

Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry – WBC Coordinator

WB Connect acts as an entrepreneurial ecosystem. It is a network that facilitates business growth, job creation and retention, and markets the area as an attractive home for expanding enterprises. Support services include training, mentoring, networking, technical assistance, and access to other resources. The Institute coordinates traffic through the program while monitoring (and reporting) data and qualitative content.

SHINE Carbon

The Institute chronicles the success of Carbon County's SHINE program, an after-school project that helps prepare children for achievement through homework support, school attendance, and overall academic performance. Administered by the Lehigh Carbon Community College, the effort improves reading fluency and comprehension, enhances knowledge of STEM subjects, and strengthens familial and community relationships.

SHINE Luzerne County

As part of Operation Gang Up research, which included data and gang profiler training and interviews, The Institute identified several initiatives that limit successful gang recruitment (which directly affects gangs' operation in communities). After exploring youth-focused and evidence-based programs across the country, The Institute found Lehigh Carbon Community College Carbon/Schuylkill SHINE. The SHINE program had over 10 years of data indicating success in the reduction of juvenile delinquency and enhancement of academic performance. The Institute recommended a similar launch in Luzerne County's most vulnerable districts, and developed a business action plan. Wilkes University agreed to act as academic host for the after-school program. Seven sites now serve hundreds of students. STEAM, summer activities, and family education are components of SHINE as well. The Institute provides research and data support, state and federal program reporting, and evaluative services.