



# The INSTITUTE for Public Policy & Economic Development

Volume 8 Issue 2

Winter 2012

## 2011: A Year in Review

In 2011, The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development completed several large projects and conducted three major events.

The Institute organized and hosted the Fourth Annual Faculty Research Symposium in April. At this event, 30 faculty members from nine participating colleges and universities presented their research to their peers and the community. The Institute also held the Sixth Annual Indicators Report and Regional Forum in May. In attendance were members representing business, academia, local and state elected officials, and non-profit leaders. Finally, The Institute’s housing task force presented a housing symposium to the residential real estate and builder community.

The Annual Indicators Report was released as a part of The Institute’s community based research program. The Institute also produced five policy statements on major issues impacting NEPA, presented and distributed through The Institute’s task force network.

The bulk of the work in 2011 was proprietary research for a number of clients. Client based research accomplishments included:

- An Assessment of The Lackawanna Arts & Culture Plan
- Organizational and Fiscal Assessment and Policy Review for the City of Nanticoke
- Completion of a Statewide Housing Study on behalf of the Appalachian Regional Commission
- A Market & Feasibility Study for The Jewish Community Center
- Policy briefs, primers, and issue papers on Marcellus Shale for the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research.

In 2011, the Institute presented research to the Governor’s Commission on Marcellus Shale, the Pennsylvania Planning Association and the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. The Institute was also asked to be a part of the prestigious William Penn Foundation’s Strategic Planning Process. The Institute held “Bridging the Path to College” event for local K-12 educators in conjunction with Regional Education Laboratory. This event was held as part of the Education & Workforce Development Task Force’s effort to connect Pre-K to 20+ educators.

The Institute was selected to participate as part of the Scranton Times Annual Economic Forum – Outlook 2011 and was contacted over 75 times by local and national media in 2011.

The Institute looks forward to a busy and productive year in 2012 and remains committed to research and analysis leading to economic development in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania.

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Committed to research and analysis leading to economic development in Pennsylvania

## Intern Update

The Institute is proud to sponsor nine interns during the spring 2011 semester. The students hail from Marywood University, The University of Scranton, Wilkes University, King's College, and Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

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

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.



Pictured above are two of our Spring interns, Scott Pavone and Sarah Yocius. Both are students at Kings. Scott is a double major in Political Science and Mathematics. Sarah is a Professional Writing ma-

For more information on the program contact Kate Wassel at [Wassel@institutepea.org](mailto:Wassel@institutepea.org).

## 2012 Indicators Report & Regional Forum Scheduled

The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development is excited to announce the date of the 2012 Lackawanna & Luzerne County Indicators Report and Regional Forum. The annual forum will take place on May 17th at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton. 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 seventh 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, and include statewide data. The report includes data on jobs and the economy, education, healthcare, housing, public safety, social services, civic engagement, and demographics.

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.institutepea.org](http://www.institutepea.org).



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 17, 2012**

# 2012 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

**Indicator 2012 Sponsors to date:**

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**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 7, 2012**

## Impact of Marcellus Shale on Housing

This fall the Institute completed a study for the Appalachian Regional Commission on the effects of natural gas exploration on housing in shale rich counties in Pennsylvania. The purpose of the study was to examine if Marcellus Shale exploration was impacting the availability of housing. The study also looked at issues and policies in our shale rich states.



This map shows the presence of Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania Counties. *Source: www.ploga.org*

Twelve counties in the region were selected based on Marcellus shale location and economic status. The Institute gathered a variety of demographic and economic data from those counties through census and other public records. The Institute also conducted a number of interviews with realtors, planning officials, public officials, and other stakeholders. This data was analyzed and a number of trends emerged.

The Institute's findings include:

- There is a shortage of housing supply with very little building in progress. This problem existed before Marcellus Shale development. However, the increase in population is bringing the issue to a head.
- Low-income residents have, in some cases, been forced out by rising rental costs.
- Several of the counties studied have not dealt with population/industry growth in 60 years.
- Most counties have no land use plans or zoning codes.
- Counties in the early phases will benefit from planning, studying best practices, and lessons learned from more mature Marcellus Shale counties.

As a part of the study, The Institute presented policy recommendations to help manage these issues. The full text of the study, including the Institute's recommendations, can be found on our website at: <http://www.institutepa.org/MarcellusShale.html>.

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**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 reports

**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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