

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



WINTER RECAP

In the fall of 2014, The Institute started a Polling Institute where students from all of our nine institutions will be asked to complete opinion polls regarding various topics throughout the year. Our first poll regarding post-graduation plans will be released in June. The Institute also worked with the **Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance** to conduct a regional education and training needs assessments in Wayne and Pike Counties. The research is helping to identify programming needed on the secondary, post secondary and continuing education levels by synthesizing individual and business needs with economic development priorities and existing programming. The Institute is also working with **Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc. (DBI)** develop a downtown strategy for the Town of Bloomsburg. The project, anticipate to be completed over nine months evaluates patterns and trends, needs and perceptions in order to develop strategic recommendations. **Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry** is relying on The Institute to provide labor market data and economic and business reports as part of their new member benefits program. The **Pennsylvania Economy League** is using The Institute for data analysis as part of their recovery plan coordination role for the city of Scranton.

Also during the past six months, The Institute has been facilitating and convening its seven task forces and their respective research and policy briefs for Indicators 2015.

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

Indicators Forum 2015—State Secretary John Hanger



John Hanger is the Secretary of Policy and Planning in Governor Tom Wolf's cabinet. Secretary Hanger also served as the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection from 2008-2011 for former Governor Edward G. Rendell and as a Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission from 1993-1998. He was the founding President of Penn Future, was special counsel at Eckert Seamans, and is a nationally recognized expert on environment, energy, gas drilling, and green economy issues.

Secretary Hanger has written leading utility and environmental regulatory decisions, enacted major environmental and utility rules, and played a pivotal role in writing and passing major legislation, such as Pennsylvania's 1996 Electricity Generation Competition and Customer Choice Act, the 2004 Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, the 2005 Growing Greener 2 legislation, the 2007 Net Metering statute, the 2008 Act 129 initiating major electricity conservation programs, the 2008 Act 70 requiring DEP to write a climate change action plan, the 2008 Alternative Fuels Act, the 2010 Recycling Fee extension, and others. Secretary Hanger has testified to the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, as well as many state legislatures. He has been interviewed hundreds of times by media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, CNN, NBC Evening News, CBS Evening News, and BBC.

Secretary Hanger's career has been rooted in public service starting with the Energy Project at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, where he became the appointed Public Advocate, representing 500,000 customers of the Philadelphia Gas Works and Philadelphia Water Department in rate cases and other proceedings. Mr. Hanger received his B.A. from Duke University in 1979 and his J.D. from University of Pennsylvania School of Law in 1984. He is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and before the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

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Spring 2015 Economy Tracker

Our Spring 2015 Quarterly Economy Tracker is now available online. It discusses higher education careers associated with lower unemployment in NEPA, the persistence of poverty issues in the region, the attainability of home ownership in the region, and workforce and economic indicators. The full version of our spring publication can be found at this [website](#). The Trackers Signature Underwriter is the Willary Foundation and the Contributing Underwriter is UGI Utilities.

Spring 2015 Interns

Thank you again to all our Spring interns from Keystone College, King's College, Marywood University, Penn State – Wilkes-Barre, and Wilkes University. If you are interested in a competitive internship, please contact our Research Assistant Nimita Patel for eligibility criteria at patel@institutepea.org or via phone at 570-408-9850 or visit our [Student Internships](#) website.

Who are we and what do we do?

The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development at Wilkes University (**The Institute**) provides a full range of customized and objective economic and demographic research services to businesses, government entities, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations. The Institute's extensive knowledge of regional economics and economic development, combined with a rigorous and strategic approach to research, have generated a wide range of experience conducting projects such as economic development strategies; economic impact studies; surveys and assessments; grant and program evaluation, market and feasibility analyses; industry and workforce studies; and economic and demographic profiles. The Institute supports the business community, government, and regional economic development programs by producing signature economic reports as well as providing data and analysis.

The Institute focuses on providing its clients with credible and objective research to help them make informed and strategic decisions.

The Institute staff has 29 years of combined experience in regional economic development. The organization's distinctive history and structure combines practical applications with the credibility and academic expertise of a higher education institution with an applied research focus. The organization is structured as a research institute affiliated with nine higher education institutions in northeastern Pennsylvania. Over the past 11 years, The Institute has emerged as a nationally-scoped research center having served clients in several states.

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

Client List

Arts & Culture

Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Luzerne County Cultural Council

Corporate

Borton Lawson
Facility Design & Development, Ltd.
Williams—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 Studies
- ⇒ Economic Development Strategies
- ⇒ Economic and Tax Impact Studies
 - ⇒ Industry Studies
 - ⇒ Workforce Studies
 - ⇒ Education Studies

- ⇒ Economic and Demographic Profiles
 - ⇒ Policy Analysis
- ⇒ Grant and Program Evaluation Support
- ⇒ Research Validation and Peer Review
 - ⇒ Site Selection Research
 - ⇒ Arts & Culture Studies
 - ⇒ Tourism Strategic Plans
 - ⇒ Comprehensive Plans
 - ⇒ Asset Maps

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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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