

# JOINT Urban Studies CENTER

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*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*

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Contact: Teri Ooms  
Joint Urban Studies Center  
570.408.9850  
[ooms@urbanstudies.org](mailto:ooms@urbanstudies.org)

## **JUSC to open office in downtown Scranton**

Since its inception in 2004, Joint Urban Studies Center (JUSC) has promoted planning and problem solving on a regional level. JUSC began as a higher education and business partnership focusing on Wilkes-Barre and eventually Luzerne County. However, its own research pointed to a strong economic interdependence between the two counties that indicated success could be achieved through increased collaboration and cooperation.

As a result, JUSC continued its research from a regional perspective, prepared the regional indicators report, and created the regional forum which debuted as a visioning, goal setting, and planning event. As a result, four regional task forces were formed to address: jobs, economy & economic development; education and workforce development; housing; land use, transportation, planning, and infrastructure. Increased participation from business, non-profits, foundations, and three Lackawanna County based higher education institutions in support of JUSC's efforts led to a more broad based program of work and interests. These key factors led to both a need and desire to have an office in Lackawanna County.

One of JUSC's board members, Tom Romanowski from GreenSpace Properties, LLC donated 900 square feet of space at 120 Wyoming Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor for JUSC to house staff, students, and meetings. The office is expected to open in November for staff and in January for students.

JUSC Chairman, Tim Gilmour, Ph.D., President of Wilkes University said, "this expansion is further demonstrates the commitment to work together across geographical and political boundaries to ensure the best opportunity for the region and its residents. There are many people in Lackawanna and Luzerne County who encouraged us and facilitated this kind of expansion, and we are very fortunate to have that kind of leadership in both the public and private sector in our area."

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7 South Main Street, Suite 201, Wilkes Barre, PA 18701 & 120 Wyoming Avenue, Third Floor, Scranton, PA 18503

570.408.9850 \* 570.408.9854 fax \* [www.urbanstudies.org](http://www.urbanstudies.org)

e:info@urbanstudies.org