

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

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Spring 2013



The 2013 Indicators Report and Forum

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Each year The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development publishes an Indicators Report. The Report is presented at the Annual Indicators Forum. This year marks the eighth annual Indicators Report and Forum. The event location alternates between venues in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. This year's event will be held on May 23, 2013 at Mohegan Sun Casino in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County.

The 2013 Indicators Report contains pertinent information about Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties including economic, demographic and public safety data. The Regional Dashboard, a recent addition to the report, provides a big picture view of what all this information means for the residents and business owners in the region. The report also includes a Marcellus Shale update, which summarizes Marcellus Shale drilling in the broader northeast region and looks at the economic opportunities that the industry brings.

In addition to the Indicators Report, each of our seven task forces provide an update of their work at the Forum each year. The task forces examine a variety of topics that are important to economic vitality in the region. An overview of the task forces' current work can be found on page two of this newsletter. Our task forces are:

Education and Workforce Development
Energy
Health and Health Care
Housing
Jobs, Economy and Economic Development
Planning, Land Use, Transportation and Infrastructure (PLuTI)
Public Safety

A registration form for the 8th Annual Indicators Forum can be found on page five of this newsletter. The form can be faxed (408-9854), mailed or e-mailed. Please send registration questions to Kate Wassel at Wassel@institutepa.org or call 408.9850.

**Committed to
research
and analysis
leading to
economic
development in
Pennsylvania**

Community Based Research Sponsors

The Institute would like to extend a special thank you to our community based research sponsors. Without their generosity, the Indicators Report and Forum would not be possible.

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Mohegan Sun Casino at Pocono Downs

Overview of Current Task Force Work

Every year each of our seven task forces set a research agenda. Members, along with the staff of The Institute work together to produce white papers, issue briefs and policy statements on issues that are important to Northeastern Pennsylvania. Short summaries of current task force work are below.

Education and Workforce Development - The Institute's education task force has produced several white papers over the past few years and the group's long-term goal is to develop a Pre-K through 20 workforce development network to enhance career awareness and preparedness. This year's paper focuses on teacher evaluation.

Energy - The Institute's energy task force has sponsored a study aimed at business attraction, creation, and expansion in Lackawanna and Luzerne County utilizing the natural gas industry development in greater NEPA.

Health and Health Care - The health and health care task force, through its patient perception and outmigration studies, is supplying the industry with vital information.

Housing - The housing task force has developed a toolkit to assist communities in housing planning. The toolkit will be posted on www.nepahousing.org.

Jobs, Economy and Economic Development - This task force is studying whether the region suffers from cyclical or structural unemployment.

Planning, Land Use, Transportation and Infrastructure (PLuTI) - Our infrastructure task force (PLuTI) has worked on policy aimed at forming a regional transportation authority and infrastructure districts.

Public Safety - See Operation Gang Up on page 3.

Update - Operation Gang Up

In 2012, The Institute formed a public safety task force to serve as coordinators for Congressman Lou Barletta and State Senator John Yudichak's "Operation Gang Up" program. Operation Gang Up is regional initiative created to address the ongoing gang activity in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The initiative combines the expertise of key legislative, education, law enforcement and community leaders. Through this program, many efforts have been made to offer gang awareness training in our schools, community groups, and among law enforcement.

The Institute has also prepared white papers and briefs dealing with gang deterrence and white collar crimes. Additional research is underway. This work and links to other resources and program information can be found at:

www.operationgangup.com.

A Special Thank you

Please join us in saying farewell to Kate Wassel. Kate has served as The Institute's Research Assistant for the past two years. During that time, she coordinated the recruitment and hiring of interns, assisted with research and completed several administrative tasks for The Institute.

Kate will be working on her PhD in Public Administration and conducting research at the Local Governance Lab at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL.

We wish her success in her in her new endeavor!



Intern Update

The Institute would like to thank our Spring 2013 interns for all of their hard work throughout the semester. We wish them the best in all of their future endeavors! Our Spring 2013 interns:

Jenny Monge—Kings College
Ceili Jones—Penn State Wilkes-Barre
Roger Sporre—Penn State Wilkes-Barre
Rob Nelson —Keystone College
Van Nguyen—Keystone College

The Institute has internships available for the Summer/Fall 2013 semesters. Internships are available to students of any of our nine member institutions, who are in or entering their Senior year or are graduate students. Students of any academic major, with a 3.2 GPA or higher may apply.

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<https://twitter.com/TheInstitutePA>



Faculty Research Symposium

The sixth annual Faculty and Student Interdisciplinary Research Symposium was held on April 23, 2013 and hosted by The Commonwealth Medical College. The Symposium was sponsored by the Academic Advisory Council of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development.

The event proudly showcased more than twenty faculty members and students from Keystone College, Kings College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, The Commonwealth Medical College, University of Scranton, and Wilkes University who presented original research relevant through oral and poster presentations. Research topics included science, medical, education, social work, and healthcare.



Dr. Steven J. Scheinman, President and Dean of the Commonwealth Medical College, giving the opening remarks and touching on some of TCMC's current initiatives.



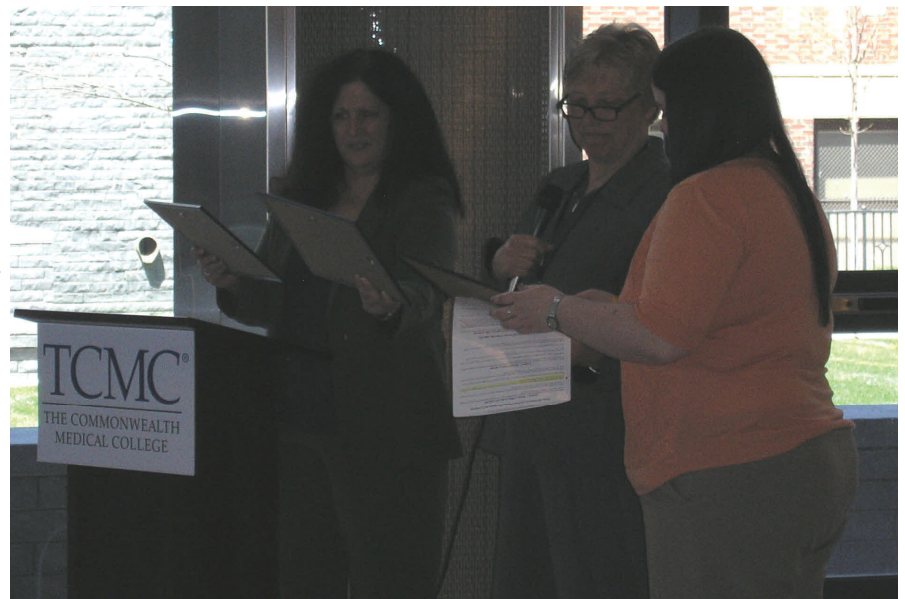
Dr. Raj Kumar (Center) receiving the Best Paper Award from Teri Ooms, Executive Director of The Institute (Left) and Dr. Maureen McLeod, Chairperson of the AAC (Right) of the Commonwealth Medical College.

Participants in the Symposium were given the option to be considered for a Best Paper Award and Best Student/Faculty Collaboration Award. The Institute's Academic Advisory Committee considered each of the candidates carefully. After much debate and discussion, the committee chose winners in each category. They chose Dr. Raj Kumar from The Commonwealth Medical College for the Best Paper Award. Dr. Kumar's research is titled, "A Novel Mechanism

of Steroid Hormone Receptor Action and its Therapeutic Implications in Endocrine Cancers."

The Best Student/Faculty Collaboration Award went to Dr. Christine Kessen, Dr. Kielty Turner and Shannon Collins from Marywood University. Their work was titled, "Mindfulness, Self-Compassion, and Empathy: A Study of Graduating MSW Students."

The Institute would like to thank The Commonwealth Medical College, Dr. Scheinman, Dr. McLeod, Rebecca Slangan, the Academic Advisory Council and all the participants for making the 2013 Symposium a success! An abstract of the event will be posted to The Institute's website in June.



Shannon Collins, Marywood University (Right) receiving the Best Student/Faculty Collaboration Award from Teri Ooms, Executive Director of The Institute (Left) and Dr. Maureen McLeod, Chairperson of the AAC (Center) of the Commonwealth Medical College.

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, The Commonwealth Medical College, University of Scranton, & Wilkes University

2013 Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicators Report & Regional Forum

MAY 23, 2013

Price: \$50 [On-site: \$55] **Time:** Registration Begins 8:30 am / Program 9:00 — 11:30 am

Location: Mohegan Sun Casino
Wilkes-Barre, PA

Registration includes:

Breakfast

Indicators Presentation

Indicators Report (\$30 value)

**Special Reports on Housing, Public Safety; Energy; Jobs and Economy;
Education; Health Care and**

Planning, Land Use, Transportation and Infrastructure

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I would like to register for 2013 Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicators Regional Forum

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(as it appears on credit card)

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Submit Registration Forms By: May 20, 2013

Fax: (570) 408-9854

Mail: The Institute- 7 South Main St., Suite 201 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

For inquiries, call 570.408.9850 and ask for Kate Wassel or wassel@institutepea.org

Please note: No refunds will be issued after May 1, 2013

Locations:

7 South Main Street,
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120 Wyoming Avenue,
Third Floor
Scranton, PA 18503
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info@institutepepa.org

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

- analyze components for regional prosperity
- create state and local government development strategies
- market studies
- feasibility studies
- impact reports

Research areas include:

- demographics
- economic development projects and planning
- community development
- education
- workforce development
- health and healthcare
- best practices
- innovation indicators
- economic indicators
- tourism and arts & culture

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