

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS & EXHIBITS

Destination Newark: Writing Home

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- **Funding Source:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **Dates:** Fall 2000–Spring 2001

Abstract: This project engaged Newark senior citizens in a series of writing workshops that encouraged the use of technology as a tool to share life stories. Seniors met weekly and were supported by community scholars who helped with both writing and learning to use technology (word-processing programs and the Internet). The project also included public reading in the community and a booklet of memories. ■

Waste to Energy

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$200
- **Dates:** 11/18/02

Abstract: When the giant Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island was closed in 2001, New York City became utterly dependent on other states for the disposal of more than 3 million tons of municipal solid wastes annually. As a result, the annual costs of waste disposal have jumped up by \$370 million in recent years and are projected to increase much more in the near future. Meanwhile, the city's economic position has never been more precarious. An option that has been raised by city officials for mitigating this vulnerable dependence on

other states (where the receipt of the city's waste may have significant local consequences for transportation and other systems) is Waste to Energy. Through this project, the substantive effects of Waste to Energy—both in itself and in comparison with out-of-state landfilling—were evaluated by experts in public health, technology, and policy in a roundtable held at the New York Academy of Sciences. ■

American Society for Public Administration, 62d National Conference: New Century, Cities, Challenges

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■ **Funding Source:** State of New Jersey and American Society for Public Administration

■ **Amount of Funding:** \$565,000

■ **Dates:** 3/10–13/01

Abstract: The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) held its 62d National Conference in Newark on March 10–13, 2001. The conference, titled “New Century, Cities, Challenges,” took place on the Newark campus of Rutgers University with some 1,600 participants, it was the first large professional conference to be convened in Newark in several decades. Conference highlights included

- The Elliot Richardson Lecture, presented by James Schlesinger, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency and secretary of defense.

- The Panel of Big City Mayors, which included Sharpe James, mayor of Newark; Scott L. King, mayor of Gary, Indiana; and Thomas Menino, mayor of Boston.
- The National Public Service Awards, which were established in 1983 by ASPA and the National Academy of Public Administration to pay tribute to exemplary public managers; the winners this year were Paul Barnes, deputy commissioner for human resources, Social Security Administration; Alexander Briseño, city manager of San Antonio; David Gaspar, director of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections; Jane Kenny, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and James Seif, secretary of environmental protection, State of Pennsylvania. The Keeper of the Flame Award was awarded to Harold Seidman, senior fellow, Center for the Study of American Government, Johns Hopkins University.
- Volunteers to Students, which allowed ASPA members to visit local public schools and speak with students about the value of public service.

ASPA is a nonprofit organization that promotes excellence in public service. ASPA has 10,000 members and has provided national leadership in the areas of public administration and management since its inception in 1939. ■

Faces of the Ironbound: Newark 1937–1939

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- **Funding Source:** Department of Public Administration and Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$2,000
- **Dates:** 10/30/00–12/13/00

Abstract: “Faces of the Ironbound: Newark 1937–1939” was a collection of about two dozen photographs by American photographer William Cotton. Through photography, Cotton captured the lives of poor and middle-class Americans, especially children. The collection also included a couple of self-portraits, and another photographer’s view of Cotton at work. The exhibition was on display at the Dana Library in Newark from October 3 through December 14, 2000. ■

Enhancing Public Safety in the Greater Newark Community

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- **Dates:** 10/26/02

Abstract: The conference enabled community leaders to learn about ways to collaborate with the law enforcement community to reduce

crime in Newark and to improve the quality of life for all residents. Concurrent workshops covered topics such as community policing, community organizing, nuisance abatement and local ordinances, and gang violence. Panelists included Paula Dow, first assistant in the Office of the U.S. Attorney, director Robert Rankin of the Newark Police Department, director Michael Damien of the Irvington Police Department, and professor George Killing of the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice and the Greater Newark Safer Cities Initiative. ■

Internet-Empowered Cities and Government Agencies: Transgovernmental Relations in the Information Age

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$2,570
- **Dates:** 11/30/01–12/01/01

Abstract: This 2-day workshop examined the development of “e-government” and the use of information technology for networking across borders by cities and other subnational governments. The workshop included the presentation of papers and extensive discussion among the invited participants and Rutgers faculty and graduate students.

Revolutionary changes in information technology propel the economic globalization that has undermined the ability of nation-states to influence macroeconomic trends with traditional monetary and fiscal

policy instruments. At the same time, transnational corporations and nongovernmental organizations have harnessed the same information technologies to pursue their interests on a global level and make their presence felt in forums of high-level politics that had previously been the exclusive reserve of states and the international organizations composed of states. Could policymakers and public administrators cooperating across borders harness these same technologies to provide more effective governance? Specifically, to what degree are cities and agencies Web enabled? Could transnational contacts enabled by information technology produce better governance in multiple localities on a regional, if not global, basis?

The use of the Internet by cities and other local authorities is dramatically expanding contacts between subnational public administrators without intermediation by the central governments of the countries to which they belong. The drastic decline in communications costs made possible by Web publishing has furthered the formalization of such transgovernmental relations as “international local governmental organizations.” Some of these organizations are dedicated to directly communicating the best practices in public administration (e.g., the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives). National governments have also outsourced traditional international activities to municipal networks. For example, Sister Cities International administers the Municipal and Community Problem-Solving Program funded by the U.S. State Department. Functional agencies within national governments are also taking advantage of shrinking communications costs to establish working relationships with their counterparts in other states, often to deal with some of the challenges brought on by globalization. ■

Promoting New and Small Businesses in the Inner City: Improving the Environment and obtaining funds

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies and Whitcomb Center for Research in Financial Services
- **Amount of Funding:** \$4,600
- **Dates:** 5/10/02

Abstract: Speakers at this 1-day conference discussed the problems facing new and small business starting in the inner city. Getting new and small firms to locate in these areas is necessary for the recovery and revitalization of distressed urban areas. Unfortunately, the overall environment is not conducive to locate in inner cities because local governments operate with restrictive rules and private banks move their businesses to the suburbs. The conference identified the problems facing potential new firms and provided a forum for discussion of how they could be solved. ■

City Children and Their Cultures Lecture Series

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- **Collaborator:** Newark Museum
- **Collaborator:** Newark Public Library
- **Collaborator:** Into the Arroyo Advisory Committee
- **Funding Source:** Schumann Fund, Victoria Foundation, Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, and Turrell Fund
- **Amount of Funding:** \$57,500
- **Dates:** 11/9/02, 4/18/01, 11/10/01, 11/6/02, 5/31/01–6/31/01; Dates for Fiscal and Academic 2003 and 2004 Programs to Be Announced

Abstract: As much as children are discussed in Newark, there are actually few opportunities for parents, teachers, and school administrators to step back from their daily routines to consider the larger historical and cultural contexts of the children with whom they interact. Much to their credit, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, the Newark Museum, the Newark Public Schools, and the New Jersey Historical Society have conscientiously addressed such issues as pedagogical and learning strategies, the importance of the arts in education, and the popularization of youth in the United States since World War II. However, despite the admirable work of these institutions, there is a need to frame youth culture more broadly, more provocatively, and with substantive intellectual content.

The City Children and Their Cultures Lecture Series—informed by the historical scholarship that provided a basis for such claims and motivated by an interest in following these changes into the present—was launched in 1998 as an effort to at once recognize the heightened concern for children in Newark and to encourage informed discourse on youth culture. The series, which is mounted twice annually, invites two nationally recognized scholars in the field of youth or youth culture,

and a representative youth organizations and youth participants, so that young people themselves contribute to the narrative and discourse surrounding their own lives. ■

The Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series

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- **Funding Source:** Faculty of Arts and Sciences-Newark—History Excellence Funds, Rutgers University
- **Amount of Funding:** \$15,000
- **Dates:** Every year since 1980, third Saturday in February

Abstract: The year 2003 marks the 23rd year of the Marion Thompson Wright Lecture series. The series, consisting of a lecture held annually to commemorate Black History Month in New Jersey, is named in honor of Marion Thompson Wright, a native of East Orange, who was the first African-American female professional historian and a pioneer in black New Jersey historiography. The series, which was launched by the Marion Thompson Wright Study Club, brings before New Jerseyans an outstanding personality who delivers a major paper on a significant theme in African and African-American life and history. The current members of the Marion Thompson Wright Study Club are Larry Greene, Seton Hall University; Clement A. Price, Rutgers–Newark; and Giles R. Wright, New Jersey Historical Commission. ■

Newark: A History of Art, Architecture, and Cultural Institutions

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- **Funding Source:** Faculty of Arts and Sciences—Newark Dean’s Grant for the Use of the City in Undergraduate Instruction
- **Amount of Funding:** \$1,000
- **Dates:** Ongoing

Abstract: Students examine and analyze various sites and institutions throughout Newark. Each class period is spent exploring a different aspect of the city’s cultural legacy, often in lectures and discussions led by local specialists from the city’s most influential cultural institutions, such as the Newark Museum, the New Jersey Historical Society, and the Newark Public Library. ■

Advocacy Strategies for Expanding Early Childhood Education Opportunities

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- **Funding Source:** Pew Charitable Trusts
- **Amount of Funding:** \$30,000
- **Dates:** 6/01–8/01

Abstract: This project involved the preparation for and conduct of a national invitational meeting of early childhood advocates in July 2001, to explore legal and other advocacy strategies for promoting expanded early childhood education opportunities, especially for disadvantaged urban children. A background paper was prepared in advance of the meeting and a report was done afterward. This meeting led to additional Pew funding of a project involving a national clearinghouse for information on advocacy strategies. ■

Conference on Equity and Excellence in Metropolitan Education

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$3,500
- **Dates:** 3/2/02

Abstract: The conference consisted of three sessions. The first, “Justice in Our Schools: How High Dare We Aspire for Poor Children?” addressed issues of funding and educational aims for urban schools. The second session, “Healthy Kids in Healthy Schools: Health Disparities and Health Services in Public Education,” addressed issues well described by its title. The third session was the Third Annual John A. Williams Lecture in Applied and Urban Ethics, titled “Beyond Trauma: Achieving Justice, Equality, the Right to Think and the Right to Become.”

All three sessions were well attended; about 125 people were at the

first and the second sessions, and about 75 were at the third. Attendees included teachers and school administrators from New Jersey, people concerned with education from New Jersey businesses and nonprofit organizations from the New York metropolitan area, and university faculty from the metropolitan area in education, philosophy, law, and politics. ■

Our Homes, Our Environment: Environmental Justice Where We Live and Work

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- **Funding Source:** Schools of Law and Criminal Justice, the Prudential Business Ethics Center, the Cornwall Center and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey—New Jersey Medical School
- **Dates:** 3/1/03

Abstract: The Fourth Annual Applied and Urban Ethics Conference will focus on issues of justice and ethics resulting from governmental and corporate policies affecting the environment in urban areas, broadly defined. It will be a multidisciplinary conference to which philosophers and other academics, professionals, and activists representing varied disciplines and viewpoints will be invited. The conference organizers hope to encourage rational, open discussions among the participants, and between the participants and the public at large, to foster a better understanding of these issues. ■

Minority Nurse Leadership Institute

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- **Funding Source:** Johnson and Johnson
- **Dates:** 10/02–6/14/03

Abstract: The Minority Nurse Leadership Institute (MNLI), an outgrowth of the Rutgers College of Nursing Educational Opportunity Fund program, was established in 1999 by a team of visionary educators and nurse leaders. These visionaries knew that the future of health care in urban communities throughout the state hinged on the development of culturally competent nurse leaders. Moreover, they recognized that nurse leaders needed to be empowered to overcome political, social, and cultural barriers that impede their access to leadership positions.

Through a series of monthly workshops presented by nationally recognized nurse leaders such as doctors Beverly Malone, Rhetaugh Dumas, and Barbara L. Nicols, and experts from other disciplines such as Steve Aduabato Jr. and Vivian Sanks King, MNLI provides participants with the opportunity to gain insight into their strengths and weaknesses, learn how to cope with the day-to-day challenges and politics of the workplace, and gain a greater awareness of the issues that affect the delivery of health in minority communities. ■