

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



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

NORTHEAST PA COLLEGE STUDENT POLLING PROJECT

In 2014, The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development launched a polling program where we will regularly poll students from our partnering higher education institutions. The purpose of our recently published poll was to ascertain the views and experiences of the college students of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The topics that were covered included class year, major, graduate school plans, internship experience, views toward finding a job after graduating, and views toward staying in Northeastern Pennsylvania after graduation. Here is what we discovered:

- ◆ Students have a high level of interest in internships and most undergraduate seniors have already completed an internship related to their field of study.
- ◆ Graduate degrees are extremely important to students, especially to students in Science, Mathematics, and Health Care.
- ◆ In general, students have moderate levels of job search anxiety, but graduate students and students in STEM fields have less anxiety.
- ◆ Respondents generally feel prepared for their careers by their education.
- ◆ Forty percent of the respondents do not plan to stay in the NEPA area to seek employment after graduation.

The full report can be found on our website at this [link](#). Our next poll will relate to the students views on politics and the upcoming presidential election.

Welcome Lackawanna College!



We would like to welcome Lackawanna College as our 10th member institution from northeastern Pennsylvania in our consortium of colleges and universities. This relationship will help build our internship program and expand our network. Lackawanna College President Mark Volk will now sit on our Advisory Board and students from the college will have the ability to take part in our internship opportunity.

Summer 2015 Interns



Picture (from left): Mansi Shah, Teri Ooms, Nimita Patel, Mary Ayegbusi, Andrew Chew

This summer, The Institute welcomed two students from the University of Maryland. Mansi Shah and Mary Ayegbusi of UMD—Baltimore County and UMD—College Park, respectively, completed full-time, non-credited internships throughout the summer semester. Their dedication and commitment to their work is commendable. Thank you Mary and Mansi for a great summer. If you are interested in our internship program, 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](#) page.

Summer 2015 Quarterly Economy Tracker

The Summer 2015 Quarterly Economy Tracker is now available on our website. The topics discussed in this publishing vary from the internet infrastructure in relation to economic growth, home health and personal care aides, regional tourism supporting nearly 12,000 jobs, urban downtown regions, and selected economic indicators. Here are some key points to take with you:

- ◆ The region's information infrastructure is adequate to handle the needs of most businesses.
- ◆ The highest projected employment growth within the health care industry from 2014 to 2024 will be along personal care and home health aides.
- ◆ In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the total annual payroll showed an increasing rate of growth from 2012 to 2013 indicating that establishments are hiring workers, paying existing employees higher wages, or giving hourly paid employees more working hours.
- ◆ By any measure, incomes in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are lower than in Pennsylvania as a whole.

The full quarterly economy tracker can be found at this [link](#).

Recap—2015 Indicators Forum & Task Force Research

The 2015 Indicators Forum and Task Force Presentations were held on May 21, 2015. The distributed report discussed various indicators including jobs and economy, education, technology and innovation, housing, social services, health and healthcare, civic engagement, government, public safety, environment, and infrastructure. The report identifies many strengths and weaknesses of this region. The full report can be found at this [link](#).

The task force reports were also reported and made available to the community after the Indicator's event. The Institute has seven task forces including Housing, Education and Workforce Development, Jobs, Economy, and Economic Development, Planning, Land use, Transportation, and Infrastructure, Health and Healthcare, Energy, and Public Safety. The topics and reports are available below:

- ◆ [A Demand Analysis of Accessible and Affordable Housing in Northeastern PA](#)
- ◆ [Comprehensive Career Development Policy](#)
- ◆ [Measuring the Local Economy](#)
- ◆ [Sustainable Community Survey & Community Toolkit on Sustainability](#)
- ◆ [An Analysis of Autism and Resources in Northeastern PA](#)
- ◆ [Energy Task Force & Pipeline Infrastructure](#)
- ◆ [Luzerne County SHINE Initiative](#)

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

Advisory Board

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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, PPL Electric (retired)
Thomas Botzman, Ph.D.—Misericordia University
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