

**NEWS RELEASE -**

Contact:

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### **Institute Promotes Community Leadership for Education**

(Harrisburg) - The Institute for Community Leadership in Education begins its 2003-2004 program in the Lehigh Valley on Thursday, October 16, 2003 at the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School.

The Institute, which is sponsored by The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC), currently has sites in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and the Lehigh Valley. A new site in Berks County will commence this fall. According to Ron Cowell, EPLC President, "The Institute is designed for current and emerging community leaders who want to increase their knowledge about important statewide and local education policy issues." Applications are encouraged from a broad range of citizens, including parents of school-age children, business and professional persons, educators, civic leaders, local elected officials, prospective school board candidates and others.

"My participation in ICLE gave me the right tools and the confidence to run for the Allentown School Board. I feel I can serve the school district, the students, parents and my community better with the knowledge I gained from this important program, " said ICLE graduate Gina Kormanick.

Regional partners supporting the Lehigh Valley area Institute for Community Leadership in Education are the Lehigh Valley Business-Education Partnership, Colonial Intermediate Unit #20, and Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21.

The Institute program consists of nine sessions, beginning on Thursday, October 16, 2003, and continuing through Thursday, May 20, 2004. Topics include Governance of Public Education; Standards, Assessment and Accountability; Engaging Parents and Community; K-16 Partnerships; School Finance; Early Childhood Education and School Readiness; School Leadership; Education Options and Innovations; Technology in the Schools; and a Day at the State Capitol. Monthly sessions will be held at the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School, 3300 Chester Avenue, Bethlehem, PA. All sessions, except the opening session and the Day at the State Capitol, are from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. The tuition for the program, paid either by the individual or by a sponsor, is \$499.

For more information and an application, contact The Education Policy and Leadership Center at 717-260-9900 or see [www.eplc.org/leadership.html](http://www.eplc.org/leadership.html)

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