A Word From the Executive Director

During Fiscal Year 2013, we continued to advance toward a balanced and sustainable portfolio of government, non-profit organization and philanthropic sponsors of our research and technical assistance projects. Our distinctive footprint in, and delivery of value to, Baltimore and the State of Maryland are tributes to the professional skills and dedication of my Institute colleagues.

We renewed multi-year and annual partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies. These partnerships broaden and deepen our individual and collective understanding of the challenges that government agencies encounter in their pursuit of efficient and effective delivery of value to clients and taxpayers. This growth of professional knowledge translates into higher quality of our own research and technical assistance contributions. At times, this understanding creates angst about the accuracy and relevance of what less aware authors publish and espouse in public forums. Decisions have consequences, some of which are irreversible or costly to redirect. We strive to deliver research findings that are actionable. Success imposes a responsibility on each of us to think about the consequences of actions taken based in part on what we have reported.

The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, under Associate Director Dr. Seema Iyer's leadership, released Vital Signs 11 and hosted another highly successful Data Day that attracted over 230 registrants from 145 affiliations. This document and event epitomize what my reference to distinctive footprint and delivery of value mean. The BNIA program contributes directly to the Institute's advance toward a balanced and sustainable portfolio of sponsors.

Fiscal Year 2013 is best described as a transition year for the Jacob France Institute. Richard Clinch, our colleague for nearly 20 years, accepted a senior research position with the Battelle Memorial Institute. I have an unequivocal answer to the rhetorical question "would anyone notice if [ ] left JFI?" Yes, we in JFI, across the UB campus, and well beyond among the many local, regional and national organizations that relied upon Richard's research, counsel and collegiality, noticed.

Looking ahead, Fiscal Year 2014 promises to be another transition year for the Institute. I will be relinquishing most, but not all, of my Institute management responsibilities. I look forward to continued research collaboration with Institute and far flung colleagues after full withdrawal from administrative commitments.

David Stevens, Ph.D.
Executive Director
“How Baltimore Grows” TEDxBaltimore: Baltimore ReWired

Using community-based data, Seema Iyer gave a 2013 TEDxBaltimore talk on what's working in the City's many neighborhoods. Contrary to issues that are often perceived as a neighborhoods' barriers to growth, data shows that neighborhoods with high accessibility and quality housing are attracting new residents. The talk is available online at http://www.youtube.com/user/bniajfi along with the Baltimore Sun op-ed on How Baltimore Grows which can be found at http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-neighborhoods-20121012,0,6276604.story

Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance adds Hackathon to annual big data event, Technically Baltimore

For the fourth consecutive year community leaders and lovers of data joined together at Data Day, something of a public unveiling of the latest community statistical information on such subjects as crime rate, poverty and unemployment for Baltimore's neighborhoods. Organized each year by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance-Jacob France Institute, Data Day represents the intersection of community-based data and technology centered on one main question: can statistical information be employed effectively by community activists and neighborhood leaders to bring about improvement and change in this city?

Economic turnaround in Hampden area makes mill rehab ineligible for tax credit, Baltimore Sun

The makeover of the mills along the Jones Falls into a hub of trendy restaurants and residences has succeeded so well that parts of the area no longer qualify for the federal tax credit that helped finance some of the work. Seema Iyer, associate director of the Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore, which tracks demographic data for the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, said the use of the New Markets tax credits in the Hampden area coincided with other signs of revitalization and economic investment. The percentage of the population 25 or older with some college education in the neighborhood increased, up to 61 percent from 46 percent in 2000, and the unemployment rate fell from 6 percent to 5 percent. Between 2000 and 2010, median annual household income in the entire Medfield-Hampden-Woodberry area rose from $34,000 to $49,000, according to the alliance. http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bs-bz-new-markets-20131209,0,5062325.story

Web tool tracks Baltimore’s green spaces, The Daily Record

Ever wonder where some of the reclaimed vacant lots-turned-gardens, pocket parks, meditation spaces and horseshoe pits are located? A new resource created by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance and the University of Baltimore's Jacob France Institute can help. Its creators said the interactive tool is designed to help governmental and nongovernmental organizations coordinate and monitor “greening” activities in neighborhoods across the city, helping local groups that are working to maintain existing open space and add more. http://thedailyrecord.com/maryland-business/2013/11/28/web-tool-tracks-baltimores-green-spaces/
Our Mission

The Jacob France Institute (JFI) serves as a leading source of high quality statistical information and research covering the interaction of business, worker, and government investment decisions. Analysis of trends in the location and quality of employment along with continued education and training opportunities and outcomes are of particular importance in our current portfolio of research. We manage and participate in alliances with research partners in other states to further discovery of new information that shapes important business and government policy decisions. In conducting our research we respect privacy, protect confidentiality, and shun partisanship.

JFI Programs

Labor Market and Education Program
The JFI team conducting education and workforce research and evaluation studies continued to expand the portfolio of maintained administrative databases and funded projects. The MD WDQI sub-award of U.S. Department of Labor funds is acknowledgment of the positive national attention that JFI staff receives for its contributions. Local (Baltimore City Public Schools, and Baltimore County Public Schools), State (Maryland Association of Community Colleges; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland State Department of Education; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; Maryland Department of Disabilities; and Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development), and regional (District of Columbia Department of Employment Services, and District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education) sponsored JFI projects during the current year.

JFI team members delivered invited presentations in national, regional and local forums.

Human Services Program
The Human Services Program provides statistical information and research on the provision of human services in Maryland. The information is used to support policy makers in decisions concerning the most disadvantaged groups in society with the goal of promoting independence and providing opportunities to succeed. The focus is on programs that support the ability to work, including job development, child care, food assistance and cash assistance. In partnership with federal and state agencies and other academic institutions, research priorities are the development of high quality data sources through evaluations of data accuracy and the integration of data bases, evaluation of programs and the measurement of performance.
The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance

The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance has been producing quality of life indicators for Baltimore’s neighborhoods since 2000. The indicators are bits of information that when compiled together, reflect the profile of places. By continuously monitoring neighborhoods, we can notice changes that might not be evident without this ongoing measurement.

With the release of Vital Signs 11 this year, we continue to work with a wide variety of stakeholders to figure out what data is available to help neighborhoods, which requires talking to communities, planning with them as they envision their future, and using the Vital Signs indicators to track progress towards their goals.

Why we do Baltimore Data Day?

There is no substitute for conversation and collaboration to understand the path for each of the City's diverse neighborhoods; and, none of community-based monitoring would be relevant, if the indicators don't really reflect quality of life and what really matters in our neighborhoods. As part of the ongoing conversations with community leaders, organizations, foundations, and governmental agencies, Baltimore Data Day over the past 4 years has allowed for more networked communications around data, technology and community change. At Baltimore Data Day, communities talk to each other specifically around what indicators BNIA provides, what other data resources are available to neighborhoods, and how these data could be or are being used to facilitate constructive change.

We hope to see you at Baltimore Data Day 2014 and look forward to working with each of you on the common goal of a better quality of life, in every neighborhood.

Seema D. Iyer, PhD
Associate Director, Jacob France Institute
Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance
Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance: Vital Signs 11

Annual Report by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance-Jacob France Institute Uses New ‘Hyperlocal’ Data on What’s Important to Baltimore’s Neighborhoods

After an 18-month strategic planning process, Vital Signs 11, a comprehensive statistical portrait of Baltimore and its neighborhoods, marks a new stage for reporting on “quality of life” indicators. The 11th edition of the report, published by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance—Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI), tracks more than 150 indicators, many of these new to this edition, to show those issues that are important to all of the city and its residents. The report makes extensive use of “hyperlocal” data not otherwise available—data that is unique to Baltimore such as the number of Enoch Pratt Free Library cardholders and crime calls for service from the Baltimore City Police Department.

Understanding the Housing Market

• More than half of the city’s renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent.
• Although foreclosure rates fell to its lowest level in over a decade, median sales prices of homes sold in 2011 was $100,000, a continued decline of $15,000 from 2010.
• More than half (51 percent) of the homes sold were purchased for cash (newly introduced data point).
• 7.8 percent of homes received a vacant house notice, but that percentage declined most in Greenmount East and Madison East End.
• Baltimore City owns 19.7 percent of vacant properties (new data point).
• 7.5 percent of homes are unoccupied and do not receive mail via the United States Postal Service (new data point).

Focus on Sustainability:

• Baltimore City’s Walk Score is 52.4, in the “Somewhat Walkable” category. Midtown’s Walk Score is 93.2, a “walker’s paradise.”
• 29.6 percent of households do not have access to a car.
• Median daily water use is 16 cubic feet of water per day.

Benchmarking New Indicators:

• More than three-fourths of the homicides were caused by a gun.
• More than 7 percent of the city’s public school students switch schools at least once during the school year.
• There are 2.3 liquor stores, 1.4 fast food stores, and 0.2 banks per 1,000 residents in 2011.
• 54 percent of the city’s residents commute out of Baltimore to work.
• One fourth of Baltimoreans have an active library membership with the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

In total, Vital Signs 11 is a compilation of “big data.” There are more than 150 indicators for each of Baltimore’s 55 community statistical areas, which translates to more than 8,000 data points in the latest edition of the study. The report is also rooted in “open data”. All of the indicators from previous Vital Signs are online for anyone to access and download for use in a variety of innovative ways.
BNIA Project Highlights

Effect of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative on Foreclosure Prevention
Sponsor: Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) through a grant from the Open Society Institute.

BNIA-JFI linked participants in the GHHI, a program of the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning working to improve housing for children living in economically challenged communities, to various dataset including foreclosure, housing violations and home sales. BNIA-JFI found that the program tends to operate in low-to-moderate income neighborhood markets and does improve the housing stability for program participants. Overall, the GHHI program may have the greatest impact on helping to stabilize neighborhoods through: 1) reducing potential home foreclosures and vacant housing notices and 2) increasing the further rehabilitation investment by homeowners.

Lines Between Us—Seeing Inequality
Sponsor: WYPR—88.1FM

“The Lines Between Us” was a year-long multimedia series by WYPR's Maryland Morning about inequality in the Baltimore region that aired from September 28, 2012 to October 4, 2013. Associate Director Seema Iyer served on the advisory committee for the series and BNIA-JFI provided interactive mapping and data support as supplemental material for the series available online at http://www.linesbetweenus.org/seeing-inequality. The series was one of 14 winners of the 2014 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, among several local honors.

Interactive Map of Community Managed Open Space
Sponsor: US Department of Agriculture, US Forestry Service, Northern Research Station

In 2011, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership established Baltimore as one of seven pilot sites in an effort to coordinate resources to “revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them.” Collaboration among inter-governmental, inter-jurisdictional and non-governmental entities is critical to gaining a common understanding of localized problems and developing an integrated set of strategies for achieving community revitalization. Beginning in September 2012, BNIA-JFI began to create an interactive resource tool for community gardens and open spaces in an effort to timely monitoring and coordinate activities to strengthen the relationship between improving urban waters and community revitalization. This resource is now available online at http://water.bniajfi.org/ and should be useful for leveraging community-based funding, policy development and advocacy.

The Pipeline
Sponsor: Association of Builders & Contractors—Baltimore Chapter, Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

A new on-line service called ‘The Pipeline’ was launched this year that tracks development projects in the pre-planning stages as a service to developers. Understanding and keeping track of the status of projects during the development review phase is complicated because projects evolve as developers ensure compliance with local land use regulations and produce contextually sensitive final designs. The purpose of the ‘The Pipeline’ is to develop a database and visualization prototype that tracks development projects through the review process and documents the status of the project prior to obtaining a building permit. The database of projects is geocoded and available for visualization on an online mapping tool http://realestate.bniajfi.org/ Other data sources include real estate news outlets and other local information. The partnership has sponsored students from the Merrick School of Business Real Estate program to serve as research assistants.

Opportunity Collaborative, Regional Housing Plan
Sponsor: Baltimore Metropolitan Council through a Sustainable Communities Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.)

With a team led by the Innovative Housing Institute with BAE Urban Economics and the Housing Group at UMD’s National Center for Smart Growth, BNIA-JFI is working to develop a plan that will identify regional housing priorities and develop a toolkit of strategies to address them. The core components of the plan will
be: (1) a Regional Housing Demographic and Market Assessment, and (2) a Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA). For more information, visit http://www.opportunitycollaborative.org/housing-plan/

McElderry Park Crime Reduction Plan
Sponsor: Mayor’s Office on Criminal Justice through a Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (D.O.J.)

Working with faculty in UB’s School of Criminal Justice, BNIA-JFI used community-based indicators to develop a data-driven analysis of the drivers of crime within the McElderry Park community. Sixteen crime hotspots were identified along with systemic issues related to violent and property crime in the area. Evidence-based and community-led solutions will be documented in a plan that will be utilized by the McElderry Park Revitalization Coalition and submitted to the D.O.J. for implementation funds for the Byrne Grant. For more information visit, http://mocj.baltimorecity.gov/ByrneCriminalJusticeInnovation.aspx

Baltimore Community Foundation Target Neighborhoods Evaluation
Sponsor: Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF)

With a team led by the University of Maryland School of Social Work, BNIA-JFI is providing data and community-based indicators to evaluate progress within BCF’s two target neighborhoods, Greater Highlandtown and Reservoir Hill. BCF Target Neighborhoods have received a commitment of $1 million in resources over three years, which includes $600,000 in grants, a significant amount of staff time on the ground in these neighborhoods, and a thorough evaluation of social capital, cleanliness, greening, safety, and vibrancy. Specific sustainability indicators derived from this evaluation will be incorporated into future Vital Signs reports.

Knowledge that Works for Baltimore: BNIA in the Classroom
Sponsor: University of Baltimore Foundation, Fund for Excellence

BNIA-JFI received a grant to: 1) conduct a survey of academic users to understand the impact of BNIA-JFI data on academic analysis, curriculum development and service learning at UB; 2) establish a network of academic users for peer-to-peer learning and the advancement of the science of community-based information; 3) raise awareness among UB faculty by developing curriculum modules for faculty to incorporate in multi-disciplinary contexts; 4) host cross-university coursework and other projects online at http://www.bniajf.org; and 5) invite faculty and students to present findings at the annual workshop Baltimore Data Day. The goals of this project include integrated use of the community-based data on campus, support for UB’s designation as a Carnegie-designated Engaged University and growing educational opportunities in Geographic Information Systems on campus.

2013 Reports and Project Highlights

Business and Employment Dynamics Report Series
Sponsor: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (D.L.L.R.)

This series of reports first exhibits Maryland statewide employment and establishment growth overview as the general economic background. Then each report compares across time line the various aspects of business establishments and employment churning at a local workforce investment area: the analysis focuses on the continuity of business establishment ownership, closures, start-ups, reported change-of-ownership (mergers & acquisitions), and employment dynamics associated with each of these; it provides details in year/quarter, business size classes, and sources of business gains and losses of local business establishment entries and exits over the seven years covered; and it shows profiles of quarter-to-quarter employment gain, loss and net change from employment fluctuations among all reporting local business establishments by business size classes, sources of employment gains and losses, and selected industries.
Data Linkage and Technical Services to the Maryland Department of Human Resources

Sponsor: Maryland Department of Human Resources, Family Investment Administration (D.H.R)

For the first component, employment and earnings calculations for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (T.A.N.F.) recipients in each Maryland county were provided to D.H.R. and used for various performance measures for local Departments of Social Services. Using state administrative data, the second component examines the pattern of entries and exits to and from Maryland’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.) from June 2006 through March 2010 to identify changes in caseload flows that may have occurred due to the recession. The third component documents pre-recession through post-recession trends in job opportunities for Mid-Maryland welfare recipients using Maryland administrative data and employment data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics program. Ad hoc reporting includes data reports on various aspects of T.A.N.F. recipient employment. The fifth component involves defining, developing and maintaining Technical Assistance Reviews and statistical measures of performance for local Departments of Social Services.

Reports: “Trends in Job Opportunities for Mid-Maryland Welfare Recipients”. Quarterly “Data reports” containing county-level employment and earnings information for T.A.N.F. recipients. Data reports on employment retention for Temporary Cash Assistance (T.C.A.) recipients hired by local government agencies in Maryland and data reports showing results of matching D.H.R.’s T.C.A. sample cases with the Unemployment Insurance wage records.

Economic Research on the Joint Contribution of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (S.N.A.P.) and Unemployment Insurance (U.I.) to the Nation’s Safety Net

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

The JFI is the lead partner of a five state consortium (Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan and Texas) analyzing the interaction of S.N.A.P. caseload and recipient household composition dynamics aligned with receipt of U.I. benefits and participation in U.I. covered employment. Using linked state administrative records for S.N.A.P., U.I. wage records and U.I. benefits, the alignment in time between individuals’ receipt of U.I. benefits and S.N.A.P. benefits is examined, including how much overlap occurs in the receipt of benefits and how long do households receive U.I. benefits before receiving S.N.A.P. benefits.

Federal Employment Data Exchange System (F.E.D.E.S.)

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (D.O.L./E.T.A.), and Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. (D.L.L.R.)

F.E.D.E.S. provides information on federal employment to participating states to help them meet their reporting requirements. The JFI is responsible for the technical operations of F.E.D.E.S. which include conducting four quarterly data exchanges during this past fiscal year between participating states and three federal agencies (Office of Personnel Management, Department of Defense, and the U.S. Postal Service). Currently 43 states participate in F.E.D.E.S.


MD Workforce Data Quality Initiative (MD WDQI)

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Labor (D.O.L)

The Jacob France Institute continues research and technical assistance responsibilities under the three-year, D.O.L. funded, Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) in partnership with the Maryland D.L.L.R. JFI’s research builds on ongoing collaboration with DLLR, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (M.H.E.C.) and the Maryland State Department of Education (M.S.D.E.). M.S.D.E., M.H.E.C. and DLLR are the statutory partners in Maryland’s P-20W Longitudinal Data System (M.D. L.D.S.) that will ‘go live’ in 2013 after seven years of federally funded design and development investment. JFI is represented on two M.D. L.D.S. interagency technical and policy workgroups, and provides ongoing technical assistance to other partner agencies about the ‘workforce’ component of the integrated data system. JFI WDQI project deliverables are posted on the U.S. D.O.L./WDQI website. JFI’s newest WDQI project research findings was presented at the 2012 national SLDS/WDQI conference on October 29, 2012.
**MD Longitudinal Data System (MD L.D.S.)**

**Sponsor: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (MD D.L.L.R.)**

JFI participates with the MD D.L.L.R., the State Department of Education, the University System of Maryland, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission in the ongoing design and development of the MD L.D.S. and Data Center. JFI’s role to date has been pro bono.

**Technical Assistance Services to the Family Investment Administration of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services (B.C.D.S.S.)**

**Sponsor: B.C.D.S.S., Family Investment Administration (F.I.A.)**

The JFI provides technical assistance in the area of performance measurement and project management relating to CenterStat, the Center Report Card, tracking the performance of B.C.D.S.S. service providers and other project management tasks, including data analysis, policy analysis and management analysis. The JFI contributes to the development and implementation of new standard operating procedures and best practices. In addition, the JFI is assisting with the development and implementation of software applications to help B.C.D.S.S. improve the management of the B.C.D.S.S. public assistance verification system.

**Reports:** Quarterly data reports containing information on employment of TANF recipients, by local department in Baltimore City.


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**2013 JFI Events**

**Baltimore Data Day, July 11-12, 2013**

Baltimore Data Day is an annual workshop to help communities expand their capacity to use technology and data to advance their goals. At this 4th Annual Baltimore Data Day, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, governmental entities and civic-minded “hackers” will come together to see the latest trends in community-based data, technology and tools and learn how other groups are using data to support and advance constructive change. Baltimore Data Day is structured around a series of “how to” interactive workshops in which people who work with data will explain what data is available, how to access data, and why data can be actionable for communities. [http://www.bniajfi.org/data_day](http://www.bniajfi.org/data_day)

This workshop is sponsored by BNIA-JFI in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond with generous support from: Office of the Provost at the University of Baltimore, Enterprise Community Partners, Baltimore Collegetown Network and greeNEWit.
Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth in China

In their new book, Entrepreneurship and Economic Growth in China, Ting Zhang, research assistant professor in the University of Baltimore's Merrick School of Business Jacob France Institute, and her co-author Roger R. Stough, vice president for research and economic development and professor of public policy at George Mason University, present a groundbreaking analysis of the existing economic dynamics and factors contributing to entrepreneurship in China.

The authors’ focus includes Chinese-style entrepreneurship as a driver of the country’s economic growth, and a comparison of it to that of more market-oriented economies. Zhang and her contributors first pose a theoretical question of whether entrepreneurship exists in China, and, from there, its reach and what form it takes. They consider whether entrepreneurship in China is important to economic growth, and discuss how public policy can help to enhance the entrepreneurship and thus economic environment in China.

“China's entrepreneurship development and economic growth are tightly related, and our examination reveals strong regional disparities in wealth, stages of economic development, and education,” said Zhang. “There is also a non-market dimension of the economy and entrepreneurship in China, due to its underdeveloped market economy and fuzzy property rights arrangements.”

Zhang's research interests include workforce development, entrepreneurship, regional economy, administrative records, and aging. She recently has focused on developing a profile of Maryland employment and business dynamics, examining recession impacts, tracking worker placement, investigating job creation mechanisms, exploring geographic dynamics of the economy, and diagnosing data quality using administrative records.

Zhang is the author of three books, two monographs and a number of academic journal articles. She is also a referee for several internationally renowned academic journals. Her book Elderly Entrepreneurship in an Aging Economy: It’s Never Too Late was reviewed by The Gerontologist. She has been recently quoted by Bloomberg Businessweek and the Baltimore Sun regarding older people’s entrepreneurship and Maryland’s local economy and job creation, respectively. In addition to conducting research at the Jacob France Institute, Zhang also teaches in the School of Public Policy. She has previously conducted research at George Mason University, the World Bank, the Urban Institute, and the Council of Graduate Schools, and taught at UMBC.

She was a winner of the Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship Award, a finalist in the Charles Tiebout Prize for Regional Science, a recipient of a U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Research Fellowship Award, the Public Policy Paper Competition by Virginia Department of Transportation, and several other awards, grants, and fellowships.
### 2013 Grant Awards

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**Total JFI Awards 2013**  $2,338,435

We appreciate and value the collegiality and commitment to The Jacob France Institute by our sponsors. We look forward to ongoing and future collaborations yielding quality work.
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The Jacob France Institute is the economic research arm of the Merrick School of Business. The JFI explores the dynamics of management-employee relations and public policy actions and their consequences.