

Hall Institute to Debut Interactive Public Affairs Program

Written by {ga=hallnj}

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(TRENTON) - The Hall Institute's new interactive public affairs program on New Jersey public policy issues will premiere tomorrow at 10:30 a.m.

The *Hall Institute Forum* can be viewed live online at livestream.com/thehallpublicforum .

Viewers will be able to participate in a live chat and pose questions to the program's host, Hall Institute Executive Director Michael P. Riccards, and his guest, Michael Presutti, who will discuss his proposal to combine an occupational training program with an urban renewal effort designed to rehabilitate criminal offenders and the physical communities where they often live.

"The Hall Institute is starting an exciting new initiative that not only will provide viewers with substantive public policy discussion, but also will allow them to engage in the dialogue as we work to develop solutions," said Riccards.

In 2008 and 2009, the *Hall Institute Forum* was produced in partnership with Mercer County Community College. The program was recorded and then aired on cable outlets in Mercer County and streamed on the Hall Institute website. The new format, being produced by [Video Imprint Productions](#) , will make the content available in real time. Programs also will be archived on the [Livestream](#) and [Hall Institute](#) web pages for later viewing.

Presutti's proposal, known as CONstruction, was included in *Reaction and Reform in New Jersey* , a book published by the Hall Institute in 2007. In the chapter, he offers this explanation of the program and its benefits:

"CONstruction works at many levels and creates the often-illusory 'win-win-win' scenario. It offsets the per-inmate cost of incarceration; it trains, challenges, and encourages criminal offenders to become responsible citizens; and it provides asset appreciation of real property, which currently disproportionately drains the municipal resources of police, sanitation, and fire

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services. Ideally, at its core, CONstruction is a stabilization plan that can thwart the malignancy of crime and urban decay, and breed future development and revitalization in our inner city communities.”

The text of Presutti’s chapter is posted in full in the [Urban Affairs](#) section of the Hall Institute website.

“The topic is especially timely in light of the recidivism bills that were approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor on Monday,” Riccards said.

The Hall Institute is a non-partisan, not-for-profit foundation established to explore social, economic, educational and cultural issues. Since its inception in 2005, the institute has emerged as a leading voice for public policy in New Jersey.

Located in Trenton at 224 West State Street, the institute was established by George E. Hall, a successful business executive and a leading philanthropist who lives in Middletown, N.J.

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