

The Institute

Turning Information into Insight

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

What's next for the region's 2022 college graduates?

Our research team regularly polls students at our partnering higher education institutions. Polls conducted each spring assess opinions about the region, and inquire about post-graduation plans.



Here are some of the latest findings:

- Students planning to remain in NEPA after graduation assign high value to proximity of family.
- Those planning to depart the area after graduation are likelier to value diversity and inclusiveness, as well as wide-ranging entertainment, recreation, and dining options.
- A strong connection exists between completion of a regional internship and the decision to remain in NEPA after graduation.

Interested in learning more? [Access the full brief here!](#)

In this Issue:

- Special Thanks to Sponsors
- Foundation Highlight
- Data visualization series
- Revisiting Project STIR
- Underwriting opportunities
- Economy and Policy Trackers
- 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

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Luzerne County
PPL Electric Utilities
Sordoni Family Foundation

Main Event Sponsor

The Wright Center for Community Health
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The Scranton Area Community Foundation: Steadfast Supporter and Community Pillar

The Scranton Area Community Foundation supported Virtual Regional Indicators 2022 through a \$1,000 Community Needs grant. The Indicators Initiative began in 2006 with the first presentation of regional metrics to the community, a series of subject matter discussions, and goal setting. The objective was to encourage community leaders to use data to inform decisions and to measure outcomes. Its focus has always been on regional collaboration since the region is truly economically interdependent.

Fast forward to 2022, The Indicators has grown. The book benchmarks 125 metrics trended over time. There are eight subject matter task forces and over 100 volunteers. In addition, The Institute has created an interactive dashboard to show the data.



With over 170 people now attending the event and over 100 requests for data each year, The Institute is working to ensure organizations and leaders have the tools to inform their planning and decision making, quality control and outcomes.

The Scranton Area Community Foundation has been an active partner on a variety of Institute Initiatives for over seven years. It is on a mission to enhance the quality of life for all people in Northeastern Pennsylvania through the development of organized philanthropy. A public 501c3 community foundation, the Scranton Area Community Foundation serves as a steward, a grantmaker, a charitable resource, and a catalyst for change.

NEW! Data Visualization Video Series!



WVIA, in partnership with The Institute, produced a series of *Data Visualization Videos* to help explain critical issues in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The short videos focus on three key areas, using data from the annual Indicators Report and community task force research studies. They will be featured on the WVIA website as well as The Institute's YouTube channel.

[Find us on YouTube](#)

The first video will address **workforce issues**.
It will be available on September 20.

The second video will address **housing inequality**.
It will be available on September 27.

The final video will address **child abuse**.
It will be available on October 4.



The PPL Foundation Remains a Valued Underwriter

We are pleased to announce renewed support from the PPL Foundation, which awards annual grants through a competitive application and review process. This funding will help sustain The Institute and fuel or community-based research!



Commitment from generous underwriters such as PPL enables us to continue turning information into insight!

Through strategic partnerships, the PPL Foundation supports organizations working to create vibrant, sustainable communities; promote diversity, equity, and inclusion; and empower each citizen to fulfill her or his potential. The PPL Foundation contributes more to a wide variety of nonprofit organizations in eastern and central PA. To learn more, visit pplcares.com.

Sparking Transformation Using Information & Research

Project STIR



The concept of Project STIR was developed by LaTida Smith, former President and CEO of Moses Taylor Foundation, in an effort to provide foundations, their grantees, and the community at large with education and information on a variety of issues that affect the region, their work, and their clients. One of the funded initiatives resulted in a publication called the *Institute Review*. This is an equity, economic, and social innovation weekly newsletter.

In addition, a public policy initiative was developed and implemented whereby The Institute develops an annual issues briefing book with policy briefs and analysis on education, workforce, public safety, environment, government, health care, equity, and social services. The book is presented to the federal and state northeast delegation in a private retreat each September. The Scranton Area Community Foundation and The Willary Foundation supported the initiative. In 2021, The Robert H. Spitz Foundation and the McGowan Charitable Trust joined the consortium.

A vertical stack of logos on a white background. At the top is the Moses Taylor Foundation logo, featuring a colorful five-pointed star above the text "MOSES TAYLOR FOUNDATION". Below that is the Willary Foundation logo, which consists of the word "WILLARY" in large white letters on a dark blue rectangular background, with "FOUNDATION" in smaller white letters below it. Next is the Scranton Area Community Foundation logo, with "SCRANTON AREA" in blue, "Community" in green script, and "FOUNDATION" in blue. Below that is the McGowan Charitable Fund logo, featuring a stylized "MCGOWAN" logo on the left and the text "William G. McGowan Charitable Fund" on the right. At the bottom is the Robert H. Spitz Foundation logo, with "The Robert H. Spitz Foundation" in a serif font, flanked by horizontal lines.

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@institutepea.org.

In case you missed them...

New editions of the Economy and Policy Trackers are now available!

In the latest issue of the **Economy Tracker**, read about:

- improvements to financial health of families
- unemployment and workforce dynamics
- regional wages
- the task force studying regional competitiveness
- employment inequities and caregiver barriers
- industry recovery from COVID-19
- effects of price volatility on fixed-income households

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

- the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- details from the state budget
- national and state legislative activities
- climate-related provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act
- and more!

[Access the issue here!](#)

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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!

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The Luzerne Foundation
The Wright Center for Community Health

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Penn State Scranton
Penn State Wilkes-Barre
The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education
University of Scranton
Wilkes University

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Join our growing list of research underwriters !

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