



The INSTITUTE for Public Policy & Economic Development

Volume 7 Issue 2

Winter 2011

2010: A Year in Review

2010 was a productive year at The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development.

We organized and hosted the Third Annual Faculty Research Symposium in April. We also held the Fifth Annual Indicators Report and Regional Forum in May. In attendance were members of academia, local and state elected officials, and non-profit leaders.

The Institute created a fifth task force to focus on health and healthcare.

Several community based studies were published, including the Annual Indicators Report and school proficiency reports. The Institute also published a quarterly Economy Tracker.

Other client based research based accomplishments included:

- A Marcellus Shale socio-economic baseline study for the Appalachian Regional Commission. They are utilizing the results to educate state and federally elected officials which included field research in Arkansas and Texas and a household survey.
- A flood impact study currently utilized by the Civic Research Alliance to isolate economic issues relative to moderate to severe flooding.
- A Health Profile was completed for Moses Taylor Hospital. The study identified health trends and the impact of demographic and economic factors in the region.
- A youth programs study for Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board used to develop county youth programs and initiatives in education and workforce development.

The Institute was invited to present findings at the Northeastern Pennsylvania Legislative Delegation Economic Briefing, as well as disseminate information on the Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling to Bucknell University, the University of Pittsburgh's National Researcher's Symposium, state officials in Harrisburg, the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance, and 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania.

Our Marcellus Shale research was highlighted on National Public Radio and several newspapers across the state as well as media in Texas. The Institute was selected to participate as part of the Scranton Times Annual Economic Forum – Outlook 2010. Further, we were awarded a research grant to participate in the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research.

We look forward to a busy and productive year in 2011 and remain committed to research and analysis leading to economic development in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania.

For a complete list of projects undertaken by The Institute in 2010, contact Shelly Harlander at Harlander@institutepa.org for a copy of the 2010 Annual Report

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Committed to research and analysis leading to economic development in Pennsylvania

Client Based Research

The Institute started and/or completed several client based research projects in the final quarter of 2010.

The Transcontinental Gas Pipeline, LLC impact study was completed in quarter four. This study examined the various economic impacts of pipeline expansion in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Borough of Factoryville Economic Development Study was also finalized in the fourth quarter. This study provided key data for economic development initiatives along its Main Street.

The Institute commenced a second study for the Appalachian Regional Committee to evaluate the impact of Marcellus Shale in shale rich counties on housing.

The Institute began Phase Three of the Pennsylvania Heartlands project. Phase Three examines effective means of attracting, developing and retaining talent in the region to positively impact the local economies.

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER) was formed. IEER is a collaborative effort between Wilkes University, King's College and Earth Conservancy. The mission of The IEER is to identify and disseminate information on energy issues that face Northeastern Pennsylvania. Covered initiatives include Marcellus Shale gas extraction, anthracite coal mining, carbon sequestration and renewable energy alternatives. The goal is to enable communities, businesses and households to make informed choices regarding energy production, distribution and consumption. IEER staff is working with The Institute to develop policy statements on major energy issues.

A Special Thank You

It was with great sadness that The Institute recently said goodbye to Marla Doddo. Marla Doddo served as The Institute's Administrative and Outreach Coordinator since its inception in 2004.



Pictured: Marla Doddo

Marla was instrumental in the success of The Institute's Internship Program with our nine member institutions. Her other responsibilities included research, survey work and project management services. Most notably, she served as project manager to develop a marketing strategy for the Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

We thank her for her efforts.

Marla now serves as the Youth Services Manager for the Luzerne Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board. We wish Ms. Doddo much success in her new position!

Visiting Faculty Scholar Research

Patty Fox, Psy.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology at Keystone College, is currently conducting research in conjunction with The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development's Visiting Faculty Scholar Program. The study aims to track income and well-being in the Marcellus Shale drilling regions of Susquehanna and Wayne counties. Landowners in Susquehanna and/or Wayne County who have been approached to sign a lease for natural gas drilling are invited to participate. Landowners may participate in the study regardless of whether or not they have signed.

Participants will complete three identical surveys over the course of eight months. The purpose is to learn if people's well-being changes over time, particularly if people receive money related to natural gas drilling.

The results of the study are expected to be published in December 2011.

Dr. Fox is a graduate of Marywood University where she earned a doctorate in clinical psychology. She conducted extensive research as a graduate student at Marywood University and presented at several national conferences.

The Visiting Faculty Scholar program invites faculty from The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development's nine member institutions to conduct research in his/her area of interest at The Institute. Although the research is based on the faculty member's personal academic agenda, it must support the Institute's mission of providing essential research and analysis benefitting the communities of and the academic service initiatives for Northeastern Pennsylvania.

For further information on this program, contact Teri Ooms at ooms@institutepa.org.

2011 Indicators Report & Regional Forum Scheduled

The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development is excited to announce the date of the 2011 Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicators Report and Regional Forum. The annual forum will take place on May 19th at the Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs in Wilkes-Barre. The event will commence with registration at 8:00 a.m. and will conclude at noon. Breakfast will be included.

The forum marks the release of the sixth annual Indicators Report. A copy of the report (\$30 value) will be included with the indicators presentation. Reports cover 120 plus indicators for Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, as well as provide statewide data. The report includes data on jobs and the economy, education, healthcare, housing, public safety, social services, civic engagement and demographics. A panel of County Commissioners will be present to provide insight on report data.

Task Force reports will also be provided. Task Force chairs will disseminate the progress made in the previous year on their respective policy agendas. A question and answer session will follow.

To register for the event, complete the registration form on the following page of this newsletter or visit www.institutepa.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 19, 2011
**2011 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 Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Event Sponsors To Date:

Frontier Communications Corp.
Luzerne County
M&T Bank
Mohegan Sun
PA Department of Community & Economic Development
Scranton Area Foundation
Willary Foundation
Wachovia Foundation a Wells Fargo Company

Task Force Speakers:

Tim Gilmour- Education & Workforce Development
Christopher Haran- Jobs and Economy
Charles Kasko- Housing
Thomas Lawson- PLUTI
Karen Murphy- Health & Healthcare

Registration includes:

Breakfast

Indicators Presentation

Indicators Report (\$30 value)

Task Force Reports

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I would like to register for 2011 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 Shelly Harlander or email at: harlander@institutepa.org

Please note: No refunds will be issued after May 1, 2011

Intern Update

The Institute is proud to sponsor four interns during the spring 2011 semester. The students hail from Wilkes University and Kings College.

The interns are working on a variety of projects for The Institute, including conducting research and analysis, assisting with the annual Indicators Report and developing policy statements.

The two interns from Wilkes University are Miranda Bonetsky and Lindsey Fernald. Both Miranda and Lindsey are Business Administration majors. They are members of the National Society of Leadership and Success.



Pictured are Lindsey Fernald and Miranda Bonetsky, interns from Wilkes University

The two interns from Kings College are Corey Turner and Giancarlo Dilonardo. Corey is a History major with a minor in Political Science who served as a Model United Nations Delegate in 2010. Giancarlo is a Political Science and History major who previously interned at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.



Pictured are Giancarlo Dilonardo and Corey Turner, interns from Kings College.

The Institute's internship program is highly competitive. The process requires the students to submit a resume, writing sample and letter of recommendation. In addition, intern candidates must have a G.P.A of 3.2 or higher, must be computer literate, have excellent research skills and superior communication skills.

Students from the Institute's nine higher education partners are eligible to apply. Internships are available to students of any academic major.

For more information on the program contact Shelly Harlander at Harlander@institutepa.org.

The Institute Names New Research Assistant



The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development has named Shelly Harlander its new Research Assistant. The Research Assistant responsibilities include hiring and direct supervision of interns from each of our partner institutions, research and writing, survey work, event coordination, and creating marketing publications for The Institute.

Shelly is a graduate of Syracuse University with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Studies with a minor in Economics. She also possesses a Masters degree in Adult Education.

Prior to her position at The Institute, Shelly worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency as the Public Information/Public Affairs Coordinator where she was responsible for print and broadcast media and marketing initiatives. In addition to developing press releases, feature articles, marketing brochures and organizing agency events, Shelly served as the congressional liaison for the agency. Her responsibilities also included collecting, organizing and analyzing all agency program data, outreach to socially disadvantaged groups and coordinating multi-jurisdictional planning efforts.

2011 Faculty Research Symposium Scheduled

We are pleased to announce that the 2011 Northeastern Pennsylvania Faculty Research Symposium will take place on Friday, April 15 at the University of Scranton. The event will be held from 8:30 until noon. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Faculty Research Symposium has been held in Lackawanna or Luzerne counties.

The purpose of the conference is to gather faculty and student investigators who are engaged in original research that is based on or relevant to Northeastern Pennsylvania. The symposium offers the opportunity for networking and research sharing. A Best Paper Award will be presented to the author of the most outstanding paper.

Over 30 faculty members from Keystone College, Kings College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State – Wilkes Barre, the University of Scranton and Wilkes University participated in last year's event.

This year's keynote speaker is Peter Bardaglio, Pd.D, a senior fellow at Second Nature , a nonprofit committed to the promotion of sustainability in higher education. Dr. Bardaglio also coordinates the Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative, a regional effort involving education, business, government, and community leaders in the Ithaca area. Prior to his position at Second Nature, he served as the provost and vice president of academic affairs from 2002 to 2007 at Ithaca College

The event is sponsored by The Academic Advisory Council of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development. The Academic Advisory Council is composed of prominent leaders and educators from the local community and The Institute's nine partner institutions.

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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