



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

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News from The Institute

As the summer drew to a close The Institute completed another study on the impacts of Marcellus Shale in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. With funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission, and working with researchers from the Pennsylvania State University School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology published the study titled, *Baseline Socioeconomic Analysis for the Marcellus Shale Development in Pennsylvania.*

An assessment of the current social and economic conditions relating to gas well development in the Marcellus Shale formation in Pennsylvania was conducted with the goal of obtaining baseline data for future longitudinal assessment of subsequent community changes that occur in Appalachian counties. The study includes: 1) A Survey of Residents living in the Marcellus Region. A mail survey of a sample of households within selected Appalachian counties in the Marcellus Shale region in Pennsylvania was carried out to ascertain current views of residents concerning gas industry development in their areas and to obtain information about their perceptions of their communities. 2) Interviews with approximately 60 stakeholders from public, private, nonprofit, and institutions were conducted in Pennsylvania, Texas, and Arkansas to ascertain their perceptions of current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts associated with large scale natural gas development.

The study can be found on the web at: www.insitutepa.org/marcellus

In September, Wilkes University was notified of an award of \$1 million in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory. Wilkes is working with The Institute, King's College, and Earth Conservancy to establish the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research of Northeast Pennsylvania, a local energy institute that will focus on water testing, a clearinghouse of information, community outreach, and public policy. Specifically, The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development will provide research on public policy issues and other specialized research to augment its existing Marcellus Shale program.

One of the purposes of the energy institute is to help reduce the duplication of research and outreach efforts on drilling so that Northeastern Pennsylvania can learn about the impacts of such activities as quickly as possible, enabling the area to take advantage of drilling activities earlier as well. Specifically, the energy institute will work to aid with:

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Water resources research and development.

The energy institute will study water quality in Northeastern Pennsylvania to determine if natural gas drilling is impacting the local water supplies. It will also serve as an early warning system to minimize and manage any accidental release of frackwater or wastewater associated with drilling.

Community outreach and public education.

The energy institute will regularly host public forums, and focus groups with community leaders and local officials to address relevant issues regarding natural gas drilling. At public forums, it will provide a panel of experts to answer questions, help provide the most up-to-date information on natural gas drilling, and encourage public input. The energy institute will also work with The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development to develop policy analysis and statements about Marcellus Shale development and its impact on the area. The energy institute will make publications available to the public.

Information clearinghouse.

In the coming weeks, the energy institute will launch a website which will serve as a resource to Northeastern Pennsylvanians with a breadth of information about the effects of natural gas drilling, economic impact data, education and training opportunities, laws on development, visual images, and many other resources. It will also contain all data and research results of studies that the energy institute conducts.

**New look for The Institute's website
go to www.institutepa.org**

**SAVE THE DATE
2011 LACKAWANNA LUZERNE COUNTIES
INDICATOR FORUM**

Looking ahead to 2011, The Institute has chosen the date of May 21, 2011 for the annual forum. The event will take place in the conference center at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.

More information about the annual forum will be coming in the next newsletter.

**Frontier Communications and Wachovia
contribute to
The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development**

Frontier Communications and Wachovia/Wells Fargo Foundation have recently contributed to the Indicator Initiative of The Institute. Both organizations provided generous contributions which will help to continue the regional research and the task forces convened and facilitated by The Institute. Thank you to both Frontier and Wachovia/Wells Fargo Foundation for their generous support!

Check presentations with officials from each organization are shown below.



L to r: Marla Doddo, Teri Ooms, The Institute, Frank Joanlanne, Frontier Communications



L to r: David Shimshock, Vice President/ District Manager for the Wilkes-Barre region, Wachovia/Wells Fargo Foundation, Teri Ooms, The Institute, and Greg Collins, Community Bank President, NEPenn Region Wachovia/ Wells Fargo Foundation.

Scholarly Updates

Student Interns Fall 2010



L to r: Eric Stencovage, Kirk Riley

Fall 2010 interns hail from King's College and Marywood University. Our Wilkes-Barre office has Daniel Bonga, a senior majoring in Political Science and Psychology; Kirk Riley, a senior majoring in Political Science and Philosophy; and Eric Stencovage, a senior majoring in Political Science. All three students have been working on client based projects and indicators. They all bring expertise in statistics and data analysis.

Our Scranton office has Sneh Akruvala who is currently in the Masters in Gerontology program at the Marywood University.

All four students were chosen through The Institute's highly competitive process which requires candidates to submit a resume, interview, and provide writing samples and letters of recommendation. Students from any of The Institute's nine higher education partners are eligible to apply. No specific major is required for consideration in this program. For more information about internships contact Marla Doddo at doddo@institutepa.org.



Daniel Bonga



Sneh Akruvala

Information about internships may be found on the web at:

www.institutepa.org/internships

Fourth Annual Northeastern Pennsylvania Faculty Symposium

The Call for Proposals for the Fourth Annual Northeastern Pennsylvania Faculty Symposium was recently released. The symposium will take place on Friday, April 15, 2011, at the University of Scranton. Faculty representing The Institute's nine higher education partners can submit an abstract for consideration until February 15, 2011. Keynote speaker for this event will be, Peter W. Bardaglio, Ph.D., Senior Fellow Second Nature. Dr. Bardaglio will speak on the topic of Sustainability.

For more information on the criteria for submission and presentation contact, Marla Doddo at doddo@institutepa.org.

The Institute provides research, technical assistance, and facilitation and convening services to:

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

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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