

The Institute

Turning Information into Insight

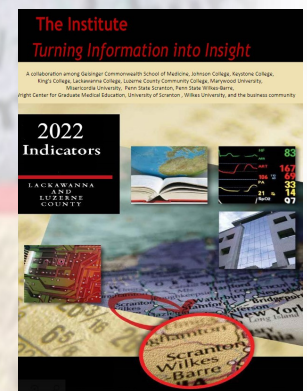
*Economic, Impact, Health,
Social, and Education
Research, Evaluation, and
Consulting*

Indicators 2022

Many thanks to all who attended !



This year's event explored themes such as the region's growing and changing population and the well-being of children and families. We also addressed the essentials of preparing the workforce for a growing economy, and identified what it takes to build a strong, resilient, and sustainable region.



In this Issue:

- Special Thanks to Sponsors
- Indicators 2022 recap
- Task Force Research
- New website announcement
- Underwriting opportunities
- Spring Policy Tracker
- Client Solutions

A collaboration among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Johnson College, Keystone College, King's College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Scranton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, The Wright Center or Graduate Medical Education, University of Scranton, Wilkes University, and the business community



Many Thanks



To Our 2022 Community-Based Underwriters
and Indicators Event Sponsors

Signature Underwriters

Andrew J. Sordoni Foundation
Luzerne County
PPL Electric Utilities
Sordoni Family Foundation

Main Event Sponsor

The Wright Center for Community Health
and Graduate Medical Education

Contributing Underwriters

Altitude Philanthropies
Borton-Lawson
Geisinger Health System
UGI Utilities
WVIA

Gold Sponsors

Berkshire Asset Management
Geisinger Health System
McCarthy Tire
Scranton Area Community Foundation
UGI Utilities

Platinum Sponsors

Lackawanna College
Mohegan Sun Pocono
WVIA Public Media

Supporting Underwriters

BlackOut Design
FNCB
Greater Hazleton CANDO
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
M&T Bank
Navient
PNC
Prudential
The Luzerne Foundation
The Wright Center for Community Health

Silver Sponsors

Marywood University
The Scranton Plan

Bronze Sponsors

Classic Properties
Coal Creative
Community Bank
Greater Wyoming Valley
Chamber of Commerce
Johnson College
Penn State Wilkes-Barre
Power Engineering Corporation



Dr. Linda Thomas-Hemak, President and CEO of The Wright Centers for Community Health and Graduate Medical Education—main event sponsor—welcomed attendees both in person and online.

Indicators 2022

T H U R S D A Y , M A Y 1 9

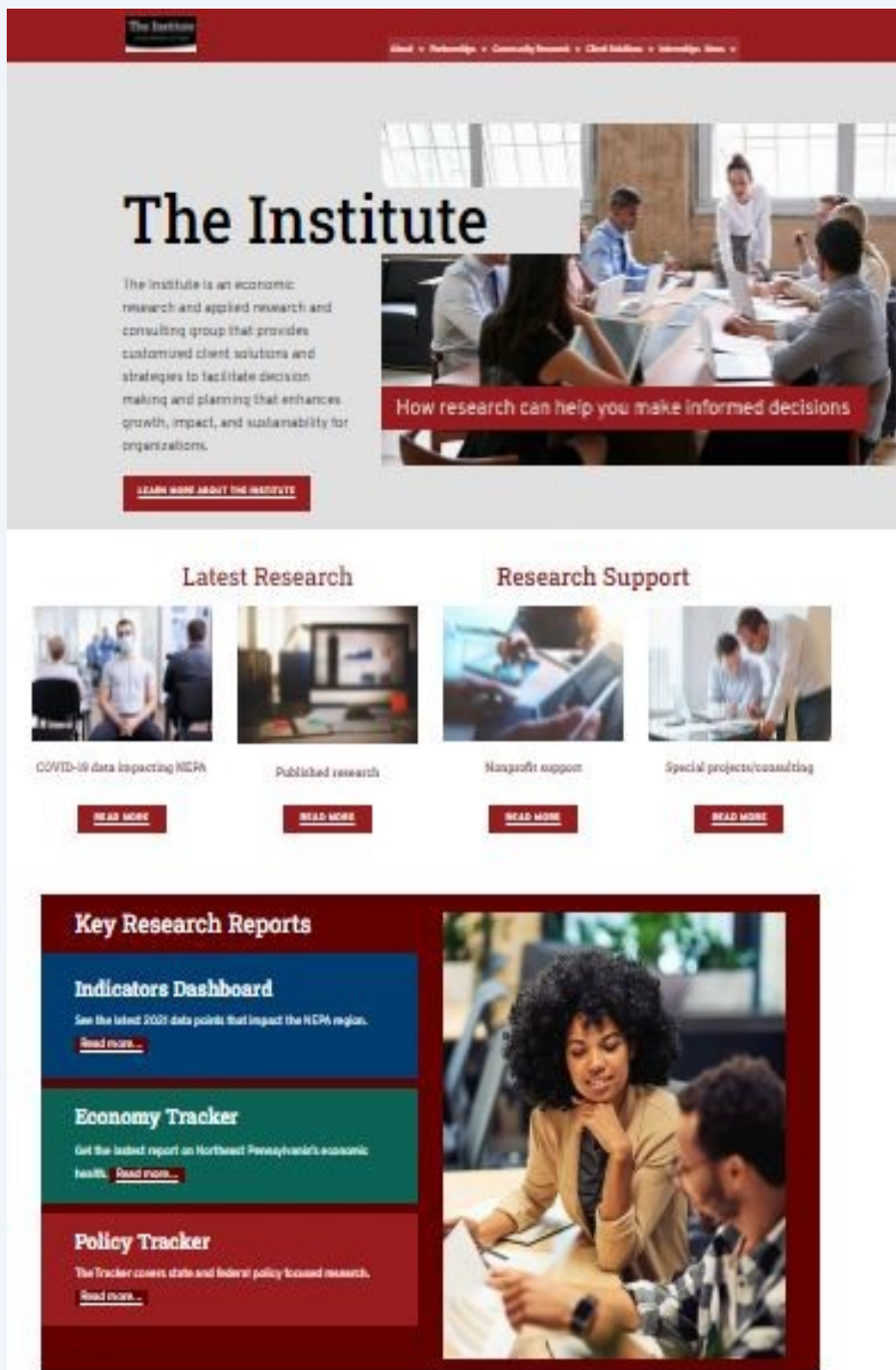
The launch of The Institute's new Regional Competitive-ness Task Force was also announced, with WVIA Public Media President and CEO Carla McCabe introduced as the Inaugural Chair!



165 people participated—nearly the rate of attendance enjoyed at forums prior to the pandemic!



New website/dashboard



Our research team is excited to unveil our new website! Not only is it visually appealing and user-friendly and interactive!

Visitors can now use our [Research Hub](#) to search and sort through our library of studies (by keyword and category).

Visitors can also explore our [Indicators Dashboard](#). It includes:

- Regional datasets for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, separated into 12 categories
- Granular data for six of the region's cities
- Profiles for 11 surrounding counties

Don't worry - you can still access and download the full Indicators publication!

2022 Task Force Research

All 2022 task force research is now available online! Take a look at the details below, and click to access the full studies.

No time for a deep dive into the research? No problem! Simply visit and subscribe to The Institute's YouTube channel, Which contains video synopses of the findings.

**Find us on
YouTube**



Planning, Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure: Our region can increase its economic competitiveness by looking toward repurposing of older industrial buildings or redevelopment of brownfield sites as an alternative to Greenfield development. This study articulates the benefits of such reuse related to sustainability, infrastructure, public services, and transportation and explore regional and nationwide case studies of successful projects.

Jobs, Economy & Economic Development: Even prior to COVID-19, non-skill barriers to workforce participation, like lack of transportation, lack of child-care, and family caregiving responsibilities, were important factors in the region's labor market. This study will examine regional, state, and national workforce participation data over time by age and gender (including COVID impacts, as available data allows), and draw upon literature to show the dynamics of the decision to participate in the workforce.



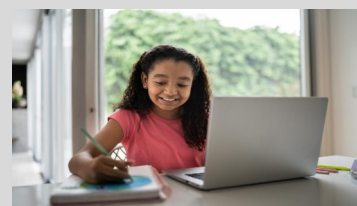
Housing: The region has seen signs of recent population growth, and in order to maintain naturally affordable, achievable housing for working-class and middle-class households, there will likely be a need for new housing and revitalization and/or reimagining of existing housing. This policy-oriented report will further define these needs and explore several methods of providing quality, unsubsidized housing that is affordable to NEPA's working families.

Health & Health Care: This report will explore the impacts of social isolation on health and how the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated social isolation among various segments of the population, including older adults, children, and families.



Energy: Shifting energy production to non-fossil fuel energy sources (including nuclear and renewables) has been emphasized by policymakers and business leaders alike in order to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The environmental and economic impacts of electricity and natural gas are researched and compared to alternatives in order to determine best practices.

Education & Workforce Development: Several disruptions have impacted education and workforce needs internationally, nationally, and in Northeastern Pennsylvania. This report will examine how these disruptions have impacted students, teachers, and education and workforce training institutions.



The Institute needs your support!

Data-driven decisions are essential for enhancing the vibrancy of the region and ensuring its long-term economic prosperity. That's why we hope you will contribute to our community-based research. Consider joining our growing list of underwriters.



To learn more, contact Teri at ooms@institute-pa.org.

In case you missed it...

A new edition of the Policy Tracker is now available!

In the Spring 2022 edition of the **Policy Tracker**, read about:

- State-level legislative updates regarding tipped workers, REAL ID enforcement, the proposed PA Energy Independence Act, ARPA fund allocation, financial programming literacy, and actions to mitigate home ownership barriers
- Federal legislative updates regarding the COMPETES Act, cannabis business and banking, mental health support, Build Back Better efforts, and cybersecurity preparedness
- The potential for passenger rail in Northeastern Pennsylvania
- Earned income tax credits as tools for poverty reduction
- The mental health workforce

[Access the
issue here!](#)

Client Solutions

Market & Feasibility Studies
Indicators- Indexes
Community Needs Assessments
Housing Studies
Economic Development Strategies
Economic and Tax Impact Studies

Survey Research
Industry Studies
Workforce Studies
Education Studies
Policy Analysis
Site Selection Research
Arts & Culture Studies

Economic and Demographic Profiles
Grant and Program Evaluation Support
Research Validation and Peer Review
Tourism Strategic Plans
Comprehensive Plans
Asset Maps

Who We Are

The Institute is dedicated to empowering business and community leaders with researched-driven strategies for informed decision-making.

We conduct community-based, empirical research to identify the opportunities and challenges unique to our region, and offer innovative solutions for the problems facing our communities. **This research is funded by generous academic partners and sponsors who share our vision for a strong regional economy and vibrant communities.**

Community-Based Research

Access the latest regional research on The Institute's website. www.institutepa.org

Regional Indicators Data & Research

Indicators data tracks the region's progress over time. They include economy, healthcare, environment, education and infrastructure measures.

<https://www.institutepa.org/dashboard/>

Task Force Research

Recent and archived research studies identify and address the region's challenges. This research is a driving force behind many important economic development and community revitalization initiatives, which produce positive outcomes for our area.

<https://www.institutepa.org/research-hub/>

Quarterly Economic Tracker

This quarterly electronic publication explores the region's economic and business trends.

<https://www.institutepa.org/economy-tracker/>

Policy Tracker

This tracker covers state and federal policy focused research and aims to educate and inform the reader about the challenges, opportunities, and potential non-partisan solutions.

<https://www.institutepa.org/policy-tracker/>

Polling Program

Better understand the subject matter interests, public policy views, and civic engagement of our local college students and future leaders.

<https://www.institutepa.org/polling-center/>

Thanks to our 2022 Research Underwriters!

Sincere thanks to our generous stakeholders who share our vision for a strong regional economy and healthy communities. Your support makes our work possible!

Signature Underwriters

Andrew J. Sordoni Foundation
Luzerne County
PPL Electric Utilities
Sordoni Family Foundation

Contributing Underwriters

Altitude Philanthropies
Borton-Lawson
Geisinger Health System
UGI Utilities
WVIA Public Media

Supporting Underwriters

BlackOut Design
FNCB
Greater Hazleton CANDO
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
M&T Bank
Navient
PNC
Prudential
The Luzerne Foundation
The Wright Center for Community Health

Academic Partners

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
Johnson College
Keystone College
King's College
Lackawanna College
Luzerne County Community College
Marywood University
Misericordia University
Penn State Scranton
Penn State Wilkes-Barre
The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education
University of Scranton
Wilkes University

Locations in:

Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, PA

www.institutepa.org

570.408.9850

info@institutepa.org

Staff

Teri Ooms

President & CEO

ooms@institutepa.org

Andrew Chew

Director of Research

chew@institutepa.org

Jill Avery-Stoss

Director of Operations

averystoss@institutepa.org

Jolene Carey-Pace, Ed.D.

Research Analyst

carey-pace@institutepa.org

Sarah Bender

Research Assistant

bender@institutepa.org



Board of Directors

Charlie Kasko, Chairperson of the Board, Classic Properties

Alana Roberts, Vice Chairperson of the Board, PPL Electric

Bill Sordoni, Secretary/Treasurer, Sordoni Construction

Don Brominski, UGI Utilities

Greg Cant, Wilkes University

Robert Korjeski, KMLA Group

Robert Luciani, Empower

Paul Rushton, Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP

Advisory Board

Chairman - Greg Cant, Ph.D., Wilkes University

Vice-Chairman – Charlie Kasko, Classic Properties

Ron Beer , MHA, FACHE – Geisinger Health System

Don Brominski — UGI Utilities

Tracy L. Brundage, Ph.D. — Keystone College

Julie Byerley, MD — Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

John Cefaly — Cushman & Wakefield

Robert Durkin — Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce

Lynda Goldstein—Penn State University Wilkes-Barre

Lindsay Griffin — Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber

Thomas Leary — Luzerne County Community College

Thomas Looney, C.S.C., Ph.D. — King's College

Katie Leonard, Ed.D.—Johnson College

Joe Lettiere —CAN DO, Inc.

Robert Luciani — Empower

Rev. John G. Marina, S.J. — University of Scranton

Carla McCabe — WVIA Public Media

Jill Murray, Ph.D — Lackawanna College

Daniel Myers, Ph.D.—Misericordia University

Mary Persico, IHM, Ed.D. — Marywood University

Alana Roberts —PPL Utilities

Matthew Sordoni — Sordoni Construction

Linda Thomas-Hemak, M.D. – The Wright Center

Marleen Troy, Ph.D., — Wilkes University

Lucyann Vierling — Workforce Alliance

Marwan Wafa, Ph.D. — Penn State University Scranton

Tara Mugford Wilson — Power Engineering Corporation

Join our growing list of research underwriters !

To learn more, contact Teri at ooms@institutepa.org.