



## CORNWALL metronews

E-Newsletter – March 2, 2005

### Announcements

***Bush-Baskette named to County Task Force.*** On Wednesday, February 2, 2005 Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. announced the creation of an ad hoc Government Review Task Force to study how county, municipalities and school boards can work together to control costs. Cornwall Center Director, Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette, Esq., was selected to participate on the nine member volunteer Task Force representing fields of economics, government, labor, education, and the private sector. Dr. Bush-Baskette will serve as co-vice chair.

“Property taxes are the number one concern of Essex County residents,” according to a press release issued by the County’s Office of Public Information. “Our Government Review Task Force will look at how the three levels of government that impact residents’ tax bills—County and municipal governments, and the Boards of Education—work. They will study how costs can be controlled, and seek new solutions to help reduce the property tax burden on our residents,” DiVincenzo said.

***Cornwall Welcomes New Project Manager.*** Lela M. Keels, M.A., A.B.D. in Criminal Justice (RU-N), joined the Cornwall Center in February, 2005 in the newly created position of Project Manager. Ms. Keels has an extensive background in criminal justice, particularly juvenile justice, as well as public administration. She has worked in government; program development, assessment and evaluation; research; and management.

Immediately before joining the Center, Keels was Team Coordinator for Catholic Charities Mobile Response and Stabilization Services, located in Jersey City, NJ. There she developed quality assurance and quality improvement plans for the only State mobile response unit to combine the services of the Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) and the newly established Children’s Mobile Response and Stabilization System (CMRSS). Previously, as Program Manager for Catholic Charities, Ms Keels supervised the Hudson County Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU). The FCIU provides short-term counseling and referral services to families who are having behavioral problems with adolescent family members.



Ms. Keels coordinated the Juvenile Justice Role Model Development Program (JJRMDP) for Florida State University. JJRMDP is a certificate program offering students a curriculum focused on juvenile justice and an opportunity for internships in agencies working with “at risk youth.” As Coordinator, Ms. Keels managed the program, interfaced with faculty, students, and university administrators as well as government and community-based organizations.

Ms. Keels has broad administrative, management, and research experience in the various branches of State government. She served as Chief of Staff for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. This position entailed various oversight responsibilities including policy development, analysis, and implementation; coordination and management of various departmental activities; and maintaining inter-departmental communications. In addition, she directed the New Jersey Criminal Disposition Commission, formerly located at Rutgers – Newark’s School of Criminal Justice. As the director, she developed, managed and supervised its overall administrative operations and collaborated on research studies and legislative impact statements. Ms. Keels has also directed the Genesis Violent Juvenile Offender Program, a research model funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and administered by the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Ms. Keels has also held various positions as a researcher and educator.

***Cornwall Partners with Roper Group to Study Health Systems in Greater Newark Region.*** The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies in partnership with the Roper Group, a privately owned research and evaluation firm, will conduct a health systems assessment for residents of the Greater Newark region—defined in the study as Newark, East Orange, Irvington, and Orange. The project will help identify ways to address health disparities among residents in these municipalities.

The Newark region is rich in health facilities and services, capable of providing care and treatment equal to the best in the world. However, current data and reports show that on average residents of the Newark metropolitan area’s urban core suffer from exceptionally poor health status. Health officials, experts, and professionals acknowledge that the reasons are many, some straightforward and some highly complex. They also acknowledge that any effort to address the differences requires solid and credible information, and the kind of analysis that can lead to productive and constructive conversations that open possibilities for change.

Recognizing that several worthy projects are already underway at the state and local levels, this project is intended to augment these efforts by addressing health care consumer perspectives in the four target cities. The project will inventory health care facilities and services in the target communities and map them geographically. The team will also conduct surveys, focus groups, and inventory available data sources to identify strengths and challenges in the region’s current health care system. The project will be guided by a broad and diverse advisory panel of community and business leaders, officials, health experts, medical practitioners, and consumers. Funding for the project is provided by the Fund for New Jersey, the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, and the Victoria Foundation.

***Cornwall Center begins program evaluation for Newark Literacy Campaign.*** The Newark Literacy Campaign (NLC) operates programs throughout the city to help people of all ages

improve their reading and mathematics skills. These programs include the Newark America Reads-Counts program that provides intensive tutoring to elementary school children, as well as an adult literacy program and activities for families and older children. The Cornwall Center will work with NLC to assess how effectively the organization is achieving its objectives and serving its clients. Cornwall will also assist the NLC in establishing its ongoing system for tracking progress within its programs. The assessment project began in July 2004 and will run through August 2005.

***Cornwall Center Partners with NIDA for Project Evaluation.*** St. Matthews Neighborhood Improvement Development Association (NIDA) has selected the Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies to conduct a process and implementation evaluation of its federally-sponsored handyman franchise. The Handyman Matters franchise aims to improve the economic self-sufficiency of local residents by creating employment and business ownership opportunities for low-income people. The program will serve Essex and parts of Union County. The project is funded by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS). The three year project began staffing and startup operations in October 2004.

***Cornwall Center announces Summer 2005 Faculty Awards Program.*** The Cornwall Center is pleased to announce the Summer 2005 Faculty Awards Program. Full-time Rutgers-Newark faculty are invited to submit proposals for grants to conduct scholarly or applied research projects on urban and/or metropolitan issues. The application deadline is 4:00 pm on April 14, 2005. For guidelines and an application, please visit the Center's website at [www.cornwall.rutgers.edu/Grants.htm](http://www.cornwall.rutgers.edu/Grants.htm)

## **Cornwall Events**

***Cornwall Center hosts a series of "brown-bag" luncheon seminars.***

The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies will host three brown-bag luncheon seminars during the spring semester. The series began on March 2, 2005 with Dr. Jeanette Covington from the Department of Sociology, Rutgers-New Brunswick. Dr. Covington presented, "Making Race Matter: How Criminologists Look at African-Americans and Violence". On April 6, 2005, Dr. David Freund of Princeton University will present, "Housing Inequality, Past and Present: The Policy Implications of Federal Intervention." Finally, on April 27, 2005, Dr. Robert Atkins from the Rutgers University College of Nursing will present "The Good, the Bad, and the Sad: the Association of Personality, Stress and Aggression in Youth." The lectures will be held at the Cornwall Center headquarters, 47 Bleeker Street, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm.

If you would like to attend, please contact Ms. Irene Welch at 973-353-1750 ext. 221 or [irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu). Our seating is limited, so responses will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

**\*\*\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*\*\***

*Cornwall Center Annual Conference.* The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies Spring 2005 Conference tentatively titled:

**Good Medicine: A Prescription for Improved Health Outcomes  
for Urban New Jersey Residents  
Wednesday, June 15, 2005  
Robeson Campus Center Multipurpose Room  
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM**

Please save the date and look for additional information in future editions of the *Cornwall MetroNews*.

### **Rutgers-Newark Campus Events**

*Sixth Annual Conference on Urban Ethics to explore the ethics of eating.* The Department of Philosophy and the New Jersey Medical School – UMDNJ in association with the Prudential Business Ethics Center and the Cornwall Center will present the Sixth Annual Joint Applied and Urban Ethics Conference, “The Ethics Of Eating: Want, Surfeit, And Health”. The conference will be held on March 5, 2005 at the Alumni Lecture Hall B-552 in the Medical Science Building at New Jersey Medical School – UMDNJ (185 South Orange Ave.). Eric Schlosser, author of “Fast Food Nation” will deliver the *John A. Williams Lecture*. The event is free and open to the public.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.andromeda.rutgers.edu/~philos1/events.html> or contact Pheroze Wadia at 201-902-9525 or at [wadia@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:wadia@andromeda.rutgers.edu)

### **Women’s Studies sponsors events to celebrate Women’s History Month**

The Women’s Studies Program will host several events throughout the month of March in honor of Women’s History month.

- *Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House.* Film and discussion will be held on March 2, 2005 from 2:30-4:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room at Robeson Campus Center.
- *Front Porch Lives, Contemporary Truths.* Panel discussion on Zora Neale Hurston will be held on March 5, 2005 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room at Robeson Campus Center.
- *Wearing Hijab: Uncovering the Myths of Islam in the United States.* Part of the Women and Gender in the Middle East Series, this film will be shown on March 23, 2005 from 2:30 – 4:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room at Robeson Campus Center.
- *The Last Public Place: Saving Public Education and the Fight for Democracy in America.* Lecture and discussion by Mari Matsuda of Georgetown Law School will be held on March 25, 2005 from 11:15 am – 12:30 pm in the Baker Trial Courtroom at the Center for Law and Justice. The Cornwall Center is one of several co-sponsors of this event.
- *Women Today: Reconstructing Tomorrow.* Women’s symposium will be held on March 31, 2005 from 7:30 am -5:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room at Robeson Campus Center.

For additional information on these programs, please contact the Women's Studies Program at 973-353-1026 or <http://womenstudies.newark.rutgers.edu> .

***A Talk About Zora At Rutgers-Newark.*** Rutgers University-Newark Campus presents “***Zora Neale Hurston: Front Porch Lies, Contemporary Truths***” on Saturday, March 5, 2005 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Paul Robeson Campus Center, Multipurpose Room, 350 Dr. King Blvd., in Newark, New Jersey. The panel discussion is an open-to-the-public conversation about issues and themes in Hurston's body of work that continue to influence, impact and even aggravate our 21st century lives. Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) was a novelist, folklorist, short story writer, essayist, playwright and anthropologist during the glory days of The Harlem Renaissance (1920s-1930s). Hurston's works include *Dust Tracks on the Road*, *Of Mules and Men*, and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Distinguished panelists include: **Valerie Boyd**, an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Georgia; **Dr. Rashidah Ismaili AbuBakr**, a Harlem Renaissance Scholar who has taught Black Psychology and courses on Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston at Rutgers-Newark; and **Dr. Cheryl Wall**, Professor of English at Rutgers University-New Brunswick Campus.

For further information contact Conference Convener, Professor Sandra L. West @ 973-353-5300.

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The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies circulates the ***Cornwall MetroNews*** e-newsletter to: 1) inform readers about important local, state, and national issues and, 2) showcase the work of the Center and members of the Rutgers-Newark community. The Center's primary geographic focus is Northern New Jersey, with special emphasis on Newark and the Newark metropolitan area.

If you would like to add an item or add/remove a name from our distribution list, please contact Katherine Accousti. For story ideas and suggestions please contact Donita Devance-Manzini. Contact information follows.

*The following individuals contributed to this edition of the ***Cornwall MetroNews***: Katherine Accousti, Donita Devance-Manzini, Lela Keels, Kelly Robinson, and Irene Welch.*

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