
- Industry studies
- social science research and survey design
- program and grant evaluations
- education and workforce studies
- tourism marketing plans

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www.institutepa.org

Staff:

Teri Ooms
Executive Director
ooms@institutepa.org

Andrew Chew
Research Analyst
chew@institutepa.org

Nimita Patel
Research Assistant
patel@institutepa.org

Heather Acker—Gentex Corporation
Richard Beasley
Thomas Botzman, Ph.D.—Misericordia University
Terry Casey—Chancellor Financial Group
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