



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

Volume 6 Issue 3

Spring 2010

**News from The Institute**

**Fifth Annual Indicators Event: Three Keynotes Announced**

Our annual Lackawanna Luzerne County Indicators Report will be released on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at a forum held at the Scranton Radisson. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. More details including a registration form for the event can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

This year we have invited three individuals as keynote speakers: Brian P. McGowan, Dr. David Crowe, and Kathryn Klaber (invited).

**McGowan is the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and Chief Operating Officer for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).** McGowan has economic development experience at all levels of government and created initiatives to support economic recovery in one of the world's largest economies – California.



Brian P. McGowan



Dr. David Crowe

**Crowe is the Chief Economist at the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)** will be keynote speaker at the symposium. Crowe's presentation will detail national, state, and regional housing outlooks.

**Klaber serves as the Marcellus Shale Coalition's (MSC) first President and Executive Director.** In this role, on behalf of the MSC member companies, she works closely with elected leaders, regulators and the civic community to realize the responsible development of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale geological formation and the enhancement of Pennsylvania's economy that can be realized by this clean-burning energy source.



Kathryn Klaber

Event Sponsors for the 2010 event include: Luzerne County, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs; Radisson Hotel, Scranton Area Foundation, and the Willary Foundation.

Below are two indicators measured annually, through 2008. Per capita was increasing and so was poverty. Find out why at the event and learn many new facts and trends about the opportunities and issues faced by the region.

Poverty Level - Individuals			
County	2000	2007	2008
Lackawanna	10.6%	12.8%	13.2%
Luzerne	11.1%	11.5%	14.2%
Pennsylvania	11.0%	11.8%	12.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Per Capita Income			
County	2000	2007	2008
Lackawanna	\$18,710	\$22,845	\$24,065
Luzerne	\$18,228	\$22,298	\$23,247
Pennsylvania	\$20,880	\$26,228	\$27,280

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

**THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010**

## **2010 Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicators Report & Regional Forum**

**Price:** \$50 [*On-site: \$55*] **Time:** 8:30 am – 12:30 pm  
(registration begins at 8:00 AM)

**Location:** The Scranton Radisson  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Event Sponsors :

Luzerne County  
Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs  
Radisson Hotel  
Scranton Area Foundation  
Willary Foundation

Includes breakfast and Indicators Report  
Keynote Speakers:

**Brian P. McGowan**

*U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer  
U.S. Economic Development Administration*

**Dr. David Crowe**

Chief Economist at the National Association of Home Builders

**Kathryn Klaber** (*invited*)

Marcellus Shale Coalition President and Executive Director

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment** (*circle one*):

Check    American Express    MasterCard    Visa    Discover

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

(*as it appears on credit card*)

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature :** \_\_\_\_\_

(*for credit card transaction*)

**Submit Registration Forms By:**

**Phone:** (570) 408-9850

**Fax:** (570) 408-9854

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

**NO REFUNDS AFTER May 13, 2010**

## Scholarly Updates

### 2010 Northeast Pennsylvania Faculty Research Symposium

The 2010 Northeast Pennsylvania Faculty Research Symposium took place on Friday, April 9th at King's College. The third annual event was held at the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center. Thirty three presentations took place by faculty from seven of The Institute's higher education partner schools.



L to r-Vincent Monastra, Best Research Award, and Terry Clemente, Chair AAC

The Institute's Academic Advisory Council awarded a Best Best Research Award to Vincent Monastra for his research titled *Task Force on the Early Identification and Treatment of Attention-Deficit & Hyperactivity Disorders*. Best Student Faculty Research Award was presented to Ben Redan and James Lovan, University of Scranton for their research titled: *Solar Tracker Reflector: Research and Development*.

Keynote speakers for the event included: Daniel Flynn, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Research, Tech Transfer, Economic Development & Graduate Studies at The Commonwealth Medical College; Loren D. Prescott, Jr., Dean of the Law School Planning Initiative at Wilkes University; Gregory K. Hunt, FAIA, Founding Dean of the new School of Architecture at Marywood University; and Bernard Graham, Ph.D., Dean of the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy & Nursing at Wilkes University.

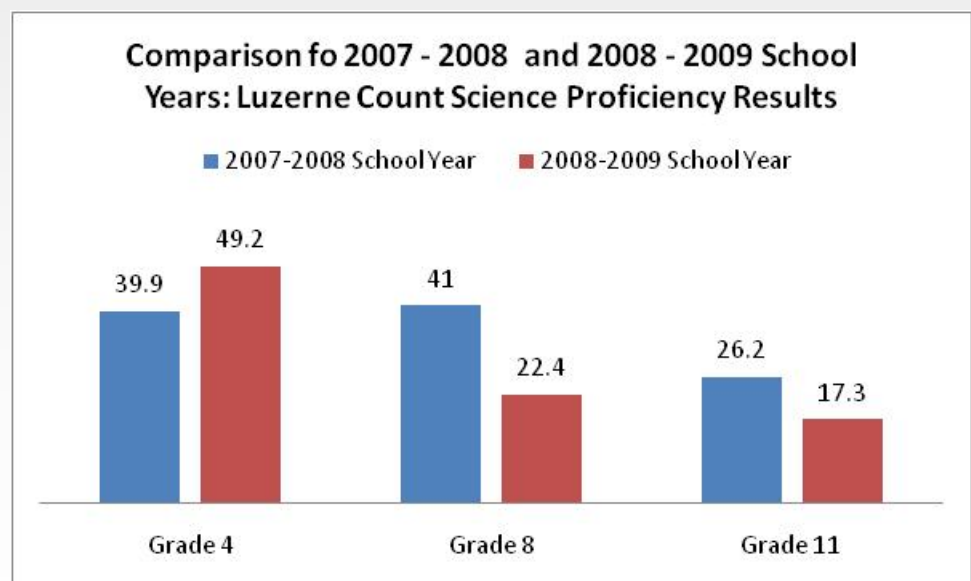
Proceedings of the day long event will be posted on The Institute's website in early June.

## New Community Based Research Released

The Institute recently released the 2009 Lackawanna and Luzerne County's Proficiency Reports for School Districts in each respective county. These reports track Lackawanna & Luzerne County School District PSSA performance in reading, math, and science for selected grades in elementary, middle and high school.

The science exam is one of the new tests administered. To the right is a graph depicting fourth, eighth, and eleventh grade students science averages for two consecutive school years. The county's average decreased from 2007-2008 to the 2008—2009 in both grades eight and eleven.

The county average for the 2008-2009 year showed 60.9 % students proficient or better, 24.2 % basic, and 13.2 % below basic.



## Housing Task Force's Second Annual Housing Symposium

The Housing Task Force will hold its Second Annual Housing Symposium on Thursday, May 20, 2010, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Radisson Scranton. This event will dovetail off the Indicators Forum which is scheduled at the same location earlier in the day.

Dr. David, Crowe, Chief Economist at the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) will be keynote speaker at the symposium. Crowe's presentation will detail national, state, and regional housing outlooks.

Elizabeth Hersh, Executive Director, Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania will also provide a presentation. Hersh will discuss the foreclosure crisis, finding homes working families can afford to rent or buy, and a discussion on how large a role the state should play in providing incentives for construction or rehabilitation properties.

Hersh will also discuss the creation of a state Housing Trust Fund to encourage development of more working class homes. This is scheduled to be voted on in The PA House of Representatives.

Hersh's remarks to the Lackawanna Luzerne Housing Symposium will cover all these issues and how she sees the situation moving forward.

*For more information about the task force and registration for the Housing Symposium contact Marla Doddo at [doddo@institutepea.org](mailto:doddo@institutepea.org)*

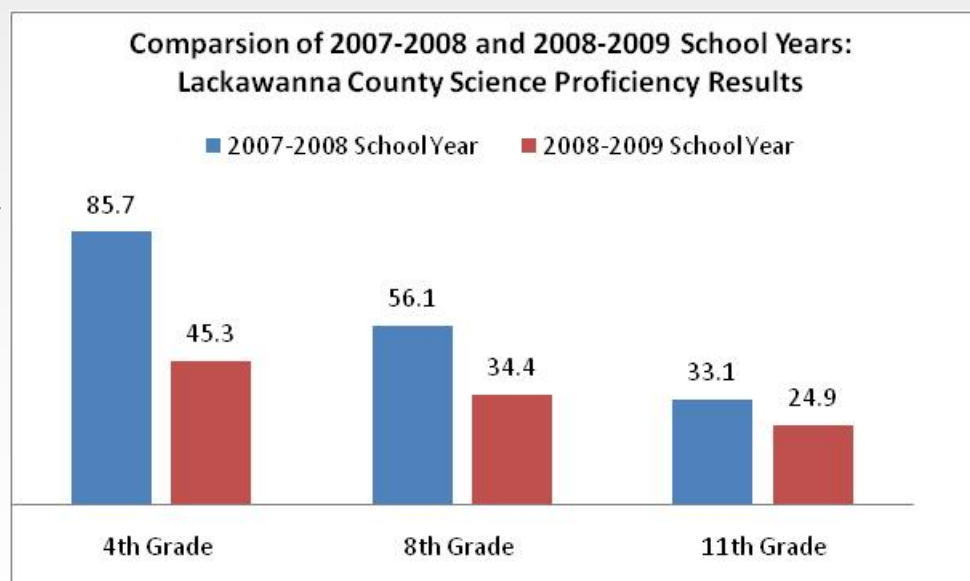
(Continued from page 3)

### Community Based Research

In Lackawanna County, the proficiencies in science decreased in all three grades studies from 2007—2008 to the 2008—2009 school year. As a matter of fact, in 2008—2009 school year, 62.3% of the students performed proficient or better, while 25.6 were basic, and 11.7 were below basic.

In a few months, The Institute will publish similar studies summarizing the writing PSSAs.

Please click on the link below to access the reports:  
<http://www.urbanstudies.org/research/default.shtml#>



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

The Housing Task Force of the Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development  
in conjunction with  
**Lackawanna Housing Coalition & Luzerne County Housing Partnership and  
The Pennsylvania Economy League**  
is conducting a

**Housing Symposium**

Thursday, May 20, 2010  
Radisson Scranton  
Lackawanna Avenue  
1:00am– 3:30 pm *Lunch will be served*  
Registration begins at 12:45 pm  
Cost: \$30 Onsite—\$35

*Keynote Speaker*

**Dr. David Crowe, Chief Economist at the National Association of Home Builders**

*Presentation by:*

**Elizabeth Hersh, Executive Director, Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania**

*No refunds after May 13, 2010*

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**Registration Form  
Housing Symposium, Thursday, May 20, 2010**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Payment by check to:*

Luzerne County Municipal Cooperation Commission

*Submit Registration Forms by:*

Fax: 570.408.9854 or *Mail:* The Institute, 7 South Main St., Suite 201, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

The Institute, 120 Wyoming Avenue, Third Floor, Scranton, PA 18503

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- 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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