



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source of Population and Economic Statistics

September 20, 2001

Pennsylvania State Data Center Fall 2001 Lecture Series

MIDDLETOWN, Pa — The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg announces that their Fall Lecture Series will commence Thursday, October 4th at the Downtown Center in Harrisburg. This season's three lecture series are on current topics relevant to all Pennsylvanians. The series schedule follows.

Butler County-- Ahead of the West

October 4, 2001

Dave Johnston

Planning Director,

Butler County Planning Commission

Despite population flat lines and losses across much of western Pennsylvania, Butler County has experienced population growth-- 14.1 percent, to be exact.

Dave Johnston of the Butler County Planning Commission will discuss reasons why Butler County has thrived during the past ten years. His explanations will include an analysis of Butler County's tax collection, transportation and road access, public utility availability and land characteristics.

Dave Johnston has been serving as Planning Director for Butler County for six years. He has over 23 years of experience in county government serving both rural and urban environments. He is a member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and a volunteer on the Butler YMCA Board of Directors as well as the Cranberry Township Building and Fire Code Appeals Board, Butler Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Butler County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Steering Committee.

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Pennsylvania Tobacco Settlement Money

October 18, 2001

Julie Kissinger

Director of Political Development,

The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

Sam Monismith

Associate Professor of Health Education,

Penn State Harrisburg

Pennsylvania will receive \$11 billion over the next quarter century from the tobacco settlement of 1998. Governor Ridge's "Health Investment Plan" provides that all monies from the settlement will be used for health care purposes.

Ms. Kissinger will discuss the overall impact of the tobacco settlement on Pennsylvania hospitals and health systems with specific emphasis on the uncompensated care/extraordinary expense program and the Health Link program. The discussion will touch on how the state's hospitals are affected by other provisions of the new tobacco settlement law and how they will be community partners in several of the health initiatives created under Act 77 of 2001.

Dr. Monismith will discuss how funds have been and will be allocated for comprehensive tobacco control as well as prevention and cessation programs across the commonwealth.

Ms. Kissinger joined The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania in March 1994 as Director of Political Development. Prior to her current position, Ms. Kissinger was director of the Senate Republican Communications office.

Dr. Monismith is an Associate Professor of Health Education at Penn State Harrisburg. He serves as Academic Coordinator for Graduate Studies in Health Education.

Deregulation in Pennsylvania

November 8, 2001

Glen Thomas

Chairman,

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)

Glen Thomas, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, will discuss the current status of deregulation in Pennsylvania as it pertains to the telecommunications, gas and electric industries. One focus will be electric reliability and how Pennsylvania compares to California. He will also provide an overview of the Verizon local competition case in Pennsylvania.

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Governor Tom Ridge named Thomas as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on June 22, 2001. Prior to his appointment to the commission, he was deputy director of Governor Ridge's Policy Office, having served in the Policy Office since 1995. During his tenure in the Ridge Administration, Chairman Thomas also served as the governor's principal advisor on several hallmark initiatives, including electric and natural gas competition. He was also Governor Ridge's top aide during the governor's term as Chairman of the Council of Great Lakes Governors. Chairman Thomas currently serves as a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and the State Government Liaison Committee of the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection.

The PaSDC Lecture Series is held at the Penn State Downtown Center directly across from the Main Capitol Building at 234 North Third Street, Harrisburg. All lectures are free and open to the public and are held from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Registration is not required but recommended to ensure adequate seating. Please phone 717.948.6677 or email PaSDC-Reserve@psu.edu for registration.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.



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