



AUBER News



Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute Named Top Power Player in Utah, Will Host AUBER 2018 Conference



University of Utah's Kem C. Gardner Institute is located in the newly renovated mansion of copper mining magnate Enos Wall. The opening reception of the 2018 AUBER Conference will be held here, and attendees will be able to visit a very special place - the Thayne Robson Conference Room.



“I hope people will take away the Utah experience,” Tennert said. “It will be great to have everyone at the mansion and see the legacy that Thayne is a part of.”

-Juliette Tennert, Director of Economics and Public Policy, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute

The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah is one of the state’s top 25 political power players that has “become ground zero for policy debate and research in the state,” according to a recent [Salt Lake Tribune column](#). The Institute also has strong ties to the legendary former center director Thayne Robson and is the host of the 2018 AUBER Fall Conference to be held in Salt Lake City. ... continued....

Three years ago, two centers with histories dating back 80+ years merged to form the [Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute](#). The centers were the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, which was headed by Robson, and the Center for Public Policy and Administration. After Robson's passing in 2002, AUBER created the Thayne Robson Award, and it is the highest honor a member can receive.

"Merging the centers was a good marriage," said Jennifer Robinson, associate director of the Institute. "The two groups were doing similar projects and had similar clientele. It made sense to pull together."

With 28 people on staff and 15 students/interns, the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute focuses on demographic research, economic and public policy research, and survey research and serves as the state data center for the U.S. Census Bureau, Robinson said.

A couple of the Institute's recently completed projects include the [2018 Economic Report to the Governor](#) and demographic and economic projections for the state of Utah and its counties that extend 50 years - from 2015 to 2065 ([read more here](#)). The Institute has an impressive client list including the governor's office, the Legislature, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, and multiple state agencies.

Earlier this month, the Institute presented the governor's report at the 2018 Utah Economic Outlook where Mitt Romney, the 2012 nominee for U.S. president, was the keynote speaker.

"The event was extra special this year because Mitt Romney attended and gave the keynote address," according to Juliette Tennert, the Institute's director of Economics and Public Policy. "Sometimes I have to pinch myself that we're working here."

While Tennert has only been at the Institute for two years, her ties to AUBER go back a number of years. "My first touch with AUBER was when I worked for

(former center director) Keith Schwer at the [UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research](#). I feel this great connection with AUBER because of the incredible mentor I had in Keith. I know how important the organization was to him.”

Conference Hosts Hope to Provide “Utah Experience” and Share Thayne Robson Legacy

Tennert and Robinson are both working hard on preparations for the 2018 Fall AUBER Conference this October.



“We are excited about hosting the conference,” Robinson said. “We are huge fans of Salt Lake City. It is one of the most beautiful cities. People will fly in and see the gorgeous mountains, and in 10 minutes they will be downtown in one of the most vibrant and revitalized areas.”

The AUBER conference opening reception will be held in the newly renovated mansion of copper mining magnate Enos Wall, also the headquarters of the Institute. While in the building, conference attendees will be able to visit a very special place – the Thayne Robson Conference Room.

After the conference, Tennert said she hopes people take time to visit Moab and the nearby national parks that are “out of this world.”

“I hope people will take away the Utah experience,” Tennert said. “It will be great to have everyone at the mansion and see the legacy that Thayne is a part of.”

Photo caption: Jennifer Robinson, Associate Director of the Kem C. Gardner Institute picture above.



Message from the President Elect

Happy New Year AUBER!



The AUBER Fall Conference Planning Committee is diligently working to put together a strong program for our 2018 Fall Conference in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah. We are making progress and expect to have a program compiled by the AUBER spring board meeting at the NABE Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

I am excited to announce we have a fantastic all-day pre-conference seminar arranged for Saturday October 13, 2018. The presenter will be Jonathan Schwabish. He is the founder of the data visualization and presentation skills firm, www.PolicyViz.com, and a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute, a nonprofit research institution in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Schwabish is considered a leader in the data visualization and presentation technique fields. He has written on various aspects of the best ways to visualize data including technical aspects of creation and design best practices. Jonathan will also be one of our keynote speakers on Sunday.

Conference Committee Focuses on Data-Centric Theme, Seeks Input from Members on Program

The theme of the AUBER 2018 Fall Conference will be data centric in response to member surveys and the post Albuquerque conference survey, which

indicated a preference for this type of topic.

There is still time to make your mark on the 2018 conference program. If you would like to present your research, have an idea for a session you would like to see on the program or make a suggestion for a keynote speaker - **NOW** is the time to provide input to the Salt Lake City 2018 conference program.

Please contact me or any AUBER officer, board member, or member of the conference planning committee if you would like to suggest a session, keynote speaker, or otherwise participate in a session to present your or a colleague's research to AUBER attendees.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes all of your participation and efforts to create a fall conference program that delivers value to those who will attend the AUBER Fall Conference in Salt Lake City.

I feel privileged to lead the committee overseeing the development of the program for our signature event.

I am grateful for all of your contributions that will help ensure that AUBER continues to be internationally recognized by business, government, and education as the premier professional organization dedicated to continually improving the quality, effectiveness, and application of research in business, economics, and public policy.

We must never forget the people whose lives will be improved because of the work our centers and members do. Our research efforts are not relegated solely to academic journals. They inform policy makers, government officials, and economic development agencies.

I am excited for the AUBER conference in Salt Lake City and eagerly await your contributions not only for the conference program but for the states and regions whose policy decisions will be informed by our collective research efforts.

In such a turbulent time, AUBER member's research is the rudder that policy makers need to make the best decisions for our respective regions and our country a whole.

I am confident that you will all heed the call and contribute to the program for the Salt Lake City conference.

Sean Snaith

AUBER 2017-2018 President Elect, Conference Program Chair, and Director of the [University of Central Florida's Institute for Economic Competitiveness](#),

Sean.Snaith@ucf.edu

AUBER 2018 Fall Conference

Make Your Hotel Reservations for the AUBER Fall Conference



The hotel reservation link is open for online reservations. The 2018 Fall Conference will be held October 13-16, 2018, at the [Marriott Salt Lake Downtown City Creek](#). The special group rate is \$229 per night, and the last day to book is September 14, 2018.

Book Your Group Rate Here.

Member News

University of Arizona EBRC Unveils Next Generation of Online Magazine

by Maile Nadelhoffer

The [University of Arizona's Economic and Business Research Center \(EBRC\)](#) unveiled the next generation of their online magazine, [Arizona's Economy](#), at the Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon held December 8, 2017, in Tucson. The EBRC has published Arizona's Economy since 1968 and launched it as a standalone electronic publication in 2003. We invite you to visit [Arizona's Economy](#) and check-out the new look, enhanced navigation, expanded indicators, and other fun new features. EBRC hopes to offer a session at the next AUBER Conference tentatively titled, "Build a WordPress Website in an Afternoon."

Arizona's Economy won the AUBER Award for Excellence in Electronic Publications in 2014.

Maile Nadelhoffer is the Senior Research Economist and Webmaster at ERBC. Contact her at min@eller.arizona.edu or 520.621.4050.

[View Arizona's Economy Here.](#)

University of Connecticut, Center for Economic Analysis. CCEA has taken on the responsibility of Forecast Manager for the New England Economic

Partnership (NEEP) of the Boston Federal Reserve. CCEA presented its first assessment of Connecticut's economic outlook at the Fall NEEP Conference, held at the Boston Federal Reserve this Fall.

Georgia State University, Economic Forecasting Center. [Trump's plans to remake the Federal Reserve are starting to hit snags](#) (Washington Post); [Storm hurts some workers and businesses, but economy will bounce back](#) (Atlanta Journal-Constitution); [Economy healed, but Atlanta's scars from recession remain](#) (Atlanta Journal-Constitution); [Next year looking good for growth and jobs](#) (Atlanta Journal-Constitution); [In Survey, President Seen as Tailwind](#) [Economists: Trump Helped Spur Growth](#) (Wall Street Journal).

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research.[Nebraska farm economy turning a corner, modest economic growth expected next year](#) (Nebraska Radio Network); Nebraska BBR Webinar: [Nebraska Economic Forecast](#) (BBR Podcast / YouTube); [Consumer, business confidence both fall in December](#) (Lincoln Journal Star); [December surveys: Consumer, business confidence slip in Nebraska](#) (Nebraska Today); [Consumer and Business Confidence Slip in Nebraska](#) (Business News); [Nelnet pays it forward after tax break](#) (1011 Now); [Lincoln area business and household workforce surveys underway](#) (1011 Now); [Report: Farm values stabilizing in region](#) (Lincoln Journal Star); [UNL economic indicator shows strong growth in December](#) (Lincoln Journal Star); [Nebraska indicator: Economic outlook remains solid for 2018](#) (Nebraska Today); [Nebraska Indicator: Outlook Remains Solid for 2018](#) (Business News); [Nebraska Indicator says economic outlook remains solid for 2018](#) (Nebraska TV); [Nebraska on track for continued economic growth, UNL report says](#) (Omaha World-Herald); [Nebraska Bureau of Business Research Leading Economic Indicator – January 2018](#) (BBR Podcast/YouTube); [Eric Thompson Radio Interview by Grow Lincoln hosts](#) (KLIN Radio).

University of Montana, Bureau of Business and Economic Research. [Economists: Montana growing, but sluggish energy, ag prices hurt Yellowstone County](#) (KTVQ.com); [Report: Manufacturing industry is strong in Missoula, aligning with statewide trend](#) (Missoulian); [Tech, timber other sectors show growth in MT economic report](#) (KTVQ.com)

University of the Pacific, Business Forecasting Center. [Some local farmers see positives in federal tax overhaul](#) (Lodi News-Sentinel).

West Virginia University, Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

John Deskins, West Virginia University BBER Director, was awarded the special WVU 150 Celebration Coin. "He embodies the WVU values, providing WV's business & policymaking communities with reliable data & rigorous applied economic research & analysis. Thank you, John!" (WVU College of Business and Economics - Twitter); [WVU economist urges legislators to focus on human capital](#) (Metro News).

Penn State University-Erie. [Projects reflect renewed signs of life in Erie](#) (GoErie.com).

University of Central Florida, Institute for Economic Competitiveness.

[Economists Think the U.S. Economy Is At or Near Full Employment](#) (Wall Street Journal); [Is Bitcoin a Bubble? 96% of Economists Say 'Yes'](#) (Wall Street Journal); [Economist links U.S. economy to the movie 'An Officer and a Gentleman' – Really!](#) (Florida Today); [Central Florida's economy poised for more expansion in 2018](#) (Orlando Sentinel).

University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Center for Business and Economic Research. [Report says local economy expected to outpace U.S. economy](#) (Las Vegas Business Press).

*Would you like to share your center's news with the AUBER membership?
Please send member news to Shannon Furniss, AUBER Development
Specialist, Shannon.Furniss@gmail.com.*
