

March 2018



**Association for  
University Business and  
Economic Research  
News**



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# **AUBER Hosts Session & Co-Sponsors NABE Economic Policy Conference**



AUBER hosts a session at the NABE Conference in Washington, D.C., held February 25-27, 2018. More than 600 people attended the conference. Pictured from left to right are AUBER President Elect Sean Snaith, AUBER board member Jeffrey Michael, and Jim Diffley, executive director of IHS Markit Economics.

Ten years ago during the housing crash, Florida's economy went from "white hot to deep space cold," according to Sean Snaith, AUBER president-elect and director of the [Institute for Economic Competitiveness at the University of Central Florida](#).

In California, foreclosures happened at an alarming rate, and cities that had been thriving became ghost towns, said Jeffrey Michael, AUBER board member and executive director at the [Center for Business and Policy Research at the University of the Pacific](#).

Last week, a number of AUBER members attended the [National Association for Business Economics](#) Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., hosting a session titled, "The Poster States of the Housing Bubble: 10 Years On." Snaith and Michael were featured speakers at the session, along with Jim Diffley, executive director of [IHS Markit Economics](#), who discussed Arizona and Nevada, states that were heavily impacted by the housing collapse. View

Snaithe's presentation [here](#), Michael's presentation [here](#), and Diffley's presentation [here](#).

In addition to hosting a session, AUBER also sponsored the opening reception at the 34th Annual NABE Economic Policy Conference. More than 600 people attended the conference.

As always, AUBER held its spring board meeting in conjunction with the conference. To read more about what the AUBER board is working on, read AUBER President Kathy Deck's letter (below).



AUBER members gather at the NABE reception. Pictured from left to right are John Deskins (West Virginia University); Byron Gangnes (University of Hawaii); Eric Thompson (University of Nebraska-Lincoln); Patrick Barkey (University of Montana); Chris Lawless (Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference); and Kathy Deck (University of Alabama). AUBER sponsored the opening reception at the NABE conference.



After the opening reception, AUBER members met for dinner. Pictured in the center is Patrick Barkey (University of Montana). To his left are Jeffrey Michael (University of the Pacific); Eric Thompson (University of Nebraska-Lincoln); Brian Lewandowski (University of Colorado); Sean Snaith (University of Central Florida); Ben McKay (Georgia Southern University); Shannon Furniss (AUBER Development Specialist); Kathy Deck (University of Alabama); and Mervin Jebaraj (University of Arkansas).



## *Message from the President*



Dear AUBER Members:

2018 is a momentous year for the AUBER organization. I say this because right now, your AUBER board is implementing a number of the strategies that we've identified over the past few years to make the organization as valuable to you as possible:

1. We are putting the final touches on and getting ready to roll out a peer review service for our members. You will be able to submit your research to AUBER, receive feedback, and get the organization's endorsement of the quality of your report. The greatest value of the organization is the network of colleagues in AUBER, so we hope this service will make good use of that expertise.
2. We are about to roll out a fully updated website, complete with a modern look and all the functionality that 2018 can offer.
3. We are developing an AUBER communications toolkit, complete with collateral with information about the organization, scripts for approaching potential members, and video testimonials from current AUBER members.
4. We are deploying the communications toolkit in our most comprehensive member canvass and new membership drive in several years.
5. We are strengthening relationships with other organizations, from the companies that sponsor AUBER conferences to good data advocacy organizations like COPAFS to other membership organizations like NABE.
6. We are incorporating your feedback about our fall conference to make the Salt Lake City conference better than ever. Specifically, we have enhanced the pre-conference workshop by planning a full-day seminar with data visualization expert Jonathan Schwabish of the Urban Institute. We have also planned more research-oriented sessions and have scheduled specific skills sessions about forecasting and media relations.
7. We are transitioning the secretary/treasurer's office from the University of Montana to Ball State University after engaging in an extensive review of

responses to our request for proposals. The secretary/treasurer's office is the beating heart of AUBER, so every care is being taken to make the changeover as smooth as possible.

8. We are taking a look at the structure of AUBER membership and studying whether a change to our Constitution and Bylaws would facilitate growth of the organization.

These accomplishments are all the more impressive when you stop to think about the volunteer nature of AUBER. The furthering of each of our initiatives requires time and resources from our membership. The payoff from these investments is an AUBER that makes each of its members better from their participation in the group. Thanks to everyone, and let's keep the momentum going!

Kathy Deck

AUBER 2017-2018 President

Director of Community & Economic Research Partnerships at the University of Alabama

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## Member News

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### All-Member Canvas Taking Place Now



Don't be surprised if you get a call from someone on the Membership Committee soon. The committee will be checking in with members to chat about projects you're working on and to

catch up on news about your center. Expect a call from one of the members of the committee, including:

John Deskins, Chair, (West Virginia University)

Ken Louie (Penn State Erie)

Tim Slaper (Indiana University)

Jeffrey Michael (University of the Pacific)

Brian Lewandowski (University of Colorado)

If you're not a member and would like to join, please contact John Deskins (john.deskins@mail.wvu.edu), Shannon Furniss, AUBER Development Specialist (shannon.furniss@gmail.com or 406.360.7846), or any of the Membership Committee members.

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## AUBER Centers in the News

**Georgia State University, Economic Forecasting Center.** [Two areas where Trump's economy is better than Obama's](#) (Washington Post); [Economists, by Wide Margin, Support 2% Inflation Target](#) (Wall Street Journal); [US retail sales fall in January amid high gas prices and winter weather](#) (S&P Global); [Imports of home appliances rising against backdrop of Trump tariff action](#) (S&P Global).

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research.** [Grow Lincoln 1/27 2 -Eric Thomsson](#) (Grow Lincoln/KLIN); [New Health Care Company Started by Industry Giants](#) (KLIN); [Consumer and Business Confidence Rebound in Nebraska](#) (Business News); [January surveys: Consumer, business confidence improve in Nebraska](#) (Nebraska Today); [Reports paint differing pictures of Nebraska's economy](#) (Lincoln Journal-Star); [Consumer, business confidence surges in Nebraska, UNL survey shows](#) (Omaha World-Herald); [Local economic expert says not to worry about the stock markets' wild ride](#) (KLKN-TV); [Nebraska Bureau of Business Research Leading Economic Indicator – February 2018](#) (BBR Podcast / YouTube);

[Nebraska Indicator: Declining Dollar Supports Outlook for 2018](#) (Business News); [Declining dollar helps boost Nebraska economic outlook](#) (Nebraska Today); [UNL economic indicator up sharply in January](#) (Lincoln Journal-Star); [UNL report predicts economic growth in Nebraska over next six months](#) (Fremont Tribune); [Declining dollar helps boost Nebraska economic forecast](#) (Nebraska TV); [Economic growth expected to continue through summer](#) (Nebraska Radio Network); [NEBRASKA INDICATOR: DECLINING DOLLAR SUPPORTS OUTLOOK FOR 2018](#) (KRVN Rural Radio); [Speaking of Nebraska](#) (NET Nebraska).

**University of Central Florida, Institute for Economic Competitiveness.** [Top economists: Expect the economy to heat up further this year](#) (Bankrate.com); On the block: [While Boston Whaler grows, Sea Ray awaits its fate](#) (The Dayton Beach News-Journal).

**University of Montana, Bureau of Business and Economic Research.** [UM Report – 'Can We Make Housing Affordable in Montana?'](#) (KGVO.com); [Montana's high-tech companies pay almost double the state average but report hiring challenges](#) (VentureBeat); [New Missoula student housing complex, set to partially open in May, could ease housing crunch](#) (Missoulian).

**Business Forecasting Center, University of the Pacific.** [California WaterFix project picking up speed](#) (The Press).

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## Job Alerts

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**Associate Dean of Research, University of North Carolina-Greensboro Bryan School of Business & Economics.** The Joseph M. Bryan School of Business & Economics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) invites nominations, expressions of interest, and applications for the position of Associate Dean for Research and Faculty. The preferred starting date is August 1, 2018. [View the full search prospectus here.](#)

**Economic Research Analyst, Indiana University.** Applies statistical analysis, including analysis of variance, multiple and logistic regression, cluster analysis, stratified sampling, fixed effects regression, discontinuity design regression, principal component regression, and other statistical techniques to social economic data, implement data and other data domains. Conceptualizes and extracts complete yet parsimonious datasets from extremely large datasets in order to conduct statistical analysis on short timeframes. Collaborates with state agencies to produce county employment estimates and education and workforce analysis.

Forecasts economic growth, employment, job skills, occupations, incomes, tax revenues, and similar variables for the state, counties and sub-county areas as needed. Operates state-level economic growth forecasting software and makes adjustments to forecasts as needed. Analyzes national, state and regional trends in demographic and economic indicators. Adapts or develops analytical approaches as needed to provide insight into important trends for the state and sub-state regions. Conducts research on topics such as labor market profiles, economic benchmarking, demographic and labor force policy analysis, market and industry analysis, economic impact studies, economic modeling and other issues.

Collaborates with Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) staff in the design and implementation of large projects involving economic, demographic, and social data and analysis, and in the configuration and effective use of internal databases of economic indicators. [View the full job description here.](#)

**Director, Center for Business & Economic Research, Associate/Full Professor of Economics, Marshall University.** Joint with the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at Marshall University, The Division of Finance and Economics housed in AACSB-accredited Lewis College of Business (LCOB) invites applications for a 12-month tenure-track position at any rank to begin fall 2018. [Apply for this position here.](#)

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*Would you like to share your center's news or a job alert with the AUBER membership? Please send member news to Shannon Furniss, AUBER Development Specialist, [Shannon.Furniss@gmail.com](mailto:Shannon.Furniss@gmail.com).*

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