



A collaboration among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Keystone College, King’s College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, University of Scranton. and Wilkes University

SAVE THE DATE!

Regional Indicators 2017
May 11th at Mohegan Sun Pocono
Networking 8:30am, Program 9-11am

You are invited to attend this innovative and thought provoking program as we present a fascinating snapshot of what’s trending in NEPA. You won’t want to miss what our cutting edge research has captured this year. Hope to see you at this annual event where we come together as a region with a mutual desire to increase our competitiveness, revitalize our communities and reach our potential for a better and brighter future in Northeastern PA.

About Us

The Institute is an independent, non-profit research and innovation center based in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Our mission is to conduct credible, comprehensive research to identify and address issues, challenges and opportunities affecting our region and offer creative, innovative solutions.

What We Believe

The Institute was founded on the belief that Northeastern Pennsylvania has endless opportunities for businesses and families. We believe that empowering leaders in the public and private sector with the resources and strategic recommendations they need to make informed decisions will ultimately lead to a stronger regional economy and a better quality of life for residents in NEPA.

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Innovation & Initiatives

For more than a decade, The Institute has been behind the scenes of many of the initiatives that have helped strengthen communities in NEPA. Countless leaders and decision makers in both the private and public sectors have relied on The Institute's solution-based research services. The work of The Institute has helped strengthen communities with innovative initiatives such as reducing gang recruitment, creating educational opportunities, improving regional healthcare, breaking the cycle of generational poverty, and enhancing regional economic development.

SCI Retreat & Waymart Prisons Remain Open

The Institute's provided compelling documentation that was used in Senate hearings to help prevent the closing of the prisons. Our economic impact studies highlighted the major negative economic ripple the shuttering of the prison doors would have on communities in our region.

W-B Connect

The Institute is behind the blueprint for this exciting new initiative launched by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce. This free program was created to ensure that all start-up and existing businesses have access to the providers, services and facilities they need to grow their business in Northeastern Pa. W-B Connect works to create and retain jobs by forming partnerships with businesses and academic institutions.

***"If you are standing still, you are also going backwards.
It takes great effort to maintain forward movement."***

Reed B. Markham, American Educator

SHINE Luzerne County

The Institute continues to support this innovative and successful after school and summer program created as a result of earlier research under the Operation Gang Up program. This research identified after school programs as a strong tool in deterring youth participation in gang activity. With December marking its first year anniversary, the SHINE program has served over 300 students in pre-K through 8th grade from five school districts. SHINE (Schools and Homes in Education) offers project-based learning activities that focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). In addition to an exciting learning environment, students receive tutoring, meals, and support services are offered form families.

**"SHINE is proving to be the best kind of investment in the lives of Luzerne County's children. It is sparking enthusiasm for learning, introducing career awareness, and offering a vision for a brighter future."
Congressman Lou Barletta**

Our Newest Additions

Susan Magnotta Director of Community Outreach

Susan Magnotta joined the team at the Institute in January, 2017 as the Director of Community Outreach. Susan is responsible for marketing, business development, fundraising and community outreach.

A graduate of Villanova University with a BA in English, she enjoyed a successful ten year career in pharmaceutical sales both in Harrisburg and in Northeastern Pennsylvania. She earned various sales awards and was recognized as a top 10% performer nationwide several times. Following her sales career, she helped with the launch of NEPA Family magazine as editor and in advertising sales. Most recently, through grass-roots efforts, Susan started a local field hockey organization with the mission of offering low cost, off-season playing opportunities to girls in the community so that no player would be left behind. This not-for-profit organization helped over 300 young girls experience field hockey in a variety of clinics, leagues and tournaments. She and her husband have five children and reside in Forty Fort.

Christopher Ritter Research Associate

Chris Ritter, a recent University of Scranton graduate and second year law student at the University of Scranton recently completed a semester long practicum at The Institute volunteering over 200 hours to participate in data gathering, analytics, and report writing for the experience. Chris is credited with work on The Institute's Education and Workforce Development Task Force research, fall 2016 student poll, and the winter edition of the Economy Tracker. Despite being back at law school this semester, Chris is volunteering as a "virtual" research associate at The Institute.

Saidat Sanni, Graduate Assistant

Saidat is a 2015 graduate of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Ogbomosho in Nigeria where she earned a degree in statistics and was valedictorian of her class of over 10,000 students. She is the first International Kirby Graduate Scholar of the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Wilkes University. Saidat will spend the next two years working as a graduate assistant at The Institute while earning her MBA from Wilkes. Special thanks to Dean Abel Adekola, Sidhu School of Business at Wilkes University and Rodney Ridley, Director of the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Wilkes for their generosity in supporting Saidat's work at The Institute.

Spring 2017 Interns

The Institute would like to congratulate our fall interns for great work during this semester.

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine – Nichole Ogojiaku

King's College – Daniel Faust

Misericordia University –Michael Dubinski

Wilkes University – Whitley Culver, Eleni Moustardas, and Joseph Teeple

The Institute offers credited internships to students of the member institutions. Non-credit internships are also available to students outside our member schools (based on availability). If you are interested in the internship program, please contact The Institute for eligibility criteria at info@institutepa.org or via phone at 570-408-9850 or visit our [Student Internships](#) page.

Community Based Research

The Institute is affiliated with 10 higher education institutions and the business community in northeastern Pennsylvania. Its primary purpose is the development of community based research so that stakeholder in northeastern Pennsylvania can use the data, analytics, and recommendations to enhance economic opportunity leading to improved quality of life and standard of living for all residents. Another purpose of The Institute is to provide students from the ten member schools with practical experience in data analytics, research, and economic development.

The Indicators, Quarterly Economy Tracker, Cost of Living Index, Pillars of a Strong Community Index and the polling program are the primary initiatives that comprise the community based research efforts. In addition, The Institute facilitates, convenes and provides research and policy support to seven regional issue based task forces.

Client Solutions

Market & Feasibility Studies
 Indicators- Indexes
 Community Health Assessments
 Housing Studies
 Economic Development Strategies
 Economic and Tax Impact Studies
 Industry Studies
 Workforce Studies
 Education Studies

Economic and Demographic Profiles
 Policy Analysis
 Grant and Program Evaluation Support
 Research Validation and Peer Review
 Site Selection Research
 Arts & Culture Studies
 Tourism Strategic Plans
 Comprehensive Plans
 Asset Maps

Economy Tracker – Winter 2017

Underemployed NEPA Workers Still Face Economic Struggles- According to U.S. census data, almost 37 percent of all workers throughout Lackawanna and Luzerne counties are currently working in a part-time or part-year capacity. Among the labor force living below the poverty line, that percentage balloons to over 80 percent. This demonstrates that there is a close link between poverty and underemployment in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Read the entire article at:

<http://www.institutepa.org/Economy%20Tracker.html>

The Economy Tracker's Signature Underwriter is **The Willary Foundation** and contributing underwriters include **PNC Foundation and UGI Utilities**.

2017 College Student Polling Program Underway

The Institute developed a polling program in 2015. The program is a pilot to determine whether to create a polling center within The Institute. In 2015, The Institute began to poll students at our 10 member consortium on relevant issues. Each fall, students respond to questions on public policy and civic engagement and in the spring, students report on their post-graduation plans, they assess Northeastern Pennsylvania, and their level of preparation for college upon high school graduation.

The findings are located on The Institute's website and provide valuable insight on relevant issues from the perspective of college students. The first poll of 2017 is in progress. The findings will be published in May of 2017.

http://www.institutepa.org/community_research_polls.html

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Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Luzerne County Cultural Council

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Martz Group
Williams-Transcontinental Pipeline Company, LLC
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Economic Development

Carbon County Chamber & Economic Development Corp
Downtown Bloomsburg, Inc.
Forum for Pennsylvania's Heartland
Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce

Education & Workforce Development

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
Kings College
Lackawanna County Workforce Investment Board
Lehigh Carbon Community College SHINE
Luzerne County Head Start
Luzerne Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board
Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Youth Development
Network
The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education
University of Scranton
Wall Street West/WIRED/US Dept. of Labor
Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance
Wilkes University

Government

Appalachian Regional Commission
Borough of Factoryville
City of Nanticoke
City of Scranton
Columbia & Montour Counties
Lackawanna County
Local Government Commission
Luzerne County
Luzerne County Municipal Cooperation
Commission
Wilkes-Barre City
Wyoming County

Health & Healthcare

Geisinger Health System
Healthy Northeast Pennsylvania Initiative
Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

Non-Profit Organizations

All One Foundation
Arbor Housing & Development
Carbondale YMCA
Central Susquehanna Community Foundation
Commission on Equal Opportunity
Jewish Community Center
Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation
Municipal Cooperation Commission
Nicholson Heritage Association
Pennsylvania Economy League
Pocono Alliance
Primary Care Progress
Scranton Area Foundation
Scranton Cultural Center
United Way of Monroe County
United Way of Susquehanna County
United Way Wyoming Valley

Locations in:

Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, PA

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