



A partnership between, 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

The Institute Visiting Scholar Program

The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development is sponsored by eight institutions of higher learning and many businesses in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. The mission of The Institute is to:

"... to assist in the revitalization of cities, counties, states, non-profits, institutions, and businesses through the utilization of The Institute's expertise and resources, including its member University and Colleges. Their respective faculty and students are used as resources to facilitate effective and efficient government, to disseminate best practices, to conduct applied research and strategy development.

The Visiting Scholar program brings faculty from the sponsoring colleges and universities to The Institute as staff in a capacity (time commitment is determined by each individual institution) to conduct research in his/her area of interest and that supports the mission of The Institute. Visiting scholars are invited to participate in the applied research projects of The Institute and are encouraged to begin or complete their personal research agenda. The Institute publishes several reports yearly that require the compilation and analysis of local and regional social, economic, and political data. The Institute also receives contract work that requires survey research and other forms of data acquisition and analysis. Ultimately, The Institute's reports and research products affect public policy and improve the quality of life for the people in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Objectives of the Visiting Scholar Program:

- Enhance the research capabilities of The Institute by bringing faculty from diverse disciplines and methodological skills into The Institute
- Allow faculty to engage in applied research
- Permit faculty to conduct and follow their personal research agenda
- Give faculty the opportunity to network with local, regional, and state government officials as well as business and community leaders
- Produce research that improves the quality of life in Northeastern Pennsylvania
- Generate reports that contain recommendations that will bring best practices to local and county governments and non-profit organizations

The service that Visiting Scholars provide to The Institute will be considered positively by chairs, deans, and other academic officers as well as tenure and promotion committees if and when Scholars are evaluated for tenure and promotion. Faculty should refer to their President for guidelines applicable to their individual institutions

Program Guidelines

Interested faculty members must apply for the Visiting Scholar Program to The Institute executive director and through their school's chief academic officer, e.g. dean, vice president of academic affairs, or provost. Each participating institution has established its own internal screening process, with the final decision resting with the chief academic officer or the institution's president/chancellor. The names of campus finalists are submitted to The Institute executive director, and interviews are conducted by The Institute staff to determine which faculty will serve as Visiting Scholars in any given semester.

The term of appointment for a Visiting Scholar is one semester, unless otherwise stipulated. The appointment may be terminated with 30 – day advance notice only for good cause and with the agreement of the Scholar, the Scholar's chief academic officer and The Institute's executive director.

Visiting Scholars may conduct their work at The Institute offices, their campus office, or any other appropriate location. The Institute will provide the Scholar with workspace and an Internet capable computer. Scholars must sign The Institute code of conduct, confidentiality, security, and disclosure agreement. Relevant studies are released through a The Institute and distributed based on The Institute requirements for specific projects.

Faculty members appointed as Visiting Scholars should assume that they will be assigned research projects for which they will receive publication credit, whether the research is contract work, which may be proprietary, or community based research. The Institute retains the ownership and legal rights to all research. The Scholar understands that contract research may carry with it strict confidentiality and conflict of interest requirements.

Expenses: The Institute will cover transportation related expenses (including mileage, parking, or other travel expenses) associated with the project as well as any expenses required for research incurred under the auspices of The Institute, subject to prior approval.

The Institute will cover costs associated with the acquisition of research resources, data, or databases related to projects completed on behalf of The Institute. The Institute retains ownership of all materials.

Any other expenses related to transportation to and from The Institute, parking, and meals while at The Institute will be the responsibility of the scholar or their host institution.

Release Time: Each institution determines the amount of release time for their appointment to The Institute. The institution does not assume responsibility for any expenses associated with the Scholar's release time.

The Visiting Scholar's semester of service to The Institute will not be considered sabbatical leave. However, should a Visiting Scholar wish to spend a sabbatical at The Institute, it is permitted and encouraged.

Recent Clients and Client Projects

Bloomsburg University Foundation-Higher Education Feasibility Analysis
Borton Lawson – Fiscal Impact of a New Housing Development
City of Wilkes-Barre – Housing Study, WiFi Study, and Economic Development Strategy
CityVest – Housing Study
Facility Design & Development – South Valley Partnership Strategic Plan and Hazleton and
Amphitheater Competitive Analysis
Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry-KOZ Analysis & Apartment Market Study
Lackawanna County Workforce Investment Board – Economic and workforce development issues
relating to Marcellus Shale
Luzerne County – Study on the Arts, Best Practices in Planning
Luzerne County Convention & Visitor's Bureau – Tourism Marketing Strategy
Luzerne County Cultural Council – Arts Center
Luzerne County Municipal Cooperation Commission – Community Toolkit
Forum for Pennsylvania's Heartland – Regional Strategic Plan & Asset Mapping Project
Pennsylvania Economy League – Nanticoke Act 47 Plan, Scranton Act 47 Plan
Volunteers in Medicine Clinic – Feasibility Study & Business Plan
Wall Street West – Impact & Sustainability Report
Workforce Wayne-Workforce Needs Analysis; Education Feasibility Analysis

Community Based Research (2004 – Present)

A Primer on Home Rule Charters

August 2009: The voters of Luzerne County elected a Home Rule Study Commission this year to prepare a charter of government under home rule for evaluation by the voters. This primer discusses the differences between home rule and the current form of government in very basic terms.

Lackawanna & Luzerne County Population Trends

August 2009: Utilizing existing research from The Institute the impact of the regional net migration is compared to birth and death records as well as school enrollments to demonstrate the positive changes in regional population.

Commuter Rail

July 2009: Within the past several decades, many discussions and considerations have occurred surrounding the Lackawanna Cut-Off Rail Restoration Project – which includes development of a commuter rail line running from the Poconos region of Pennsylvania to Hoboken, New Jersey, where a transfer line will take passengers into Manhattan. The Lackawanna Cut-off Rail Restoration Project's purpose is to effectively and efficiently put into operation a passenger rail service, improving travel in the Northeast Pennsylvania/Northwest New Jersey to Midtown Manhattan and Hoboken, NJ.

Lackawanna & Luzerne County Birth & Death Rates 1990-2007

March 2009: This report summarizes total annual births and deaths in Lackawanna and Luzerne County. The reader will see the difference in births and deaths by gender and some racial categories. Overall, the report shows more deaths than births in the time period, although, the death rate is declining and the birth rate is increasing. The Institute will prepare a comparison of birth-death rates against net migration to determine the true changes in population (Summer 09).

NEPA Factbook

February 2009: This book summarizes the many attributes and opportunities that exist in Lackawanna and Luzerne County. The reader will learn about living, working, playing, and learning in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Lackawanna County Migration Report- Update

February 2009: This report tracks population movement into and out of Lackawanna County. The report demonstrates that for five consecutive years, Lackawanna County's population is 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 - year ending December 2007.

Luzerne County Migration Report -Update

February 2009: This report tracks population movement into and out of Luzerne County. The report demonstrates that for five consecutive years, Luzerne County's population is 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 - year ending December 2007.

2008 Lackawanna County Migration Report

December 2008: This report tracks population movement into and out of Lackawanna County. The report demonstrates that for four consecutive years, Lackawanna County's population is growing through in-migration. People from New York, New Jersey, and other parts of Pennsylvania account for the growth. Lackawanna County's 2007 report will be available in early 2009 and we are expecting to see a similar result. Luzerne County follows a parallel path which is demonstrated in a companion report.

2008 Luzerne County Migration Report

December 2008: This report tracks population movement into and out of Luzerne County. The report demonstrates that for the second consecutive year, Luzerne County's population is growing through in-migration. People from New York, New Jersey, and other parts of Pennsylvania account for the growth. The net migration for 2004-2005 is 891 and for 2005-2006, the population increase is 983. The Institute will have a report with 2007 data available in early 2009. It is anticipated that we will see a similar positive figure. Lackawanna County follows a parallel path which is demonstrated in a companion report.

Lackawanna & Luzerne County Business Patterns 1998-2006

November 2008: 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 for 1998, 2002 and 2006. In its conclusion, the report evaluates county and state-wide data

and identifies points of growth, decline, change, and stagnancy. JUSC hopes this report will prove informative in the prediction and management of northeastern Pennsylvania's future business patterns.

The Rise of Luzerne County: An Examination of the Origin and Future Effects of Recent Population Shifts

November 2007: For years, and even decades, Luzerne County's population has been on the decline. All demographic indicators highlighted in The Institute report "Why Aren't We Average?" reveal that the county has continually fallen below national population growth averages. In June 2006, and again in June 2007, the county received fantastic data – the population estimate revealed a slight increase from 2004 to 2005 and from 2005 to 2006. This analysis demonstrates how this occurred and that we can expect population growth to be the new trend in our region for some time to come. Impacts and opportunities are revealed as well as evidence that Lackawanna County will experience the same growth.

University Community Partnerships – Part 2

February 2007: University and community partnerships are essential components in creating a college town atmosphere. Many examples exist in the United States where Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) and local communities have teamed up to advance opportunities for both entities and to address issues or collaborate for the good of both institutions. Such partnerships yield results, which benefit the IHEs as well as the local community. Phase I of this report, produced by The Institute, establishes the need for these collaborative efforts and examines how and why such relationships benefit all parties involved. Using The Institute partner IHEs as sources, Phase II of this report examines the following:

- Economic impact of six local IHEs on their communities
- Current types of programs, including volunteerism, and partnerships between IHEs and the local community
- Current outside funding used by each IHE in forming such partnerships
- Potential state and federal funding available for community and school partnerships
- Successful community university partnership case studies
- Recommendations

Best Practices of High Growth States

January 2007: A high growth state is one that displays a growing economy on a number of levels. The determinants of high growth in states include: overall population increases, percent change in real gross product, positive job growth, wage increases, and evidence of the majority of the citizenry going on to higher education - specifically those obtaining either primary degrees or terminal degrees. The top five states in each of the five categories have been identified through information obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Adjustment, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics data. A summary of each respective state's attributes have been identified in regard to: quality of life; education [both K-12 and higher education]; cost of doing business and economic development policies; land use; transportation; cost of living; and housing affordability. The states with population growth, job growth, and greatest percentage change in real gross state product are primarily warmer in climate and west of the Mississippi, while states with wage increases and higher education attainment are primarily on the east coast (mostly in the mid-Atlantic region). After a cursory review, it appears that there are no consistent determinants among states. With the

exception of Colorado, states with the most growth appear to have higher costs of living, more crime, and a weak Better Living Index. The difference is Colorado. Colorado's Better Living Index is 100% — the highest in the nation. They are a leader in land use and transportation planning and development and have moderate costs and a lower crime rate.

Land Use & Sprawl

January 2007: This project came as a result of the Land Use & Transportation Planning Workshop from the 2006 Indicators Forum. The paper identifies the history and types of land use planning, evolution of sprawl, transit-oriented development, traditional neighborhood development, and New Urbanism. Some case studies are presented.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Education

December 2006: This project was the result of the Education & Workforce Development Task Force from the 2006 Indicators Forum identifying this as a primary goal for the region. The paper identifies where the region stands relative to programs, availability, and strength. It also discusses initiatives through the Rendell Administration, and highlights initiatives from other states to enhance pre-k and kindergarten education.

Ethnic Changes in Northeastern Pennsylvania

September 2006: The focus of this research is to summarize recent changes in the demography of northeastern Pennsylvania. An influx of the Hispanic community into specific urban areas has spurred not only population growth and new business opportunities, but also challenges in education, employment, and healthcare [to name a few areas]. The study identifies some opportunities for new initiatives and ways other small-mid-sized communities are working towards integration. This brief, by no means, takes the place of a complete regional needs assessment which should be the next step for our area.

The State of K-12 Education in Northeastern Pennsylvania and Best Practices for Improving Quality

August 2006: The focus of this research is aimed at taking an objective look at K-12 education in the region and identifying not only why quality of education in public schools needs to increase, but also best practices from around the world that will enhance K-12 education locally.

Poverty & Urbanization

February 2006: Poverty and urbanization are two economic patterns that demonstrate continuing trends. In this paper, we address the connection between the two and if urbanization directly affects poverty. We also, discuss the nexus, if there is one, between poverty and urbanization in Pennsylvania's Lackawanna and Luzerne counties.

Regional Implications of Bond Rating Methodology

June 2005: Bond raters and insurers evaluate the issuer's economic region when determining bond ratings. That cost of capital could increase or decrease based on the strength of surrounding communities. This should be a major incentive for municipalities and counties to reach across jurisdictional lines to solve problems.

University/Community Partnerships

June 2005: Institutions of Higher Education make strong anchors for communities. Partnerships between institutions and their host cities can lead to job creation, beautification, enhanced housing, increased tourism, and more.

Regionalism: A Primer

June 2005: Partnerships across jurisdictional lines and that include public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders can contribute to the rebirth of northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Impact of Arts, Culture, Recreation, and Venue as a Community Revitalization Tool

June 2005: Arts, culture, recreation, and venue create wealth, pride, and image when incorporated into community revitalization and sustainability plans.

Why Aren't We Average?

April 2005: Why do Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County and the entire MSA continually fall below statewide averages on key census indicators? What would it mean if we did not — \$700 million in additional revenue flowing through Luzerne County.

Brookings Follow Up

April 2005: A Competitive Agenda For Renewing The Cities Of Northeastern Pennsylvania -- Strategies And Recommendations to Implement The Brookings Institution Report: "Back To Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania

Indicators Initiative

Indicators Forum Follow-Up Report

*September 2009-*This report summarizes the activities of each task force over the prior year and also provides next steps for each task force. Lackawanna & Luzerne County Commissioners also served on a panel and detailed their respective thoughts on the report and provided insight into how each county government utilizes the data.

Lackawanna County / Luzerne County Indicators

Spring 2009- The fourth edition of the report was released. Two panels were featured at this event including task force chairs who discussed the initiatives that they had completed; and a panel of Lackawanna & Luzerne County Commissioners who discussed their view of the report and how the report is used in their respective county agencies.

2008 Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicator Forum Abstract

June 2008: This abstract provides some information from the report as well as a synopsis of events and discussion at the forum. At this year's forum, all task force chairs presented a brief summary of their activities and next steps. Four of the six County Commissioners participated in a round table discussion. As a result new ideas and new alliances were formed. Call the JUSC for more information on becoming a part of the task forces.

Lackawanna County / Luzerne County Indicators

*Spring 2008-*Two panels were featured at this event including task force chairs who discussed the initiatives that they had completed; and a panel of Lackawanna & Luzerne County Commissioners who discussed their perception of the report and how the report is used in their respective county agencies.

2007 Indicator & Regional Forum Follow Up Report

August 2007: This report summarizes the 2006-2007 activities of the four task forces. The report also highlights speakers, discussions, and next steps from the 2007 Regional Forum.

Lackawanna County / Luzerne County Indicators

Spring 2007- The second annual report adds an additional 40 indicators to measure the region. The Indicator Initiative is a process to focus the region on long-term planning for goal achievement to promote collaboration and cooperation throughout the region, and to include stakeholders representing all sectors of the community including: business, healthcare, government, industry, K-16, faith based, nonprofits, and residents.

2006 Indicators Forum Follow-Up Report

July 2006: The Indicators Follow-Up Report summarizes the discussion and goal setting in each of the four workshops presented at the forum. The resulting dialogue will lead to a series of meetings commencing in fall 2006 to identify strategies and organizations to achieve the goals.

Lackawanna County / Luzerne County Indicators

Spring 2006: The Indicators Report tracks data and trends that are integral to an areas’ future. This report brings together in a single document a wealth of social, economic, and environmental data that contributes to civic agendas by providing a common information base for policy makers, as well as community and regional activists. The goal is to identify strengths and weaknesses in order to develop achievable goals to grow and sustain the region by building a stronger quality of life and standard of living for all of its residents.

Future Research Topics

Economic & Community Development
Transportation
Education
Quality of Life
Public Safety
Social Services
Act 47 Plans
Technology & Innovation

Land Use
Housing
Workforce Development
Economic Studies
Healthcare
Fiscal Impact Reports
Comprehensive Plans
Civic Engagement Infrastructure

For a complete list of current research and clients and information on the Lackawanna/Luzerne County Indicators Initiative, please visit: www.institutepa.org