Hosted by Temple University’s Center on Regional Politics

Philadelphia Marriott West
Conshohocken, PA
May 30, 2014

9 am  Welcome  
Joseph P. McLaughlin, Jr., Director, Temple University Center on Regional Politics

9:10 am  Session I  
Funding Schools: What Pennsylvania Can Learn From Other States

Introduction:  
Hon. Steve Santarsiero, Member, House Committees on Education and Appropriations, and Co-Chair, Center on Regional Politics Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Speaker:  
Rob Knoeppel, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, Clemson University, and Co-Author of From Statehouse to Schoolhouse: Education Finance Apportionment Systems in the United States

Panel Moderator:  
Rob Wonderling, President and CEO, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and Co-Chair, Center on Regional Politics Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Panelists:  
Hon. Charles Zogby, Secretary of the Budget, and Member, Special Education Funding Commission

Hon. Patrick M. Browne, Senate Majority Whip and Co-Chair, Special Education Funding Commission

Hon. Anthony H. Williams, Senate Democratic Whip; Member, Senate Education Committee; and Co-Chair, Center on Regional Politics Urban Affairs Committee

Hon. Bernie O’Neill, Member, Chair, House Basic Education Subcommittee, and Co-Chair, Special Education Funding Commission

Hon. James R. Roebuck, Chair, House Education Committee (D), and Member, Special Education Funding Commission
10:40 am  Session II  Why Smart Investments in Public Schools Are Critical to Pennsylvania’s Economic Future: A Conversation with Business, Labor, and Public Leaders

Introduction:  Hon. Robert G. Loughery, Chair, Bucks County Commissioners, Co-Chair, Center on Regional Politics Committee on Economic Development

Speaker:  Bryan Hancock, McKinsey & Company, Lead Author, The Economic Impact of the Achievement Gap in America’s Public Schools

Discussion Leader:  Rana Foroohar, Global Economic Analyst, CNN News, and Assistant Managing Editor for Economics and Business, TIME Magazine

Participants:  Pat Eiding, President, Philadelphia AFL-CIO, and Co-Chair, Center on Regional Politics Committee on Economic Development

Feather O. Houstoun, Member, Philadelphia School Reform Commission, Former Pennsylvania Secretary of Welfare, and Co-Chair, Center on Regional Politics Committee on Transportation

Mike Pearson, President and CEO, Union Packaging, LLC

Phil Rinaldi, Principal Partner and CEO, Philadelphia Energy Solutions, LLC

Bill Strahan, Executive Vice President for Human Resources, Comcast Cable

11:55 am  Concluding Remarks  Joseph P. McLaughlin, Jr., Director, Center on Regional Politics

12 pm  Adjournment

This event was made possible by the William Penn Foundation and Temple University.

Session I Speakers

The Honorable Steve Santarsiero has represented Bucks County and the 31st Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2009. Santarsiero began his professional career as an attorney. However, after witnessing from his office window the tragic events of September 11, 2001, he made a life-changing decision to focus his energies on education and community service. Santarsiero left the practice of law to become a social studies teacher at Bensalem High School. In 2003 he was elected to the Lower Makefield Board of Supervisors where he helped to enact a tough sex offender measure and the creation of a league of southeastern Bucks County towns, whose purpose was to resolve common problems and regional issues. Santarsiero ultimately became chairman of the Lower Makefield Board of Supervisors in 2006. Today his legislative priorities include protecting open space, keeping electricity rates in check, property tax reform, fostering a renewable energy industry in Pennsylvania, improving education, protecting our children, and providing affordable health care to all Pennsylvanians. Santarsiero is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School; Tufts University, where he received his bachelor’s degree; and Holy Family University, where he received his master’s in education.

Rob Knoeppel, Ph.D. serves as associate professor and chair of the faculty of Leadership, Counselor Education, and Human & Organizational Development (LCH) at Clemson University. He previously held the position of associate and assistant professor of educational leadership at Clemson, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leader-
ship Studies at the University of Kentucky, adjunct instructor at George Mason University and the University of Virginia, and as a school counselor and director of guidance and counseling services at several schools in Prince William County, Virginia. His research interests include school finance, leadership and principalship, education accountability policy, education reform, teacher quality, and equity and adequacy. Knoeppel holds a bachelor’s in economics from the University of North Carolina, a master’s of education in school counseling from the University of Virginia, and a doctorate in education foundations, leadership, and policy from the University of Virginia.

Rob Wonderling has served as chief executive officer, president, and director at the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce since 2009. Representing the interests of 5,000 member companies, Wonderling seeks to promote growth and economic development, advocate for sound public policy, and respond to the needs of the region’s job creators. He also serves as chairman of the CEO Council for Growth, the governing board of Select Greater Philadelphia, which is charged with positioning the region as one of the nation’s top business locations. Wonderling serves as chair of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation and vice chair of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation. Previously, Wonderling worked for Bentley Systems, Inc., a privately held software firm based in Exton and the Allentown-based Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. Wonderling was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2002 after working as Deputy Secretary of Transportation under Governor Tom Ridge. He was re-elected in 2006 and served as chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee. He received a bachelor’s degree from Allegheny College and a master’s degree in government administration from the University of Pennsylvania before attending Harvard University’s program for senior executives in state government.

The Honorable Charles Zogby was nominated by Governor Tom Corbett to be Pennsylvania’s secretary of the budget on January 18, 2011. Zogby previously served the Commonwealth as the secretary of education under Governors Ridge and Schweiker from 2001 to 2003 where he helped put into place several education reforms, including the state’s charter school law, performance-based education funding, a value-added assessment pilot program, and high-stakes academic accountability systems for Pennsylvania school districts. He previously worked as the director of Governor Ridge’s Policy Office from 1995 to 2001 where he was responsible for coordinating policy development and initiatives across 18 executive branch agencies. Prior to returning to public service as secretary of the budget, he worked as the senior vice president of education and policy for K12 Inc., an online school curriculum developer and provider. Zogby holds a bachelor’s degree in economics from St. Lawrence University and a juris doctorate with distinction from the George Mason University School of Law.

The Honorable Patrick M. Browne has represented the citizens of the 16th Senatorial District and Lehigh County since April 2005. Prior to joining the Senate, Browne represented the 131st District for 10 years as a member of the state House of Representatives. Browne was elected by his colleagues in the Senate Republican Caucus to serve as Senate Majority Whip for the 2013-14 legislative session. He is the author of numerous state laws and drafted key portions of Act 120 of 2010 which fundamentally reformed Pennsylvania’s public pension systems and created an independent office to monitor state spending and the budget process. Senator Browne was instrumental in developing the Pennsylvania Web Accountability and Transparency (PennWATCH) Act, which expanded the public’s access to state spending records by creating and maintaining a searchable, database-driven budget website. Prior to his legislative service, he was employed with the accounting firms of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse as a tax manager and senior tax associate, respectively. In addition to being a CPA, he is also a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Browne received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Temple University.

The Honorable Anthony H. Williams is serving his fourth term representing the Eighth Senatorial District in Philadelphia and Delaware Counties. Williams earlier served for a decade in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Williams’ legislative priorities include ending unfair insurance credit scoring practices, curbing natural gas rate hikes, environmental protection, tax reduction, and job creation. He helped guide the passage of the state’s landmark 1997 charter school law and is currently working to establish an opportunity scholarship program for children residing in districts with chronically failing schools. Williams is a founding member of the Philadelphia Black Alliance for Educational Options and is a board member of the national Black Alliance for Educational Options. He is a founding member of Neighbors United Against Drugs, an emeritus member of the board of the African American Museum in Philadelphia and an honorary advisory member of the board of the Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation. He was formerly a member of the
boards of directors of SEPTA, Temple University, and the West Philadelphia YMCA. Before entering public service Williams worked as a corporate executive at PepsiCo and as an entrepreneur. He holds a degree in economics from Franklin & Marshall College.

The Honorable Bernie O’Neill is currently serving his sixth term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives after being elected in 2002. During his tenure in the legislature, O’Neill has supported efforts for enhancing the quality of life for Pennsylvanians by focusing on improving public education, reforming the school funding formula and school taxes, preserving open space and reducing sprawl, advancing opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and protecting the welfare of domestic animals. Before his election to the General Assembly, O’Neill was a special education teacher at William Tennent High School in the Centennial School District for more than 25 years and a migrant program consultant and counselor for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22 for six years. He also served five years on the board of supervisors in Warminster Township and was a deputy state constable in Warminster Township. He received an associate’s degree from Bucks County Community College, a bachelor’s degree from Penn State University, and a master’s degree in education from Temple University. He also performed graduate work at Penn State University, East Stroudsburg University, Wilkes College, Bloomsburg University, Marywood College, Philadelphia College of Performing Arts, and Temple University.

The Honorable James R. Roebuck has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 1985 where he represents the 188th Legislative District and serves as the Democratic chair of the House Education Committee. Prior to his election to the General Assembly, Roebuck served as a lecturer and assistant professor at Drexel University and as legislative assistant in the office of the mayor of Philadelphia. He is presently a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Black History Advisory Committee, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency Board of Directors, and the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus. Aside from his legislative duties, Roebuck is a member of the Board of Directors or Board of Trustees of the Christian Street Branch Young Men’s Christian Association, the Community College of Philadelphia, the Child Crisis Treatment Center, the Cradle of Liberty Council, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, International House, and the Boy Scouts of America. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Union University as well as a master’s degree and doctorate from the University of Virginia.

Session II Speakers

The Honorable Robert G. Loughery is serving his first term as chairman of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners following his initial appointment in February 2011 and election to a full term in November 2011. Loughery is the commissioners’ representative to the Bucks County Conservation District and has helped drive the creation of the Commissioners’ Economic Development Council, which will address critical issues facing the county. He is a partner of Keystone Redevelopment Group LLC, a real estate firm specializing in acquiring, developing, and repositioning undervalued and underutilized real estate. The firm’s focus is on high-tech, advanced manufacturing, industrial, and research and development property. Loughery has worked with Fortune 500 and NASDAQ listed companies, educational institutions, and small businesses to develop nearly 1,000,000 square feet and $75 million of real estate. Active in the community, Loughery serves as chairman of the board of trustees of the Bucks County Historical Society and is a member of the board of the Bucks County Community College Foundation. Loughery is a graduate of Central Bucks East High School and holds a bachelor’s degree in policy and management studies from Dickinson College. Following graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Bryan Hancock is a principal in the Atlanta office of McKinsey & Company where he specializes in organization and human-capital management. He advises top executives across sectors, serving clients in retail, manufacturing, professional services, logistics, and the public sector. Hancock is a leader of the firm’s service on human capital management. Currently, he serves clients in retail, airlines, manufacturing, healthcare, the public and social sectors, and professional services on a range of strategy and organization topics, with a focus on workforce and human capital development. Hancock has also been a faculty member at McKinsey’s “Change Leaders Forums.” His published work includes: “The Economic Cost of the US Education Gap,” McKinsey Quarterly, June 2009; “Employer Benefits Strategy for a Post-Reform World: Early Perspectives,” Center for US Health System Reform, January 2011; and “America’s Permanent Education Recession,” Teachers College Record. Hancock holds a bachelor’s degree in government and foreign affairs from the University of Virginia and a juris doctorate from Harvard Law School.
Rana Foroohar is CNN’s global economic analyst and an assistant managing editor for *TIME*, overseeing business and economic coverage across all platforms. Her column, “The Curious Capitalist,” covers the intersection of the global economy and Main Street. It is a must-read for economic and political thought leaders and one of the most popular features in *TIME*. Foroohar has penned numerous *TIME* cover stories and essays on Europe’s economic crisis including the “Wimpy Recovery” following the Great Recession, and an examination of what the rise of “localnomics” means for American business. Foroohar served as the deputy editor in charge of international business and economics for *Newsweek*. She headed up the economics coverage for the annual Davos special issue and spent six years as *Newsweek’s* European economic correspondent based in London, covering business news throughout Europe and the Middle East. During this time, she was awarded the German Marshall Fund’s Peter R. Weitz Prize for transatlantic reporting. She worked as a general editor at *Newsweek*, a reporter for *Forbes*, and a writer and editor at various other national and international publications. Foroohar is a graduate of Barnard College, Columbia University, and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Pat Eiding has served as the president of the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO since 2002. A leader in the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania labor movement, Eiding is active in many civic, charitable, and government affairs. Eiding has risen through the ranks of leadership throughout his career. His union leadership roles include serving as past president of the Asbestos Workers Middle Atlantic States Conference, and past president of the Mechanical Trades Council in Philadelphia and New Jersey. He currently serves as secretary/treasurer of the Philadelphia Building Trades Council, as a member of the executive council of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, and as the Northeast Regional representative to the National AFL-CIO General Board. He also worked for over 25 years as business manager of the Insulators and Asbestos Workers Local 14 covering Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. In addition to his duties within the AFL-CIO, Eiding represents organized labor on a number of civic boards. He is the co-chairman of Philadelphia Area Labor Management Committee (PALM); sits on the Board of the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania; serves on the executive committee of Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board (WIB); as a commissioner of the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA); and a member of the Philadelphia Planning Commission.

Feather O. Houstoun was appointed to the Philadelphia School Reform Commission by Governor Tom Corbett in October 2011. Houstoun most recently served as president of the William Penn Foundation, overseeing the organization’s $59 million annual grant-making to arts, community development, social services and environmental initiatives in the greater Philadelphia region. She was previously a member of the foundation’s board of directors. Houstoun has worked at every level of government, serving as Pennsylvania’s secretary of public welfare under Governor Tom Ridge, treasurer of the state of New Jersey under Governor Tom Kean, chief financial officer of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), and in several senior positions with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Referred to by Mayor Michael Nutter as “one of Philadelphia’s most dedicated and accomplished public servants,” Houstoun worked as an executive with AmeriChoice, which served the needs of Medicaid clients in 13 states. She was also a senior visiting scholar at the University of Pennsylvania and was an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Houstoun has written extensively on public management, gubernatorial leadership, housing, and linkages between business districts and transportation.

Mike Pearson is the president, chief executive officer, and founder of Union Packaging. Founded in 1999 with the goal of bringing jobs and greater economic opportunities to the Philadelphia region, Union Packaging is a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) that provides nested, clamshells, flat, and formed paperboard cartons. The company—under Pearson’s direction—has evolved into a packaging manufacturer capable of providing the quality, innovation, and cost effectiveness demanded by its customers while utilizing earth-friendly converting technology. Pearson’s clients include quick service restaurants, supermarkets, convenience stores, and food service companies. An experienced and successful entrepreneur, Pearson left Westvaco as a promising junior executive to establish himself in the private sector. Identifying the need in the Quick Service Restaurant (QSR) market for a quality minority supplier, Pearson established Providence Packaging, the company that would lead to Union Packaging. Prior to forming his company, Pearson proudly served his nation as an Army Airborne Ranger. He is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, and the Committee of Seventy. Pearson holds special certifications from the Wharton Business School, the Kellogg Business School, Six Sigma, and Lean Manufacturing.
Phil Rinaldi is a principal partner and chief executive officer of Philadelphia Energy Solutions LLC. Rinaldi is an entrepreneurial industrialist whose career has focused on energy, chemical, and natural resource industries where he specializes in finding good but undervalued businesses in his area of interest, acquiring those targets with partner groups tailored to the specific situation, and then leading the development of these businesses through their maturity. Rinaldi has been an investor and/or the principal executive in a wide range of industries including: oil refining, oil exploration, phosphate mining and chemical production, coke gasification, nitrogen chemical production, zinc refining, and production of molybdenum, rhenium, and vanadium derivatives. His industrial background includes prominent companies such as Exxon, Phibro, Tosco, Coffeyville Resources, Conserve, Seminole, and Mulberry Corporation. Rinaldi is an active member of New Jersey Institute of Technology where he serves as Chairman of the Board of Overseers where he has endowed the Louis and Marie Carmella Rinaldi Memorial Scholarship, and where he also serves as director of the alumni association. He earned his BS and MS degrees in chemical engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology in 1968 and 1976, respectively.

Bill Strahan serves as executive vice president of human resources for Comcast Cable. He has responsibility for all aspects of human resources, including talent, compensation, benefits, learning, and employee and labor relations. He joined Comcast Cable in 2006 as vice president of compensation and benefits and was promoted to senior vice president in 2009. In 2010, he was elevated from that role to oversee all human resources functions. Strahan has been involved in various aspects of human resources work for almost 30 years. He began his career with over a decade of work at Macy’s Department Stores and Riggs National Bank. The second decade of his work included practicing law in Washington, D.C. in the area of compensation and benefits — mostly in the context of mergers and acquisitions and in initial public offerings. For nine years Strahan was a consultant and manager at Mercer HR Consulting. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Villanova University, a certificate in employee benefit administration from Georgetown University, and a law degree from the George Mason University School of Law. He is an active member of the Virginia State Bar.

Welcome and Concluding Remarks

Joseph P. McLaughlin, Jr., Ph.D. is director of Temple University’s Center on Regional Politics. Before joining Temple in 2004, he was senior advisor to Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell. McLaughlin served as an advisor and spokesman for the National Governors Association (1978-82), the Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus (1974-78), and Philadelphia Mayor William J. Green, III (1982-83). From 1983 to 2002, he represented the City of Philadelphia, SEPTA, and other public and private sector clients on major issues affecting southeastern Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and Harrisburg. From 1968 to 1971, he covered state and local government for the Chicago Tribune. McLaughlin also directs Temple’s Institute for Public Affairs, which sponsors and produces policy-related research produced by Temple faculty and students. He is assistant dean for external affairs of the College of Liberal Arts and teaches American politics in the political science department. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English literature from Middlebury (VT) College and master’s and doctoral degrees in political science from Temple University.