

### Upcoming Events

Kinnane Conference  
*Public Safety: Balancing  
 Freedom and Security  
 After 9/11*  
 June 16, 2006

### Recent Publications

- Erie County Criminal Reintegration of Offenders with Mental Illness and Substance Abuse (CROMISA) Program 2004-2005
- Erie County Treatment Court, Mental Health Court Status Report: Year 3
- Erie County Drug Treatment Court Evaluation, Level I & II Offenders (2005)
- Birth to Teens Special Report (2005)
- The Erie County Screening and Assessment Service Evaluation (December 2005)

View full publications at  
 our new website:

[www.civicinstitute.org](http://www.civicinstitute.org)

## New Component Added to the Civic Institute

Recently, a new homeland security component, known as the Public Safety Institute (PSI), was added to the Civic Institute. The PSI is devoted to providing training and technical assistance to emergency first responders, including EMS, law enforcement, medical staff, HAZMAT, and volunteer personnel involved in the prevention of terrorism and catastrophic events that potentially threaten the security of our nation.

Given the enormity of such an undertaking and that personnel are spread across the map, the ability to receive or attend training is often problematic. PSI has proposed a "distance learning" concept whereby they conduct training sessions at remote locales on weekends when this audience can attend without sacrificing time away from jobs and family commitments. As a hosting agency, the PSI can facilitate total preparation by providing

instructors, securing training sites, providing equipment, and scheduling training sessions. In essence, PSI is a tool for the emergency/disaster preparedness community that can be utilized for direct services in the field. Other efforts include a collaboration with Edinboro University in the development of software enabling first responders to view in detail the interior of a building prior to entry, through the use of digital video, DVD, and secure internet.

PSI is truly a collaborative effort, and was initiated by federal funding designed to enhance Mercyhurst College's homeland security efforts. In addition to the Civic Institute, Mercyhurst North East is also a critical player in the PSI project, and has lent administrative expertise in writing the original grant, in addition to providing space for training

sessions in the new Michele and Tom Ridge Health and Safety Building.

The Director of PSI, **Tim Maloney**, is an Erie native and retired FBI agent. Tim has also been employed by the Erie County Prison, the Juvenile Probation Department, and the District Attorney's Office as a County Detective. **John Villa**, Logistics Coordinator for PSI, is a retired Navy veteran who specialized in cryptology. Both Tim and John worked on the Erie Weed and Seed Program that was administrated in part by the Civic Institute. For more information on PSI, call Tim or John at 824-2141.



**John Villa, Logistics Coordinator,  
 Tim Maloney, Director,  
 Public Safety Institute**

## Juvenile Treatment Court New to Erie County

The Department of Juvenile Probation was notified in September 2005 that it was the recipient of a grant to establish a Juvenile Treatment Court in Erie County. This three year program, funded to the tune of \$499,999 by the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, will be modeled after Erie County's successful Adult Treatment Court and Mental Health Treatment Court.

The Treatment Court will be a true collaborative partnership

of many local agencies. The Mercyhurst Civic Institute, co-author of the grant, is responsible for the on-going evaluation of the program and facilitation of the work-group meetings. The Erie County Department of Juvenile Probation will have several staff involved with the program including a Senior Case Manager and Juvenile Treatment Court Officer who will spend 100% of their time within this program. Other current positions will spend between

10%-50% of their efforts within Juvenile Treatment Court. There will also be representation from Case Management Support Services and the Wraparound offices, as the program participants receive services provided by these agencies.

The program will run from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2008. The yearly evaluations will be posted at the end of each grant period on the Civic Institute website.

## Institute Welcomes New Research Analysts and Auxiliary Staff

In the Summer of 2005, the Civic Institute welcomed two new research analysts. **Katie Przepyszny** joined the Institute in July after completing her Master's degree in Human Development from Washington State University last Spring. A native of Erie, she received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Penn State Behrend. Her responsibilities at the Institute include ongoing evaluation and support for various Erie School District Projects, the Erie County Adult Probation Sanction Certainty Project, the Erie Family Center's Parent Child Home Program, and the Erie County Community Reintegration of Offenders with Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Project.

Also a native of Erie, **George Fickenworth** joined the Institute in August. George received his Master's of Business Administration degree from Gannon University after graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Speech Communications from Edinboro University. At the Institute, his main focus of work is within the criminal justice system, where he specializes in program evaluations of Erie County's Adult and Juvenile Drug and Mental Health Treatment Courts, organizing the activities of criminal justice advisory boards, and providing secondary staff support for Erie County's Policy and Planning Council.

The Institute also welcomes two new graduate assistants for the 2005/2006 school year. **John Matia** of Pittsburgh is a student in the Forensic and Biological Anthropology Program, and assists the Institute with various data management tasks. **Mike Lyden** of Erie is a student in the Applied Intelligence Program. He is currently stationed at the Erie County Prison where he assists with tasks there such as population trend research.

**Sarah Miskell** returns to the Institute for her second year as a work study student. From Syracuse, New York, she is a junior majoring in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Pre-Law.



**Katie Przepyszny,**  
Research Analyst



**George Fickenworth,**  
Research Analyst

## Kinnane Conference Updates

In June 2005, the Civic Institute helped to facilitate the annual Kinnane Conference, the premier criminal justice event sponsored by Mercyhurst College. Other collaborating agencies were the Mercyhurst North East Constable Training Program, Erie Police Department, Mercyhurst College Criminal Justice Program, Erie County Office of Public Safety, Erie County District Attorney's Office, and the Erie County Criminal Justice Coalition. The 2005 topic was: *The Impact of Gambling on the Criminal Justice Community... What the Experts Say*. Close to 200 citizens and professionals heard several prestigious speakers and attended the annual awards luncheon. Academic awards were extended to deserving criminal justice students, with special recognition given to Lt.

Maggie Kuhn of the Erie Police Department and Mr. John Petulla of Harborcreek Youth Services for their outstanding service to the community.

On June 16<sup>th</sup> 2006, the Institute will help to facilitate the next Kinnane Conference. The 2006 theme will be: *Public Safety: Balancing Freedom and Security After 9/11*. Nationally recognized public safety expert Attorney Gordon Graham will be the keynote speaker. Following Attorney Graham will be a regional panel of experts that will address the issue of whether we are safer after 9/11 or if our freedoms have simply been eroded in the name of security. The highly popular Kinnane awards luncheon will follow the panel discussion. In the afternoon, several concurrent educational sessions will be

held addressing topics such as catastrophic event planning for first responders, legal updates for attorneys and law enforcement officials, and critical incident debriefing. Additional information on the Kinnane Conference can be obtained by contacting **George Fickenworth**, Research Analyst at the Civic Institute, at 824-2183.



**Attorney Gordon Graham,**  
Keynote Speaker for the  
2006 Kinnane Conference

### Mercyhurst College Presents the Annual Kinnane Conference

#### Public Safety: Balancing Freedom and Security after 9/11

**Date:** Friday, June 16, 2006

**Time:** Registration begins at 8:00 AM

**Place:** Mercyhurst College Performing Arts Center

**Mark your calendar now for this can't-miss event!**

## EETT Brings More Technology to Erie High Schools

*"The students love completing the self-paced lessons on our new laptops and the teachers are gaining important assessment information. I am pleased with the progress that I have witnessed, all thanks to the EETT Grant."*

**Barb Zimmer,**  
Acting Assistant Principal &  
Library Media Specialist,  
Central High School

Since assisting the Erie School District in the initial preparation of the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Grant application in 2004, the Civic Institute has been involved with the implementation and evaluation of the project. As part of the No Child Left Behind Act, the federal grant money was allotted to Central, Strong Vincent, and East High Schools for use over a two-year period in efforts to increase

technology use in the classroom.

Through the EETT funds, which totaled \$340,000, each school has purchased the A+ Learning System software, a research-based courseware designed to assist students in their math and language arts curriculum. Each school has also purchased 50 new laptop computers, all equipped with the A+ software and other programs for use in the classroom. Teachers have benefited as well through two

opportunities to participate in a graduate level technology course fully funded by the grant, and for which they received continuing education credits through Gannon University.

As the second year of the grant closes, the Civic Institute will have the opportunity to document the grant's success in our local high schools. Look for the final evaluation report to be posted on the Civic Institute website in Fall 2006.

## Erie County Saves Through Detention Census Management Project



**Edmund L. Thomas  
Detention Center,  
Lake Pleasant Road**

The Detention Census Management Project has been in operation for over seven years, continuing to save the county money and the added expense from having to construct a new, larger detention center. The Edmund L. Thomas Detention Center is the only secure detention facility in Erie County, and has a capacity of 20 beds. The census management project makes use of local, private non-profit agencies to provide staff secure emergency shelter

services to a subset of youth admitted to secure juvenile detention.

To implement the census management project, the Mercyhurst Civic Institute developed the "Mercyhurst Level of Security Screening Instrument" (MLSSI) to help make decisions about which youth admitted to detention are eligible for transfer to shelter services. The screening instrument attempts to assure that those youth transferred

pose less risk to community safety, less risk of absconding, and less risk of harming themselves and re-offending than do ineligible youth.

Since implementation in October 1998, over 1,300 youths have been outsourced through the project with 98% success. The Mercyhurst Civic Institute is preparing a special report, including a cost benefit analysis to be released in February 2006.

## Criminal Justice Officials Attend Retreat



**Dr. Randall Clemons,**  
Facilitator for the  
2005 Criminal Justice  
Coalition Retreat

September 6, 2005 was the date of the fourth consecutive strategic planning retreat held for the Erie County Criminal Justice Coalition. The Coalition is the largest and oldest collaborative criminal justice planning body in Erie County. It is comprised of members of the public, judges, county legislators, and various administrators such as the District Attorney, Public Defender, County Executive, directors of both

Juvenile and Adult Probation, the prison Warden, and various policy makers from service provider agencies. The chair of the coalition is District Court Administrator Tom Aaron. In addition to a yearly retreat, the Coalition holds several meetings each year.

At the September retreat, the Coalition reviewed last year's goals, performed a gap analysis to determine how

improvements can be made, and selected future objectives to be pursued. The retreat was facilitated by **Dr. Randall Clemons**, consultant for the Civic Institute and director of the Mercyhurst College Political Science Department. The facilitator for the Coalition is **George Fickenworth**, Research Analyst at the Civic Institute. More information on the Coalition can be obtained by contacting George at 824-2183.

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## *About Our Organization...*

The Civic Institute is a college-community partnership dedicated to the social, health, educational, and civic well being of the Erie region and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As an interdisciplinary initiative of Mercyhurst College, the Institute seeks to promote an engaged and informed citizenry within the Erie region.

The Civic Institute seeks to evaluate, understand, and improve public policies and processes, which affect the region's citizens. It serves as a central repository for published information regarding the social and civic challenges, as well as opportunities facing Erie. In addition, the Institute seeks to provide Mercyhurst College faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students with applied social policy, research, and evaluation experience related to child, family, health, and justice issues.

*"We will ever strive for the ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many; we will unceasingly seek to quicken the sense of public duty; we will revere and obey the city's laws; we will transmit this city not only not less, but greater, better, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."*

*-From the oath of the Athenian City-State*