



We cordially invite you to attend

Intermunicipal Cooperation in the Lehigh Valley: Brookings and Beyond

A Conference for Local Officials

The Meyner Center is a non-partisan academic and public-service unit of Lafayette College. As part of our public service to the community in our region, we are hosting this conference on inter-municipal cooperation at no cost to local officials and municipal managers from the Lehigh Valley.

In the latter part of 2003, the Brookings Institution published its report "Back to Prosperity: A competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania." In its preamble, the report states that "Pennsylvania's cities, towns, and older suburbs are declining as the state sprawls. Pennsylvania's economy is drifting as it responds incoherently to continued industrial restructuring." The report explains that the large number of municipalities and Pennsylvania's own bureaucratic fragmentation have "often caused jurisdictions to compete against each other rather than act together on tough problems like land-use planning and economic development." The report recommends "that Pennsylvania assess its state-local government system, foster more coordination through its own actions and incentives, and make it far easier for governments to want to work together to do so."

These conclusions led the Meyner Center to meet with officials from the 63 municipalities in Lehigh and Northampton Counties, Pennsylvania and Phillipsburg, New Jersey, to determine what, if any, cooperative efforts are being undertaken locally. Our findings will be contained in an informal report that will be distributed to all participants at the conference.

Many efforts are already underway in many of our municipalities. Yet, there is more that can be done. This conference will highlight these efforts, provide information on ways in which your municipality can work cooperatively with your neighboring communities, how to fund these efforts, and how state and county governments can assist local efforts.

The goal of the conference is to provide municipalities with the tools and contacts to make intermunicipal cooperation work for them. It is also a time to ask questions, get answers, and challenge our state, county, and local officials to think outside of the box. It is an opportunity to let them know what municipalities need from them. It is also a chance to ask the Center to research issues that cannot be readily resolved.

If you are receiving this invitation as the chair of your governing body, please share it with the other members.

*Intermunicipal Cooperation Conference Schedule
Meyner Center for the Study of State & Local Government
Lafayette College
May 20, 2004*

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| 7:45 - 8:15 | Continental Breakfast |
| 8:15 - 8:45 | Welcome
Arthur Rothkopf, <i>President</i>
<i>Lafayette College</i> |
| 8:45 - 10:00 | Brookings Report
Janet Milkman, <i>President & CEO</i>
<i>10,000 Friends</i> |
| 10:15 - 11:30 | Models of Intermunicipal Cooperation
Dr. Bill Brackbill, <i>Secretary</i>
<i>Nazareth Area COG</i>
Tom Gorr, <i>Chair</i>
<i>Upper Macungie Board of Supervisors</i> |
| 11:45 - 1:15 | Keynote Address
Ken Klothen, <i>Executive Director</i>
<i>Governor's Center for Local Government Services</i> |
| 1:30 - 2:45 | Comprehensive Regional Planning and Land Use
Robert Freeman, <i>State Representative</i>
<i>136th District</i>
Michael Kaiser, <i>Executive Director</i>
<i>Lehigh Valley Planning Commission</i>
Mike Frank, <i>Director of Community Planning</i>
<i>Heritage Conservancy</i> |
| 3:00 - 4:15 | Discussion on Selected Topics |
| 4:30 - 5:00 | Wrap up and Q&A |
| 5:00 - 6:00 | Reception |