



A partnership among Keystone College, King's College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, the University of Scranton, & Wilkes University

JUSC at a Glance . . .

Joint Urban Studies Center (JUSC) is a collaborative effort of eight regional colleges and universities, including: Keystone College, King's College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, the University of Scranton, and Wilkes University.

JUSC's goal is to provide essential research, planning, analysis, and implementation approaches for cities, counties, states, non-profits, and private industry aiming for full participation in the 21st Century's new economy. In addition to its professional staff, JUSC relies on active participation of its member institutions' faculty, staff and student interns.

Many of JUSC's reports demonstrate where a community is and where it can aspire to be, given its unique set of attributes. Our reports study history and trends, assets and gaps, and best practices. JUSC also provides action plans and proposed outcomes.

Our Collaboration

JUSC offers students studying under any academic major at its member institutions various internship opportunities. Such internships allow students the chance to participate in essential research, analysis and information dissemination, and provide them with critical workplace learning experiences.

Through hands-on learning in a professional environment, students apply their theoretical learning to everyday situations. Applied learning practices ultimately help students connect their real life opportunities, activities and challenges to their professional future.

Faculty members of JUSC's member institutions compete for participation in its Visiting Scholar Program—a program that places them within JUSC to conduct a semester of research. Faculty members also produce JUSC's *Quarterly Bulletin*, which will debut in January 2009. The *Quarterly Bulletin* will include articles and information pertaining to the economy, education, public policy, government, the environment and planning.

Our Services

JUSC offers cities, counties, non-profit organizations, businesses and industries the following research services:

- Economic & Community Development Planning
- Customized Data Analysis & Reports
- Indicator Reports
- Innovation Indexes
- Best Practices/Case Studies
- Economic Impact Reports
- Strategic Plans
- Comprehensive Plans
- Public Policy Analysis
- Demographic Information
- Surveys
- Focus Groups

Our Team

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Visit us online at www.urbanstudies.org.



Our Recent Research Projects

- The Rise of Luzerne County: An Examination of the Origin & Future Effects of Recent Population Shifts
- The Economic Impact of Marcellus Shale in Northeastern Pennsylvania
- Land Use Planning & Sprawl
- The State of K-12 Education in Northeastern Pennsylvania
- University-Community Partnerships
- Best Practices of High Growth States
- Ethnic Changes in Northeastern Pennsylvania
- Regional Implications of Bond Rating Methodology
- Why Aren't We Average?
- Poverty & Urbanization
- Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Education
- Regionalism: A Primer
- The Impact of Arts & Culture on Community Revitalization
- Regional Indicator Reports
- Lackawanna & Luzerne Counties Indicators Report—This annual report focuses on twelve major categories and more than 100 specific benchmarks. The report debuted in 2006 and is presented each year at a regional forum. The first forum include a regional visioning and goal setting session. As a result, the report serves as a basis for a regional revitalization and sustainability initiative that involves volunteer task forces, including: 1) Jobs, Economy & Economic Development; 2) Education & Workforce Development; 3) Housing; 4) Land Use, Infrastructure, Transportation, & Planning.

Our Clientele

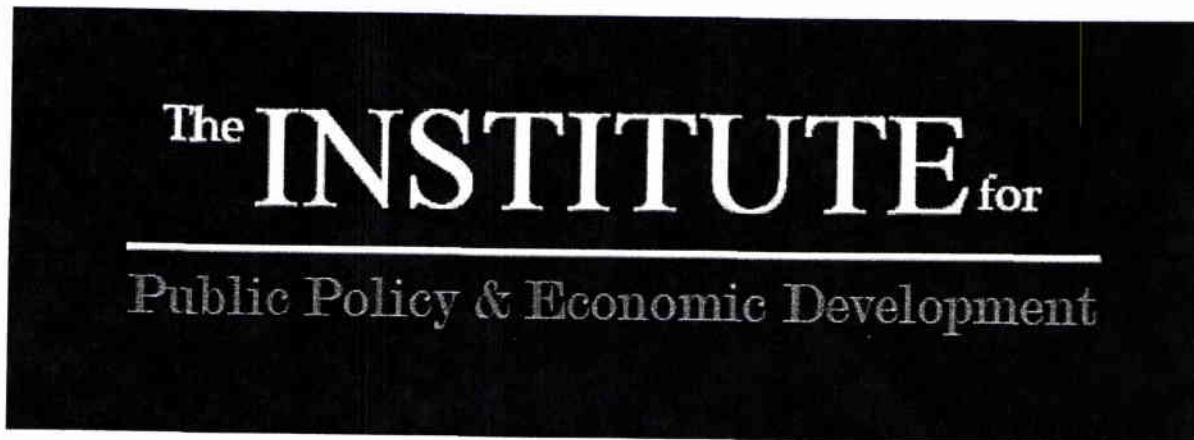
JUSC serves a number of clients in various businesses and industries, including the following, among others:

Borton Lawson
City of Nanticoke
CityVest
City of Wilkes-Barre
Facility Design & Development
Forum for Pennsylvania's Heartland
Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce
Great Valley Technology Alliance
IBG Partners
Legislative Office for Research Liaison
Luzerne County
Luzerne County Convention & Visitor's Bureau
Luzerne County Cultural Council
Luzerne/Schuylkill County Workforce Investment Board
Municipal Cooperative Commission
Pennsylvania Economy League
South Valley Partnership
Volunteers in Medicine
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins
Wilkes University

**To learn more about how JUSC can help your organization,
please contact us at 570.408.9850, or send email to info@urbanstudies.org.**

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Marcellus Shale

Marcellus Shale is found deep underground in many counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. This shale contains natural gas and can be extracted from the ground and used as a new source of energy. Many landowners have already leased their property to natural gas companies. Natural gas companies are securing drilling permits and drilling has or will commence in many counties in the region. This new industry has the capability of producing rapid population increases, wealthier communities, and more jobs. However, with incredible opportunities comes many challenges. How do we protect our land and environment for the next 20-30 years during drilling? How do our communities handle population growth in schools, delivering public services and public safety? What is the impact on healthcare? Will our charities and local foundations benefit? How does this impact traffic and congestion as well as the physical impact on infrastructure?

Many questions still need to be answered. JUSC begins that process here. JUSC was commissioned to complete research on Marcellus shale. These two white papers deal with economic impact and the impact on charities, foundations, and public safety.

There are many questions yet to be answered and JUSC has the ability and resources to conduct that research. To make inquiries or submit comments, please email JUSC at info@urbansudies.org.

Marcellus Shale Studies

The Impact of Marcellus Shale in Northeastern Pennsylvania with Emphasis on Charities, Crime, and Poverty

June 2008: A new energy source is the next catalytic event propelling northeastern Pennsylvania into growth mode.

The Economic Impact of Marcellus Shale in Northeastern Pennsylvania

May 2008: An introduction to Marcellus Shale and the economic impact on the region using a case study methodology from events in Texas and Arkansas.

Research studies available at:
<http://www.urbanstudies.org/marcellus>

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JUSC to change name to The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development

Joint Urban Studies Center (JUSC) is changing its name to The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development (The Institute). The JUSC is a four year old research based think tank formed by a consortium of higher education institutions, business, non-profit, and economic development providers to prepare research, policy, and strategies to government, economic and workforce development providers, business, and non-profits. JUSC is best known to have prepared the region's first annual indicators report and conducting regional planning and visioning session.

"Since its inception, JUSC has been called upon to provide research on public policy and issues that go beyond the urban core of a community, therefore a name and identity to reflect the expansion of its mission was in order," said Teri Ooms, Executive Director.

The Institute will continue its research on regional priorities and collaborative solutions. It will continue to prepare the regional indicators report, conduct the annual forum, and coordinate the regional task forces. While The Institute's work has expanded beyond the boundaries northeastern Pennsylvania, Lackawanna & Luzerne County will still be a research priority for The Institute.

"The organization has reached a level whereby it is recognized and respected for its work. It is now being called upon to address a broader range of issues from clients across the Commonwealth. It is a nice position to be in," said Board Chairman, Tim Gilmour, Ph.D., President of Wilkes University.

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