

# The University of Scranton Becomes Partner in the Joint Urban Studies Center

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The University of Scranton is joining five other regional higher education institutions in supporting the Joint Urban Studies Center, a research partnership located in the Innovation Center in downtown Wilkes-Barre. Scranton joins Wilkes University, King's College, College Misericordia, Luzerne County Community College and Penn State Wilkes-Barre as partners in the Center, which began operation in July of 2004. The Center was established to assist in the revitalization of small- to mid-sized cities through the expertise and resources of its staff and its higher education partners and their respective faculties and students. It also serves as a resource for information and consultation on effective and efficient government, best practices, preparation of applied research, and strategy development and implementation. "The University of Scranton is pleased to support the Center's efforts to identify strategies and opportunities for regional revitalization," said Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., President of The University of Scranton. Dr. Tim Gilmour, Chairman of the Joint Urban Studies Center Advisory Board and President of Wilkes University states, "This is a great opportunity for all of us to work together to provide leadership in the region to help it address longstanding urban and economic development challenges and thrive in the years ahead." The Center is currently working on projects for clients in the Wilkes-Barre area and the region. One of the Center's goals is to assist communities, local chambers of commerce, educators and other non-profit organizations to address current issues while preparing for the future. Teri Ooms, Executive Director of the Center, noted that urban studies incorporates a study of all aspects of a community, city or region, including transportation, taxation, health care, housing, jobs, zoning, and community and economic development. "Our work encompasses a range of community issues from urban sprawl, population and immigration to quality of life, the arts, culture, and community image and design," she said.