

Turning Information into Insight

Save the Date

INDICATORS 2024

MAY 22, 2024

THE WOODLANDS INN

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!



The Institute
Turning Information into Insight

 **THE WOODLANDS**

Our mailing address has changed.

Please send mail to::

169 N Pennsylvania Blvd
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

The Institute still operates as a hybrid operation.

In this issue:

- Special thanks to sponsors
- Welcome new team members
- 2023 Task Force Research
- Anchors for Equity
- Sneak peek at 2024 research
- Underwriting opportunities
- Academic partner news
- Client solutions



Sincere Thanks



to our 2023 community-based research underwriters
and Indicators event sponsors

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PPL Electric Utilities
Sordoni Family Foundation

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We're still growing! Meet Emily and Michael...



Emily Bauer, Administrative Coordinator

Born and raised in Harveys Lake, Pennsylvania, Emily went on to attend Arcadia University and the Umbra Institute, where she received her degree in International Business and Culture.

As the Administrative Coordinator, Emily oversees organizational lines of communication, scheduling, and event coordination. She also helps manage the internship program as well as mentoring activities with students from our partnering professional schools.

Her other responsibilities include responding to general inquiries and information requests, exchange of calls and correspondence, and coordinating information requests from the community and media.

Emily also creates and manages content for social media, eblasts, newsletters, press releases, and website updates. She assists with website functionality and secondary research. Additionally, she produces the weekly Institute Review and coordinates The Institute's polling program and cost of living research.



Michael Shuba, Research Assistant

Michael's expertise is in quantitative data analysis and literature research. He has gathered and analyzed data for paleo-glacial reconstructions, researched and gathered data for soil analysis assisting in the mountain farming community of the San Luis Valley, Colorado, and used different types of Geographical information systems such as ArcMap (desktop) and Google Earth Pro. Michael's background of data analysis and research within the environmental sciences has helped prepare him for his role as Research Assistant at The Institute.

As an undergraduate, in such a geographically rich area as the San Luis Valley Co., Michael was able to learn how interconnected a community is with their regional environment through extracurricular courses that focused on water, anthropogeny, and soils. During this time Michael also found community among his fellow scientists working as a GIS Teaching Assistant & Tutor, Ryan Museum Curator & Tour Guide, summer Research Assistant, and Geological Tour Guide for the NEXT50 programs.

As a research assistant, Michael has been working on literature reviews, policy briefs and collecting data for indicators. Shuba supports the community engagement team in field research.

Anchors for Equity

An Initiative of the Philadelphia Reserve Bank

Adapted from—[Research in Action Lab: Anchors for Equity \(philadelphiafed.org\)](https://www.philadelphiafed.org/research-and-data/real-time-center/research-in-action-lab/anchors-for-equity)

The Institute was recently awarded a Research in Action Lab initiative by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia under their Economic Growth and Mobility Project.

- The [Anchor Economy Initiative](#) explores how hospitals and higher education institutions sustain jobs, drive economic growth, and support equitable regional development.
- The [Economic Growth & Mobility Project](#) brings together researchers and community partners to find innovative, actionable, and community-driven solutions to local or regional economic challenges.
- Research is conducted through [Research in Action Labs](#) that help advance solutions to specific challenges for achieving economic equity in communities. Since its launch, participants have met to discuss asset mapping, racial equity, and more.



We are engaged in a multi partner process over 18–24 months to address a workforce challenge, with the communities’ anchor institutions as lead participants. All our academic partners are engaged in the initiative, and two are co-chairs – Johnson College and Lackawanna College. As some of their region’s largest employers, and as institutions that train and educate the workforce, anchor institutions play a pivotal role in creating and connecting people to job opportunities.

New Task Force Research Underway

Here's a sneak peek!



Education and Workforce Development:

A Community-Based Approach to Support Inclusive Education

Research demonstrates a correlation between education and key life outcomes (such as occupation, poverty level, and physical and mental health), as well as economic growth and community well-being. The same is true with regard to inclusive education and social and economic returns. This report will incorporate regional disability and education data for Pre-K through postsecondary learning. The study will examine opportunities for social support systems to collaborate with schools and promote inclusive education that furthers positive community and economic outcomes.

Planning, Land Use, Transportation, and Infrastructure:

A Comprehensive Study of the Downtown Revitalization Landscape in NEPA

This study, from an urban planning perspective, will profile the downtowns of the region's cities, including economic, housing, and demographic trends and identification of assets and barriers to revitalization. The analysis will include a matrix of existing plans and strategic documents to compare different approaches to economic development. Opportunities for development around the arts and the concept of creative placemaking will also be addressed, along with the role of transportation infrastructure, considering funding availability through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



Energy: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure—Follow Up

The study will examine policy changes and provide an update on EV implementation, while evaluating challenges such as emissions in battery manufacturing, short battery life, and disposal. The research will consider federal implications and climate change, in addition to the need for electric infrastructure upgrades or expansions. Funding to meet these needs and impact on ratepayers will be considered too. Finally, the potential revenue loss associated with gas tax will be explored in conjunction with alternative funding opportunities for road maintenance.



Regionalism:

The topic has not been defined, though the task force is engaging in meetings with Chamber leaders to discuss prior research and other data needs.

New Task Force Research Underway

Sneak peek cont.

Jobs, Economy, and Economic Development: A Study of Regional Economic Resilience

Improving upward economic mobility is critical to supporting and strengthening regional economic resilience. This report will outline case studies and best practices to reverse outward migration and bolster economic resilience, building on this theme from the Task Force's 2023 research. It will also incorporate primary data collection with secondary data to reveal economic strengths and gaps, and it will include recommendations to increase opportunities for upward economic mobility among all community members.

Health and Health Care: Lifestyle Medicine Deep Dive: Physical Activity

This study will expand on last year's report on lifestyle medicine by drilling down more deeply on physical activity, one of the six pillars of lifestyle medicine. This study will approach healthcare interventions and best practices for promoting physical activity as well as analyze the issue through an environmental health lens by identifying gaps in access to fitness and recreational facilities. Other structural issues will also be addressed, such as walkable/rideable neighborhoods and the social determinants of health.



Health and Health Care: The State of Telemedicine

This policy-focused report will provide background and context on the current state of telehealth services (availability, cost, barriers to access, etc.) in a rapidly evolving regulatory environment. Special attention will be given to opportunities and barriers to using telehealth to address behavioral health needs. Digital equity and its relationship with social determinants of health will also be discussed as it relates to telehealth access. Policy recommendations to promote effective use of telemedicine and local solutions to increase access to telehealth and digital equity will be included.



Housing: Luzerne County Housing Study

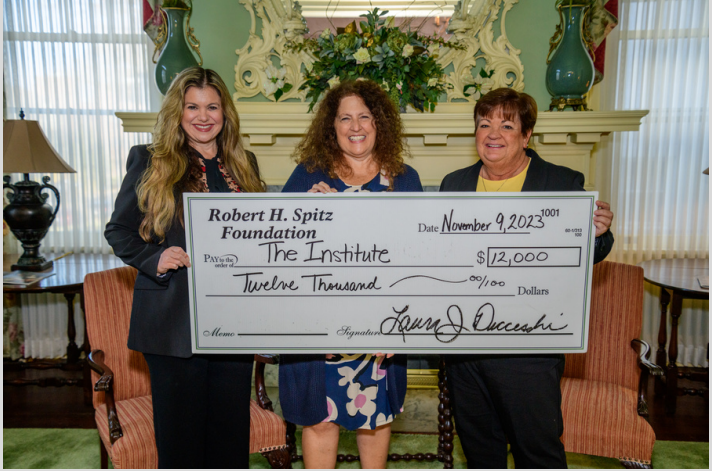
The Institute was awarded ARPA funds by Luzerne County to conduct a housing study. The study will evaluate the market and market changes and correlate them to socio-demographics shifts and housing composition by community. The study will then develop a series of recommendation on housing needs for the county to use as part of their housing strategy, to coordinate with the landbanks, and developers to ensure a stable, steady supply of housing at multiple price points to meet demand.

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@instituteepa.org.

We are immensely grateful for our generous supporters! Recent gifts include \$10,000 from PPL Foundation.



Academic Partner News

King's College just launched the Northeastern Pennsylvania chapter of "Go Baby Go," a nationwide initiative that modifies battery-powered toy vehicles so children with disabilities can move independently and socialize more easily with other children.

The first build day was made possible with a \$20,000 donation from the Moses Taylor Foundation to purchase vehicles and modification materials.



Many thanks to our Fall 2023 Research Interns!

Paula Costabile, Misericordia University
Michael Kilgallon, Misericordia University

Client Solutions

Arts & Culture Studies
Asset Maps
Community Needs Assessments
Comprehensive Plans
Economic and Demographic Profiles
Economic and Tax Impact Studies

Economic Development Strategies
Education Studies
Grant and Program Evaluation Support
Housing Studies
Survey Research
Indicators- Indexes
Industry Studies

Market and Feasibility Studies
Policy Analysis
Research Validation and Peer Review
Site Selection Research
Tourism Strategic Plans
Workforce Studies

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 Economy 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 2023 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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Join our growing list of research underwriters!

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

