

AUBER

ASSOCIATION FOR UNIVERSITY BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

March 2015

**PRESIDENT-ELECT'S
LETTER**

**BOARD MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS**

CONNECT WITH AUBER

WVU REPORT



If you would like to contribute an article to the AUBER newsletter, or have any suggestions, please contact Shannon Furniss at the AUBER Secretary/Treasurer's Office, Shannon.Furniss@business.umt.edu.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jeremy Hill

I am pleased to announce that Sean Snaith and the AUBER planning committee have made great strides in organizing and planning the fall conference. It is important to note that the direction of the event was based on some of the feedback that we received from a survey that we sent out to AUBER members in November. The results indicated that your top preference for a pre-conference workshop was for an



IMPLAN-led session, and I am happy to announce that they have agreed to do a three-hour training workshop. Even if you are an impact-modeling savant, this will be a great opportunity to hone those skills. This is also a great opportunity to send some internal staff members to the annual event.



Based on the survey results, the three potential sessions that were of most interest to AUBER members were health care, water/environment, and workforce. Right now there is only one committed presenter for each of these broad topics. If you have something to contribute, please do not hesitate any longer to send the idea to Jeremy Hill (Jeremy.Hill@Wichita.edu).

Other sessions that have been emerging are public policy (details shown below), real estate (determining customary and reasonable appraisal fees), entrepreneurship, and economic impact studies (military pension exemption impact). The planning committee is still seeking presenters and chairs for these and other potential session topics.

Presentation Topics Within Public Policy

- Economic Effects of Tax Increment Financing
- The Effects of Right-to-Work Legislation
- A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Pseudoephedrine Drug Policy
- Assessment Quality: Sales Ratio Analysis of Residential Properties

As for keynote speakers, the committee has confirmed the selection of Dennis Lockhart, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. In addition to this highly influential figure, the committee has soft commitments or is in the discussion phase for the other keynote speakers. Overall, the other keynote speakers will address the national economy and highlight some key local economic industries within the Orlando area, another salient point shared in the November survey.

I am looking forward to getting together with all of you at the 2015 Fall AUBER conference in Orlando, Florida.

AUBER SPRING BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The AUBER board of directors met at the NABE conference held March 8-10 in Washington, D.C. Some highlights from the meeting include:



- AUBER membership is near 60. Efforts are being made to form new partnerships. We may look at doing an orientation for new AUBER members. The board approved a small budget for promoting AUBER so we can recruit new members.
- AUBER board members discussed having AUBER 2016 in [Fayetteville](#), Arkansas with Kathy Deck hosting. The field trip could be held at the [Walmart](#) museum. There is hiking nearby and a nice microbrewery scene. A possibility for the 2017 conference is [Albuquerque](#), New Mexico, with Lee Reynis hosting.
- The board talked about having a discussion group on LinkedIn to promote economic outlook material.
- There was a conversation about having a proceedings book for the conferences, which would professionalize us as an organization and be very worthwhile for presenters.

UPDATE WITH OUR PARTNERS



by Jeremy Hill

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has been reaching out to data users and seeking guidance on products and services that they provide. Lorena Akioka, your current AUBER president, submitted several names to represent AUBER in the conference call facilitated by the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC / C2ER).

The conference call questions included the following:

- Which BEA products are critical to your work?
- What are the current gaps in the BEA data?
- What are the priorities of those gaps?

Within the discussion, there was a lot of interest in rural and county level data. In particular, there was a suggestion to bring back the county-level GDP estimates. Other broad topics discussed included interregional exports, reducing non-disclosure issues, and providing some of the estimates in more "real time," among many other suggestions.



OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT YOUR STAFF WITH AUBER

by Jeremy Hill

AUBER has extended the program material to a webcast format. There are three webcasts scheduled for 2015. The webcasts were designed to be of value not only to directors and research communicators, but also to other researchers and students within your organization. There are no fees and you do not need to register; however, there is limited availability for each event. Review the following program opportunities and send them to key staff/faculty with your university/center. You can even forward this to a dean or colleague at another university interested in starting a center.

[Read more about the webcasts here...](#)

Report by Two WVU Agencies Shows Positive Economic Impact of Appalachian Regional Commission over the Past 50 years

by John Deskins, West Virginia University

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research and the Regional Research Institute, both at West Virginia University, recently released a report, titled, "Appalachia Then and Now: Examining Changes to the Appalachian Region Since 1965." The report shows that the 13-state Appalachian region of the U.S. has experienced substantial economic impact, progress and significant development challenges since the creation of the Appalachian Regional Commission in 1965. The study was initiated last year to assess the impact of the ARC on the region it serves. That report shows a much improved Appalachian region, but one that also has work to be done.

[Read about the report here.](#)

JOB OPENING

Program Assistant
Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness
Arlington, Virginia

The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC) (www.crec.net) is seeking a program assistant to support the organization's networking, technical assistance, and research activities. CREC is a nonprofit organization based in Arlington, VA that helps federal, state, and local leaders make economic and workforce development policy through data-driven initiatives. CREC does this through networking, technical assistance, facilitated planning, research, and training.

Position Details

The program assistant will help CREC in managing affiliate network organizations to facilitate ongoing dialogue with its members, clients, and potential clients. This effort will include:

- Assisting with association membership services
- Administering assigned board/committee activities and special projects related to all associations under CREC management
- Providing logistical and content assistance for training sessions (in-person and online)
- Providing research and data analysis in support of the Cost of Living Index and State Economic Development Expenditures and Incentives databases
- Coordinating advocacy efforts related to Federal socioeconomic statistics
- Other duties as assigned

Interested applicants should send cover letter, resume and writing sample to Erol Yildirim at ey@crec.net

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