



Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
E-Newsletter – April 22, 2003

Announcements

Graduation Day for Institute's First Class

The Abbott Leadership Institute (ALI) will graduate its first class on, "Data Based Advocacy" on Saturday, May 3rd from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. The class of 15 students includes parents, teachers, and school administrators. All are Newark residents. ALI director, Junius Williams, says the class featured "lively conversations", and that students were exposed to a new way of viewing information.

The Institute aims to increase the capacity of parents, community members, and various school personnel to support public education reform. The Data Based Advocacy class was designed to teach participants the importance of information in the schooling of their children. This includes how to collect information and use it in school reform. The next class, a four-part series titled, "Organizational Dynamics," will begin May 17th.

Paul Robeson Gallery Plans Upcoming Exhibition – Call for Entries

The Paul Robeson Gallery at Rutgers-Newark is planning an exhibition titled "**Immigration and Expectations**" in conjunction with the Transcultural New Jersey Statewide Initiative. The exhibit will focus on New Jersey artists whose work explores or expresses the immigrant experience and how it has affected their art. The Gallery will consider any type of medium; however, there are limited facilities and equipment available for electronic presentations. The deadline for submissions is **June 15, 2003**. Please send slides and resume to: *Immigration and Expectations* c/o The Paul Robeson Gallery Selection Committee, Rutgers-Newark, Bradley Hall, 2nd Fl., 110 Warren Street Newark, New Jersey 07102.

News

Local News

Essex County seeks to upgrade bond rating. County Executive Joe DiVincenzo's plan to increase the county's bond rating is getting positive feedback from Wall Street bond rating houses Fitch Investors Services and Moody's Investors Services. Just five months ago both services downgraded the County's bond rating but now say the new efforts give the county a "stable outlook". A lower bond rating signifies that the County would have to borrow at a higher interest rate for future long-term investments.

Related article: "Bond ratings reflect Essex County efforts," Star Ledger, Wednesday, April 09, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1049868955207020.xml>

Proposed land deal holds potential for Newark. In a complicated land agreement, the City of Newark could wind up with as much as \$300 million dollars in revenue from a new leasing agreement with the Port Authority. The land swap deal could give the Port Authority control over John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia airports. The plan faces several obstacles and requires more in depth study. Governor McGreevey has veto power over any new Port Authority agreement and there is still not a consensus as to whether the new agreement would be in the State's best interest. Newark Business Administrator, Richard Monteilh, squashed speculation that the additional revenue would be used to reinvigorate the discussions for a downtown Newark arena. Rather, the money would likely be used for other city investments.

Related article: "NYC land deal would be big for Newark," Star Ledger, Wednesday, April 09, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1049869101207020.xml>

Community endorses Bolden. In a stunning show of community support the landslide victory of the For Our Kids school board slate virtually assures reappointment of Acting Newark School Superintendent Marion Bolden. The three-member slate's victory gives Bolden a 6-3 advantage in an election long characterized as a vote for one or the other of two finalists for the superintendent's position. Candidate David Snead has withdrawn his name from consideration. Controversy over the superintendent's post energized the election, encouraging record turnout. The winning slate won convincingly in all wards. Education Commissioner William Librera announced his intention to recommend Bolden to the State Board of Education.

Related articles: "School chief's backers savor election results: Newark turnout to reject slate endorsed by James stuns many," Star Ledger, Thursday, April 17, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1050579190193090.xml>

"Candidates endorsing Bolden win in Newark: School superintendent is likely to stay at helm," Star Ledger, Wednesday, April 16, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1050474804104300.xml>

"Voters weigh school spending, leadership: Newark superintendent's fate tied to outcome of this year's heated race," Star Ledger, Tuesday, April 15, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1050388270161220.xml>

"Stand on school chief defines Newark election: Board candidates clearly split on Bolden's future," Star Ledger, Monday, April 14, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1050300678292880.xml>

Other Education and Youth News:

Education Law Center opposes McGreevey school spending plan: Urges court to "stay the course" on Abbott. "More cash sought for needy districts: Group says McGreevey plan shorts Abbott schools by \$200 million," Star Ledger, Friday, April 11, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1050042807145100.xml>

Education Commissioner calls for changes to schools takeover law. "Intervention is urged for bad schools," Star Ledger, Friday, April 18, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-0/1050647648246220.xml>

Kid's Count: Indicators show Newark youth at marked disadvantage. “Newark kids worst off in state, report says: Poor health and a low graduation rate cited along with high mortality.” Star Ledger, Thursday, April 17, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1050579039193090.xml>

City celebrates children; calls for restoration of children's services funding. “Newark puts emphasis on needs of the young,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, April 08, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1049783504100980.xml>

Child abuse prevention pilot program provides training, promotes services. “County takes step to prevent child abuse: Agencies unite to aid needy Essex families,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, April 15, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-3/1050388284161220.xml>

Local Updates: Use these links for updates on stories recently followed by the *Cornwall MetroNews*.

Property tax revaluation. “On deadline, Newark tax office sees rush of appeals: Property owners seek last-minute reprieve,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, April 16, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1050474781104300.xml>

“Newark revaluation spurs flood of appeals: Up to 5,000 requests from land owners are expected by Tuesday deadline,” Star Ledger, Sunday, April 13, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1050214473157930.xml>

Mulberry Street redevelopment. “Newark delays Mulberry Street decision: Redevelopment hearing adjourned to June,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, April 02, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/essex/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1049268715282600.xml>

State News

University celebrates new leader. Rutgers University formally welcomed its 19th President, Dr. Richard L. McCormick at inauguration ceremonies held on Sunday, April 13, on the Piscataway Campus. McCormick took over the 237 year-old University in December. In his inaugural address Dr. McCormick acknowledged the challenges facing the country and the University. In response he vowed to elevate the university's research and teaching mission and to strengthen its partnership with the state and its citizens.

Earlier, on April 8th, Dr. McCormick joined Rutgers-Newark Provost Steven Diner, faculty, students, and staff for a pre-inaugural event highlighting exemplary research from seven faculty presenters. Dr. McCormick commended the presenters on the breadth and import of the research. He congratulated the campus for its commitment to diversity, declaring that Rutgers-Newark was “working in the right direction.” He urged listeners to “dig still deeper” and “work even harder” toward strengthening its role in the community.

Related articles: “Rutgers hails its new chief: McCormick comes home and pledges to lift school stature in research arena.” Star Ledger, Monday, April 14, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1050300703292880.xml>

“Challenge for Rutgers” Star Ledger, Monday, April 14, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkzJmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2MzY2MTI3JnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mg==>

Dr. McCormick’s inaugural address is available in full-text at:

http://www.president.rutgers.edu/remarks_041303.shtml.

Gruesome look into foster care failures prompts new calls for action. The New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) and Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) has complied with a federal judge’s order to release internal documents that shed light on instances of abuse and death in foster care homes since 1999. DYFS, a division of DHS, is the state group that administers the foster care program. A child advocacy group brought suit against the agency to gain access and permission to release the records. DYFS has endured intense scrutiny since the January discovery of three Newark brothers: two living in horrible conditions, another dead for months and entombed in a storage bucket. These latest allegations call the agencies policies and practices into greater question. Internal documents indicate that DHS Commissioner Gwendolyn Harris warned lawmakers that the foster program was likely to fail an upcoming federal audit.

Recognizing the child protection agency’s dire condition advocates and lawmakers have called for a complete overhaul of the system. Governor McGreevey recently announced plans to establish an independent Office of Child Advocate, to insure appropriate follow up of abuse and neglect reports. The states’ FY04 budget proposes more than \$20 million in additional funding for DHS to recruit and retain staff, upgrade the tracking system, and improve oversight. State legislators have called for clearer plans on exactly how the funding will be used.

Related articles: “Constant shuffling devastates foster kids: DYFS official's memo details agency flaws,” Star Ledger, Thursday, April 17, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1050579483193090.xml>

“McGreevey calls for an independent watchdog for DYFS: Office of Child Advocate would review cases and investigate complaints against agency,” Star Ledger, Wednesday, April 16, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1050475096104300.xml>

“Documents detail DYFS failures in foster care: 17 children suffered neglect and worse.” Star Ledger, Tuesday, April 15, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1050388706161220.xml>

“Fed audit likely to affirm the sloppiness: Advocates hope files will spur mass reform,” Star Ledger, Tuesday, April 15, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1050388724161220.xml>

“New criticism leveled at agency chief: Assembly panel questions budget for Human Services,” Star Ledger, Friday, April 04, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1049444121198290.xml>

“Lives of four foster children end tragically,” Bergen Record, Tuesday, April 15, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/print.php?qstr=ZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTYzNjY0NzgmeXJpcnk3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXky>

New Jersey sprawl debate heats up. New Jersey Governor James McGreevey’s initiatives to curb urban and suburban sprawl are generating controversy among both those who support and oppose the policies, and has drawn national attention to the debate. Sprawl is the term used to describe uneven patterns of development that can negatively effect transportation, open space preservation, and quality of life. The governor’s administration has placed high priority on its anti-sprawl strategy and it has been the subject of concern at a number of recent forums.

McGreevey’s plans have angered builders who charge that they face unwarranted blame, sanctions, and higher fees that will complicate their jobs. Some charge that the plans fail to consider the impact of population growth and the resulting need for new housing. Others express concern over an “anti-sprawl” map that classifies development status by color. For example, some areas that are designated “green”—where building may occur—are currently environmentally protected; others designated “red”—where development is limited—may lose their ability to keep up with pre-existing need. County officials endorsed a proposal to augment local planning board’s control to increase impact fees and engage more aggressively in regional planning.

The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) recently recognized the state’s Office of Smart Growth (OSG) for excellence in several programs, including the State Plan and the land-use plan, *Designing New Jersey*. OSG oversees implementation of the State Plan and develops sprawl policy.

Related articles: “Builders take on governor over sprawl: Both sides ratchet up rhetoric regarding McGreevey's 'smart growth' policies,” Star Ledger, Thursday, April 03, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1049355141249570.xml>

“Governor favors boosting planning boards' powers,” Star Ledger, Saturday, April 05, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1049527838144440.xml>

“Anti-sprawl map becoming a blueprint for revolt: Northern, southern Jersey counties, long at odds, unite to fight land plan,” Star Ledger, Monday, April 07, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1049695885282110.xml>

“Mayors hear lecture on suburban sprawl: McGreevey seeks to shift political debate away from property taxes and car insurance,” Star Ledger, Friday, April 11, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1050042790182370.xml>

Details on the CMU award, copies of the State Plan, and Designing New Jersey, as well as other information and events can be obtained at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/osg/>

Transportation fund monies shift to state's general budget. Governor McGreevey's proposed FY04 spending plan reallocates more than \$180 million dollars normally set aside for a transportation fund to the state's general budget. The plan calls for diversion of \$114.5 million in funds used to support roadway capital improvements and a \$66 million subsidy for NJ Transit's operating budget. Opponents called the proposal "a very bad sign" and a "dangerous precedent." Transportation advocates argue that taking away the funding jeopardizes necessary road and rail improvements. GOP leaders contend that the fund is protected by state constitution.

Related articles: "State raids millions from transit fund," Star Ledger, Friday, April 11, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1050042803145100.xml>

"GOP hits diversion of \$66M to transit." Bergen Record, Thursday, April 17, 2003. <http://www.northjersey.com/print.php?qstr=ZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTYzNjc0NDYmeXJpck3ZjcxN2Y3dnFIZUUVFeXky>

Other State News:

State restores monies, considers how to replace funds. "Jersey reconsiders politically sensitive cuts in budget: Seniors' prescription drug aid and some art funds are quietly being restored," Star Ledger, Friday, April 18, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-1/1050648009246220.xml>

Pension fund bailout requests challenge strained budget. "Pension fund for teachers asks state for bailout," Friday, April 04, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-0/1049444131198290.xml>

High court affirms state's right to act alone when borrowing for construction projects and public initiatives. "State can borrow without voter OK: Divided Supreme Court allows 'contract' bonding through authorities to continue," Star Ledger, Thursday, April 10, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/statehouse/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1049955585207510.xml>

Activists sue to discourage concentrating affordable housing in urban areas, argue state policies promote segregation of poor. "Urban housing projects idled by lawsuit: Activists' push for affordable homes in suburbs leaves cities cut off," Star Ledger, Thursday, April 10, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1049955185207510.xml>

Cost of providing child-care can cause family crisis. "Child-care costs busting N.J. family budgets: Fees can chew up 50% of income, and experts see no relief in sight." Star Ledger, Friday, April 11, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1050042362145100.xml>

Air policy draws criticism from Jersey politicians. "Democrats assail EPA air proposal: Leaders say new standard will hurt Jersey." Star Ledger, Tuesday, April 08, 2003. <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1049783519100980.xml>

National News

Americans oppose tax cut by small majority; half say taxes too high. “60% polled are against tax cut,” Bergen Record, Monday, April 14, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkyMSZmZ2JlbDdmN3ZxZWVFRX15NjM2NjEyMiZ5cmlyeTdmNzE3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTI=>

Split congress passes largest federal budget in history; holds line on tax cuts. “Congress passes record \$2.27 trillion budget,” Bergen Record, Saturday, April 12, 2003.

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkyMSZmZ2JlbDdmN3ZxZWVFRX15NjM2NTQzMZ5cmlyeTdmNzE3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTI=>

Upcoming Events

Urban Anthropologist and Documentary Filmmaker Speaks at Rutgers-Newark

Dr. John L. Jackson Jr., anthropology professor at Duke University and author of “Harlemworld: Doing Race and Class in Contemporary Black America” (University of Chicago Press, 2001), will show a clip from his recent documentary on identity and gentrification and discuss race, class and culture in urban America. The program is part of Professor Zain Abdullah’s class on Urban Anthropology and is generously sponsored by the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience. The event will be held on **Thursday, April 24th**, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Dana Room, 4th floor of the Dana Library on the Rutgers Newark campus. For more information, please contact Prof. Abdullah at (973) 353-5528, ext. 21 or email: zain@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

CGCG and the Cornwall Center Join Forces to Sponsor Two Events on Urban Change

The Center for Global Change and Governance (CGCG) and the Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies will co-sponsor two events on **Friday, April 25, 2003**. The first event, a lecture titled: “**Globalization and Urban Change in Germany: Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg**”, will take place from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm in room 572 at the Center for Law and Justice. The second event from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm is a screening of “**Berlin Metamorphoses: A Story of Reunification, Rebuilding, and Reconciliation**” a film by Robert E. Frye. Immediately following the screening is a panel discussion. For additional information contact Alexander Motyl at ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu or 973-353-5585.

Friends of the Newark Public Library Host Annual Book Sale

Friends of the Newark Public Library will host the **12th Annual Book Sale** on **Thursday, April 24th** from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm, **Friday, April 25th** from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm and **Saturday, April 26th** from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. The Sale will be held in Centennial Hall of the Newark Public Library at 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ. For additional information call 973-733-7793.

Showcase of Faculty Scholarship at Rutgers-Newark

The “**Provost’s Annual Research Day**” is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 29, 2003** from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm in the University Club of the Robeson Campus Center. The event will feature a series of presentations by new Rutgers-Newark faculty briefly summarizing

their research. For additional information, please contact Diane Hill diaheh@andromeda.rutgers.edu or 973-353-1630.

IECME Hosts Faculty Seminar

The Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience (IECME) will host a Faculty Seminar on **Thursday, May 1st** from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dr. Anna Stubblefield, Assistant Professor from the Department of Philosophy, will present, "**White Racism, White Supremacy, and White Identity**". The seminar will be held in the Robeson Campus Center, room 224. For additional information, please contact Ms. Lori Barcliff Baptista at 973-353-1871 ext. 11.

Cornwall Center's Faculty Luncheon Seminar

The Cornwall Center will host a Faculty Luncheon Seminar on **Monday, May 5th** from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Dr. Max Herman, Assistant Professor from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, will present, "**Re-examining the 'Riots': Ethnic Succession and Urban Unrest in Newark and Detroit During the Summer of '67**". The seminar will be held in the Cornwall Center's conference room at 47 Bleeker Street. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Irene Welch at 973-353-1750 ext. 221 or Irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

Ethics Colloquium Series

The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies and the Prudential Business Ethics Center, in association with the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, will host the second in a series of colloquia exploring the ethical responsibilities of community stakeholders in urban development. "***Ethics and Urban Development: The Role of Non-Profit Organizations***" will be held in Room 257 of the Robeson Campus Center on the Rutgers-Newark Campus on **Thursday, May 15th** from 8:30 am to 10:00 am. The colloquium will feature presentations and discussion among representatives from local non-profit organizations. Breakfast will be served. To RSVP contact Irene Welch by phone at 973-353-1750 ext. 221 or by email at irenew@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

5TH Annual CITYBUSINESS EXPO

The City News & City Marketing Group will present its 5th Annual CITYBUSINESS EXPO on Monday, May 5, at the Newark Airport Marriott. The expo, "Recogniz[es] the vital role of small business and minority ownership to the economy of the cities and state," and presents an "opportunity to meet some of the mover and shakers of New Jersey's largest cities, corporations, and state government all in one day plus find out how to access capital for your business."

The day begins with registration at 7:30. A ***Power Networking Breakfast*** is scheduled for 8:00, followed by a morning of workshops (9:45-12:00) and exhibits (9:30-12:15). The event culminates with a ***Competitive CityBusiness Awards Luncheon*** at 12:30. Senator Jon Corzine will deliver the keynote address and there will be remarks by Mayor Sharpe James. Workshops include: *Access-to-Capital "Deal flow"*; *Community and Economic Development "Positioning Your Business"*; and *NJ Cities "Opportunities for Your Business."* A special ***School Construction Roundtable*** will allow attendees to "discuss

the New Jersey [\$8.6 million] School Construction Program, providing the ins and outs of getting to the table and the plans for minority business and workforce participation.” For more information visit the City News website at: www.citynewsnetwork.com

Symposium on Abbott Construction and Community Development

The Community Development Institute (CDI) will host a symposium titled “**Abbott School Construction as a Catalyst for Community Development**” on **May 16th** at the Special Events Forum in New Brunswick, N.J. This symposium will examine research on the impacts of school construction, and the use of school construction as a catalyst for stimulating reinvestment in neighborhoods. The program includes 3 panels, “Researching the Impacts of School Construction”, “Engaging and Planning with the Community” and “Working Together – Schools, Housing and Economic Development”. For additional information please visit <http://policy.rutgers.edu/cupr/cdi/> or call 732-932-3133 ext. 602.

NJSBDC Celebrates 25 Years

The New Jersey Small Business Development Center will celebrate its 25th year of service to the community. Since 1978, NJSBDC has assisted entrepreneurs with practical information, skills and strategies that make measurable, positive impact on the performance of their businesses and by extension, on the communities in which they work. The celebration is scheduled for **Thursday, June 5th** from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the atrium of the Center for Law and Justice. For more information on reservations and admission fees, please see www.njsbdc.com/25/.

Upcoming Exhibition at the Paul Robeson Gallery

The Paul Robeson Gallery in conjunction with the Dana Library will host ***Gladys Grauer Retrospective*** from **September 8th through December 23rd**. A charismatic and dynamic octogenarian, Gladys Grauer, is a highly respected and recognized Newark artist and retired art educator. The opening reception is scheduled for September 11th from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

In association with this exhibit, Ms. Grauer will participate in two other programs. The first program is a public lecture that will be open to local high school art educators and their students. A reception will follow the lecture. The second program is a five-part workshop that will be lead by Ms. Grauer and four other professional New Jersey artists. The workshop will be open to local high school students, being mentored by R-N Visual and Performing Arts students. For additional information, please contact Wynsor Gervais at gervais@andromeda.rutgers.edu or 973-353-1610.

MetroPeople: Kenneth Zimmerman, Executive Director
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ)

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice was founded in 1999 and is committed to the advancement of New Jersey's urban areas and residents. The organization was established by a grant from the Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein Foundation with the hope of creating an "independent voice" for the types of policies that will improve urban New Jersey.

Cornwall: Your organization is conducting research and develops programs in four broad areas: economic opportunity, regional equity, fiscal accountability and equal justice. Can you give us some examples of your work, and where you've made a real impact?

Zimmerman: I think where our work is most advanced has to do with how this massive school construction program can really advance economic opportunity and serve as an economic catalyst in the urban areas where the schools are being built. We're operating in a couple of different ways, both in terms of trying to effect state policy to promote using this \$8.6 billion in school construction program as an economic catalyst. In that regard, some of our initiatives the State has taken, most notably aggregating all of the funds to be used for workforce development efforts—now committing up to 30 million dollars for that purpose. It is a very concrete example of the kinds of things that we've recommended. In terms of pilot program development the program we refer to as the Essex County Construction Careers Program brings together the trade unions, local school districts and community based organizations. This program serves as a conduit for urban residents, particularly recent high school graduates in getting into the construction trade unions in order to become beneficiaries of the work opportunities that are going to emerge. Also, let me say that while we serve as a catalyst, all of this work is done in partnerships with others. In terms of the policy work for helping to establish the coalition for our schools, there are over 100 groups that are involved. Similarly, in terms of the pilot program, this is something that is very much done in partnership with the Newark public schools, the Essex County vocational schools, the Essex County construction trade unions, the Newark One-Stop Office, and a number of community based organizations.

Cornwall: How have these coalitions worked? Do you have a good working relationship with these organizations?

Zimmerman: In order to promote our mission of the interests of urban residents and urban areas, we seek to have effective relationships and effective collaborations that advance our goals. It is through our partnerships that we've able to be successful.

Cornwall: Where do you see your organization going in the next year or so? What is your vision?

Zimmerman: Well, without any question, I think we've started down the road in a number of areas. I think there are two areas that we are particularly excited about: one is now in the midst of a year long initiative that focuses on prisoner reentry. In other words, with the fivefold increase with the number of prisoners that are in the prisons, there's an equally large increase of folks that are coming out. Because the number of prisoners are disproportionately from urban areas, being able to both develop pilot programs and reform policies to ensure people coming out stand the best chance possible of getting gainful employment. Also, we have to prepare the communities for which they are returning to, to both assist and support them. A second initiative, in our regional equity portfolio has to do with expanding the ways in which affordable housing resources are devoted to suburban communities, and facilitating that is another area we look forward to increased efforts.

For more information visit NJISJ on the web at: <http://www.njisi.org/>

The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies circulates the **Cornwall MetroNews** e-newsletter to publicize urban-related topics, news, and events on the Rutgers-Newark Campus.

If you would like to add an item or add / remove a name from our distribution list, please contact Katherine Accousti at accousti@andromeda.rutgers.edu or 973-353-1750 ext. 224.

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

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