



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

York College of Pennsylvania: Dr. George Waldner, 815-1221; Dr. Michael McGough, 815-1983. Additional co-chair: Glenn Caufman, 805-7269. YorkCounts staff: James DeBord, 815-6436, jdebord@ycp.edu; Beau Boughamer, 815-6430, dbougham@ycp.edu.

## York College volunteers to house countywide schools consortium urged by Metro-York

York, Pa., Dec. 6, 2007 – **York College of Pennsylvania** will serve as the “home base” for a curriculum-focused consortium of York County educators, the college and **YorkCounts** announced today.

The establishment of the entity, to be known as the York County Schools Consortium, was one of eight recommendations put forth by YorkCounts’ Metro-York project. YorkCounts is York County’s community-wide quality-of-life coalition; Metro-York’s output, released last month, consists of eight forward-thinking recommendations for improving municipal prosperity and education in the heart of York County.

The fact that the still-forming consortium already has a place to call home is expected to boost the launch effort.

“More than that,” said YorkCounts director James DeBord, “the college will provide resources and will allow York College students to assist in the work of the consortium. York College is really an ideal host for this sort of enterprise.”

Dr. George Waldner, the President of York College of Pennsylvania and a member of the YorkCounts Board, has agreed to co-chair a committee tasked with getting the consortium off the ground. The other co-chair is Glenn Caufman, who heads the York County Alliance for Learning and has been a Pennsylvania public schools educator and administrator for 35 years.

Also contributing to the effort will be Dr. Michael McGough, Assistant Professor and Director, Professional Development Division within the Education Department at York College. Waldner, Caufman and McGough said they will work to recruit some of the best and brightest minds in the area to serve on an organizing committee, then the working consortium team.

“I was very much involved in a similar group during my time at Wilkes University,” Waldner said, “so I know it can work here. I’m also confident that York College of Pennsylvania will prove to be a receptive environment for thoughtful discussion about innovation in the classroom and the future of our children.”

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YorkCounts launched Metro-York in 2006 to address core concerns in the heart of the county, including a concentration of poverty, rising crime, tax burdens and inequities, a lack of job opportunities and challenges

within our schools. Primary obstacles to success were identified as the “small box” divisions between school and governmental entities that make for inflexible systems, so the recommendations urge a breaking down of these divisions.

Members of the community participated in Metro-York in 2006 and 2007 through three committees. These panels listened to testimony and analysis from experts and leaders, then met numerous times to discuss and debate key concerns and formulate proposals. The results were presented to the YorkCounts Board, which adopted the recommendations.

The other Metro-York recommendations are to establish a consolidated Metro-York police department, to engage in additional meaningful regional planning, to reform taxation through a local tax study commission, to study ideas for modernizing York County’s form of government, to attack the root problem that a school district can’t succeed when poverty and its related problems are concentrated the way they are in the York City schools, to invest \$3 million per year in each of the next ten years in “intensive care” for at-risk students and to use the soon-to-be-established Office of Workforce Development as a catalyst to strengthen relationships between employers and the Metro-York workforce.

Task forces are currently forming around each recommendation, and folks who are interested in volunteering are asked to call 717/815-6430 or e-mail [yorkcounts@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcounts@gmail.com).

The full text of the recommendations, background documents on each, lists of Metro-York participants, a hi-res YorkCounts logo and more can be found at [yorkcounts.org/metro](http://yorkcounts.org/metro).

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YorkCounts is a community-based coalition working to assess, sustain and enhance York County's quality of life – building alliances, introducing partners, spotlighting issues and facilitating conversations on education, economic development, health and safety, diversity and more. Partners include Better York, the United Way of York County, Wellspan Health, York College of Pennsylvania, the York County Chamber of Commerce, the York County Commissioners and the York County Community Foundation.

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*Count me in*