



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

Inside this issue:

News from the Institute 1
 Institute Research 2
 Task Force Updates 2
 Scholarly News 4

Volume 6 Issue 2 Winter 2010

News from The Institute

Community based research at The Institute is published frequently. In fact, there are annual reports on birth and death rates, migration in to and out of the Lackawanna & Luzerne County region, a Lackawanna and Luzerne County Business Patterns report, and our annual Lackawanna Luzerne Counties Indicators Report. Each of these studies is updated on an annual basis and provides the reader with a view of our region to identify trends and patterns. The data utilized comes from all reliable sources including the IRS, the US Census, and several other government agencies.

Our annual Lackawanna Luzerne County Indicators Report will be released on Thursday, May 20, 2010 during the annual forum at the Scranton Radisson. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. More details including a registration form about the event can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.



In 2009, The Institute produced the quarterly Economy Tracker for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and The Pocono Recession Tracker for Wayne, Pike, Monroe, and Carbon Counties which was published in the Pocono Business Journal.

In addition to these publications, The Institute also publishes a variety of community based research studies on topics such as: home rule, commuter rail, Marcellus shale, university community partnerships, and analysis of current public policies issues.

All of our community based research can be found on our website at www.institutepa.org.

As part of it's mission, The Institute also takes on the role of a convener/facilitator for events. Students and staff are involved in the Lackawanna Luzerne Counties Indicators Forum and the North-eastern Pennsylvania Faculty Research Symposium. In the past, we have convened around issues such as Home Rule and other times we have offered support through convening by helping to organize and/or participate in events or programs.



Convening-Center, Teri Ooms, Executive Director, Nancy Snee (l) Luzerne County Planning Department and Lackawanna—Luzerne MPO, and Nick Sciallo(r), Go 21, a transportation policy group .

Housing Task Force News

The Institute's Housing Task Force is very pleased with the response to the educational housing websites for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. Members of the task force developed the information that is on each website. In addition to resources for anyone looking for housing information the websites offer a blog, a wiki, a Spanish side of the website, and a newsletter. Information is updated on the websites frequently with input from the task force members who are affiliated with both the Lackawanna Housing Coalition and the Luzerne County Housing Partnership.

The Housing Task Force will also 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 direct her remarks to rental housing.

For more information about the task force contact Marla Doddo at doddo@institutepea.org

Education & Workforce Development and Jobs & Economy Task

In early December, the Education & Workforce Development and Jobs & Economy Task Force convened. On the agenda was a review of the task force goals for the upcoming year. A determination was made to reach out to Superintendents of Schools in the region to see how we could align the strategy of the task force to the needs of school districts. Members of the task force were informed that due to current certification requirements of school administrators certain coursework is required in regard to training the future workforce. As such, the task force could be positioned to help teachers and administrators determine what knowledge, skills, and abilities are necessary to move students into jobs and educational opportunities in the future.

A suggestion was also made to provide administrators with the current indicators report and request their feedback on what indicators should be eliminated and what additional categories should be included and tracked that would help the school districts.

A future meeting date will be determined in the next few months. The upcoming meeting will provide an opportunity to implement strategies for the future.

For more information about the task force contact Marla Doddo at doddo@institutepea.org

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

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 – 12:00 pm
(registration begins at 8:00 AM)
Location: The Scranton Radisson
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Event Sponsors

Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs
Willary Foundation
Scranton Area Foundation

Registration includes:

Breakfast
Indicators Presentation
Indicators Report (\$30 value)
Keynote Presentations

Keynote Speakers:

Brian McGowan, Deputy Secretary, US EDA (invited)
Dr. David, Crowe, Chief Economist, National Association of Home Builders

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I would like to register for 2010 Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicators Regional Forum

Name: _____

Method of Payment (circle one):

Check American Express MasterCard Visa Discover

Company: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

(as it appears on credit card)

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature : _____

(for credit card transaction)

Submit Registration Forms By:

Fax: (570) 408-9854

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

For inquiries, call 570.408.9850 and ask for Marla Doddo

Please note: No refunds will be issued after May 1, 2010

Scholarly Updates

Intern Updates

Spring 2010 semester is a busy one for staff and students at The Institute. The Institute has 12 students working at the Luzerne and Lackawanna county offices. This semester's interns hail from King's College, Marywood University, the University of Scranton, and Wilkes University.

Students in the Lackawanna County office are: Nick Avvaisato, Stephanie Fields, Anna Nakonechny, and Jason Savino, University of Scranton; and Devon Chakiris, Marywood University. Avvaisato is a Criminal Justice major, Fields and Nakonechny are International Business majors and Savino is a Business Administration Major. Chakiris is a Psychology major.

Luzerne County students Anthony Gabriel, Jeff Monschein, and Michael Richwalder are students at Wilkes University. Gabriel, Monschein and Richwalder are Business Administration majors. Kyle Gilligan, Matthew Geech and Diane Girvan are students at King's College. Gilligan is a History major and Geech and Girvan are Economics majors.



Pictured above l to r are: Nick Savino, Anna Nakonechny, and Jason Avvaisato.

The Institute conducted information sessions at its member institutions with over 20 students completing the interview phase. As this process is competitive, those selected for the spring 2010 semester completed requirements of credential review, interviews, submission of work product, and letters of recommendation.

While interning, each student intern is provided with a scope of work, including project details and timelines. Interns also have the opportunity to be involved in client- and community-based research, which could place them in the public - conducting intercept surveys, focus groups, interviews and/or mapping.

Selection of students for an internship are ongoing year round. Students of any major are accepted into The Institute's internship program. For more details, contact Marla Doddo, doddo@institutepa.org.

Recent Research

Lackawanna County Migration Report- Update

February 2010: This report tracks population movement into and out of Lackawanna County. The report demonstrates that for six consecutive years, Lackawanna County's population has been growing through in-migration. People from New York, New Jersey, and other parts of Pennsylvania account for the growth. Luzerne County follows a parallel path which is demonstrated in a companion report. The report includes the most recent data - 2007-2008.

Luzerne County Migration Report -Update

February 2010: This report tracks population movement into and out of Luzerne County. The report demonstrates that for six consecutive years, Luzerne County's population has been growing through in-migration. People from New York, New Jersey, and other parts of Pennsylvania account for the growth. Lackawanna County follows a parallel path which is demonstrated in a companion report. The report includes the most recent data - 2007-2008.

Continued on next page

Continued

Scholarly Updates

2010 Northeast Pennsylvania Faculty Research Symposium

The 2010 Northeast Pennsylvania Faculty Research Symposium will take place on Friday, April 9th at King's College. King's College is hosting this event on behalf of The Institute. The third annual event will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon and will be held in the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center. In an effort to showcase our higher education partners, we alternate event locations among institutions and counties.

The Institute's Academic Advisory Council has made preparations for additional panels to be instituted at this event, with one additional panel focusing on faculty/student research. Further, a best research paper award will be presented.

Participation by faculty members of any of The Institute's partner higher education institutions is encouraged. To date over 21 presentations are scheduled. Keynote speakers for the event include: Daniel Flynn, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Research, Technology Transfer, Economic Development & Graduate Studies at The Commonwealth Medical College

Loren D. Prescott, Jr., Founding Dean of the Law School Planning Initiative at Wilkes University; Gregory K. Hunt, FAIA, Founding Dean of the School of Architecture at Marywood University; and Bernard Graham, Ph.D., Founding Dean of the Nesbitt College of Pharmacy & Nursing at Wilkes University

To date, approximately 20 faculty members are confirmed presenters. For information regarding this event or the call for proposals, please contact Marla Doddo at doddo@institutepa.org.

Visiting Faculty Scholar Program

The Visiting Faculty Scholar program brings faculty from the sponsoring colleges and universities to The Institute (time commitment is determined by each individual institution) to conduct research in his/her area of interest and that supports The Institute's mission. Visiting scholars are invited to participate in The Institute's applied research projects and are encouraged to begin or complete their personal research agenda.

For more information on this program, please contact Marla Doddo at doddo@institutepa.org.

Continued

Recent Research

Lackawanna & Luzerne County Business Patterns 1998-2007

February 2010: The report begins with a summary of U.S. Census Bureau data for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, and Pennsylvania as a whole. The report then breaks down county business patterns annually. In its conclusion, the report evaluates county and state-wide data and identifies points of growth, decline, change, and stagnancy. The Institute hopes this report will prove informative in the prediction and management of northeastern Pennsylvania's future business patterns.

Check out the first edition of the 2010 Economy Tracker at www.institutepa.org.

Our Mission

The mission of the Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development (“The Institute”) is to assist in the revitalization of communities and regions through the utilization of the our expertise and resources, including member universities, colleges, and their respective faculties and students.

The Institute serves as a research resource and consultant to develop economic and community development strategies, education and workforce development initiatives, feasibility studies, and strategic action plans. The Institute uses both primary and applied research techniques.

7 South Main Street,
Suite 201
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
t: 570.408.9850
f: 570.408.9854

120 Wyoming Avenue,
Third Floor
Scranton, PA 18503
t: 570.207.0340
info@institutepea.org

www.institutepea.org

Teri Ooms
Executive Director
ooms@institutepea.org

Sherry Tracewski
Research & Policy Analyst
tracewski@institutepea.org

Marla Doddo
Administrative & Outreach
Coordinator
doddo@institutepea.org

The Institute Advisory Board and Founder

William P. Montague <i>Founder</i> <i>Montague Family Foundation</i>	Jim DePolo <i>Covington Forge Ltd.</i>	Michael MacDowell, Ph.D. <i>Misericordia University</i>
Tim Gilmour, Ph.D. <i>Chairman</i> <i>Wilkes University</i>	Patrick A. Fricchione Jr. <i>Simplex Industries, Inc.</i>	Mary Ellen Monacelli <i>Sanofi Pasteur</i>
William B. Sordoni <i>Vice-Chairman</i> <i>Sordoni Construction</i>	Brian Grove <i>Chesapeake Energy</i>	Anne Munley, IHM, Ph.D. <i>Marywood University</i>
Heather Acker <i>Gentex Corp.</i>	Christopher Haran <i>Great Valley Technology Alliance</i>	Thomas J. O’Hara, C.S.C., Ph.D. <i>King’s College</i>
Rich Beasley <i>PPL Electric</i>	Frank Joanlance <i>Frontier Communications</i>	Scott Pilarz, S.J. <i>University of Scranton</i>
Edward Boehm, Ph.D. <i>Keystone College</i>	Charles Kasko <i>Signature Building Systems</i>	Thomas Romanowski <i>GreenSpace Properties, LLC</i>
Terry Casey <i>M&T Bank</i>	Thomas E. Lawson <i>Borton Lawson</i>	Eugene Roth <i>Rosenn, Jenkins, & Greenwald</i>
John Cefaly <i>Cushman & Wakefield</i>	Thomas Leary <i>Luzerne County Community College</i>	Conrad Schintz <i>Geisinger Health Systems</i>
Terry Clemente <i>Penn State Wilkes-Barre</i> <i>Interim Chair, Academic Advisory Council</i>	David Lee <i>United Way of Wyoming Valley</i>	Susan W. Shoval <i>GUARD Insurance Group</i>
Charles Davis, Ph.D. <i>Penn State Wilkes-Barre</i>	Mike Lombardo <i>Office of Governor Edward G. Rendell</i>	Todd Vonderheid <i>Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry</i>
Robert D’Alessandri, M.D. <i>The Commonwealth Medical College</i>	Robert Luciani <i>Prudential Retirement Services</i>	Scott Weiland <i>Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce</i>

The opinions or findings in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the sponsoring organization, individuals, or institutions, their officers or boards, or The Institute’s Advisory Board.