

PRIOR Engagement



Spring & Summer 2008

An Update on the Policy Research Institute for the Region

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PRIOR Launches Health Series with President of UMDNJ

PRIOR and Princeton University's Molecular Biology Department have launched a three-part series on the health enterprise in New Jersey. The inaugural session occurred on May 8th, when Dr. William F. Owen, Jr., President of the University of Medicine and Dentistry (UMDNJ), offered an overview of health care in the state and his vision of the public medical university.

The next session, scheduled for September 12th, will explore universal health care, weighing proposals for New Jersey and examining models from within the nation and throughout the globe. Among the participants will be Princeton University's Uwe Reinhardt, New Jersey State Senator Joe Vitale and Heather Howard, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. The final segment, slated for October 17th, will delve into questions of access and quality in the provision of health services in the region.

PRIOR Publishes *States and Climate Change: Leaders or Lab Rats?*

PRIOR has released its latest publication, *States and Climate Change: Leaders or Lab Rats?*, which focuses on the intent, breadth and efficacy of targeted environmental initiatives recently undertaken in the states, with specific emphasis on New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Contributors include Clinton Andrews of Rutgers University, who writes on energy technology options; the University of New Hampshire's Stacy VanDeveer and Boston University's Henrik Selin, whose collaboration looks at climate-change innovations enacted in various states; and Dallas Burtraw of Resources for the Future and William Shobe of the University of Virginia, whose work touches on how states have influenced the national debate on climate policy.

The book, drawn from a PRIOR symposium, also contains highlights of remarks by Princeton University's Robert Socolow and Lisa Jackson, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Campus Safety Highlighted at Conference

One year after the violence at Virginia Tech, PRIOR joined with the Princeton University Department of Public Safety and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) to host "Campus Safety in Focus: Advances & Ongoing Challenges One Year Later" on April 18th.

The day-long program saw the release of IACLEA's *Blueprint for Safer Campuses*, a talk by Princeton University's Katherine S. Newman and presentations by nationally recognized experts on model policies in threat assessment, the growing complexities in liability analysis and the broader sociological phenomena behind incidents. In addition, public safety professionals from Rutgers University, St. John's University and the University of Pennsylvania contributed their perspectives on the state of campus safety in the region.

PRIOR Hosts Working Group on Literacy in New Jersey

On April 11th, PRIOR hosted "Reflecting on Improved Literacy: An Invitational Exchange," a roundtable session aimed at assessing Intensive Early Literacy (IEL) in New Jersey. Spearheaded by Woodrow Wilson School Lecturer Gordon MacInnes, the gathering opened with an overview of the state's progress with respect to IEL and continued with presentations by leaders from the City of Orange, Union City and the Passaic School District on their respective strategies and achievements in the area of literacy. Representatives from select school districts, staff from the New Jersey Department of Education, Princeton University faculty and various practitioners and consultants exchanged ideas and considered potential next steps, such as the formation of a permanent working group.

Regional Economic Development at Center of PRIOR, RPA Event

On February 22nd, PRIOR and the Regional Plan Association (RPA) held "Regional Models for Economic Development: Planning, Implementation & Financing," a forum that brought together the region's foremost leaders from the field of economic development to shed light on the policies and processes that guide projects from inception to completion in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia.

The conference began with an overview of economic development in the United States by Bruce Katz, the Director of the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program. A speech by Gary D. Rose, the Chief of Governor Jon Corzine's Office of Economic Growth, concluded the day.

At the center of the event, the region's most accomplished experts in economic development anchored panels addressing the issues involved in planning, implementation and financing. Participants included Kevin S. Corbett, Vice President, DMJM Harris; Michael B. Francois, Director, Real Estate Development, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; Caren Franzini, CEO, New Jersey Economic Development Authority; Richard Kahan, Founder and President, The Urban Assembly; Peter S. Longstreth, Executive Director, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation; Seth W. Pinsky, President, New York City Economic Development Corporation; Alexandros Washburn, Director of Urban Design, New York City Department of City Planning; and Robert D. Yaro, President, RPA.

PRIOR Marks 25th Anniversary of *Mount Laurel II*

Nearly 200 people gathered in Robertson Hall on February 8th, as PRIOR marked the 25th anniversary of the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision on affordable housing, exclusionary zoning and sound planning with "*Mount Laurel II* at 25: The Unfinished Agenda of Fair Share Housing."

New Jersey Community Affairs Commissioner Joseph Doria opened the event, which also featured a speech by Michael Stegman, Director of Policy for the Program on Human and Community Development at the MacArthur Foundation and the former Assistant Secretary for Policy Development at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In addition, scholars from Princeton University, Rutgers University and the National Housing Institute examined the origins of the *Mount Laurel* decision, commented on the current state of the doctrine, analyzed its influence on geographic locales and government policy and discussed its unfinished agenda, touching on matters of race, class, redevelopment and smart growth. Panels answered questions regarding the future of *Mount Laurel*, with particular emphasis on how New Jersey, the region and the nation grapple with persistent housing and related land-use challenges.

PRIOR Provides Ongoing Consultation Services in Region

PRIOR continues to serve on Governor Jon Corzine's Government Efficiency and Reform (GEAR) Commission, supplying independent analyses of New Jersey's fiscal challenges. PRIOR also participates as a principal member of the College Promise Advisory Council, which assists the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities in identifying affordability policies and strengthening public accountability in higher education.

In addition, PRIOR works as an advisory member of the Mercer County Alliance to End Homelessness, as the organization studies housing needs of the "cost-burdened" in the county. On behalf of the New Jersey Commerce, Economic Growth and Tourism Commission, PRIOR has engaged Princeton University faculty and graduate students to produce a report on the state's migration and economic trends.

Innovative Practice Lunch Series Continued

During the spring semester, PRIOR continued the Innovative Practice Lunch Series, which provided Woodrow Wilson School students with the chance to hear from and engage among the region's leading policymakers. Speakers included the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education, the Senior Vice President for Public Policy at Merrill Lynch, the Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Corrections, the CEO of the New Jersey Hospital Association and the New Jersey Comptroller.

Juvenile Justice Conference Scheduled for November

On November 14th, PRIOR, the Future of Children and the Association for Children of New Jersey will hold "Vulnerable Populations in the Juvenile Justice System: A Research and Policy Conference." This day-long symposium, which will take place in Robertson Hall on Princeton University's campus, will support the release of the upcoming Future of Children volume on juvenile justice policy.

The event will consist of four sessions, each devoted to a particular aspect of the juvenile justice system: youth in multiple systems; race and gender; policy and practice in the New Jersey region; and a developmental approach to understanding adolescence and crime. Elizabeth Scott, the Harold R. Medina Professor of Law at Columbia University Law School, will deliver the keynote address, while scholars from Temple University, the University of Illinois, the University of Massachusetts and the University of California, Irvine and practitioners from the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, the New Jersey Judiciary and the Juvenile Law Center will serve as panelists.

For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.princeton.edu/prior/>

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