



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Association for University Business and Economic Research**

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**Directors and Officers Elected to Serve on AUBER Board**

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The Association for University Business and Economic Research, a professional association of leading university-based economic research centers and affiliate organizations across the U.S., has elected several new officers and directors to its board.

Kathy Deck, the 2017-18 AUBER president and director of Community and Economic Research Partnerships at the University of Alabama's Culverhouse College of Business, welcomed new board members and said, "The AUBER organization continues to add value for regional economic experts at universities across the United States. The newly elected board of directors bring their enthusiasm and talent to AUBER and will continue the good work of supporting our membership with vital programming and connection opportunities."

Deck now moves to the past president officer position on the board and Sean Snaith, director of the Institute for Economic Competitiveness at the University of Central Florida, becomes AUBER's 2018-19 president.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to serve AUBER as president this year," Snaith said. "AUBER will continue to evolve to provide additional value added for our existing members via top-notch conference programs, our newly unveiled peer-review service and the recognition of excellence among our membership. We will continue our push to increase overall membership via recruitment efforts as well as retention of current members. For 71 years, AUBER has been the preeminent association for university-based economic and business research, but I believe the best is yet to come."

AUBER officers include:

- **Sean Snaith** - president;
- **Kathy Deck** - past president;
- **Patrick Barkey** - board member and secretary/treasurer for the past nine years and director of the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research is now president-elect;
- **Michael Hicks** - director of Ball State University's Center for Business and Economic Research has been elected to serve as AUBER's secretary/treasurer; and
- **John Deskins** – board member for the past three years and director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at West Virginia University, is vice president for the second year.

AUBER's longtime Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Barkey said he is looking forward to his new role as president-elect. "There has never been a more important time to produce the relevant, timely and insightful research that good policy decisions depend on," Barkey said. This is the kind of work all of us are involved in in AUBER."

Ball State's Michael Hicks said he is eager to serve as the organization's secretary/treasurer.

"Since its founding by the American Economic Association in 1947, AUBER has been an important partner for state and local economic research throughout the country," Hicks said. "We are delighted to play a role in the future of the organization by taking over the business office and assuming the duties of secretary/treasurer."

AUBER's newly elected board members include:

- **Mervin Jebaraj** - director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas;
- **James McCafferty** - co-director of Western Washington University's Center for Economic and Business Research;
- **Juliette Tennert** - director of Economic and Public Policy Research at the University of Utah's Kem C. Gardner Institute; and
- **Fred Treyz** - Chief Executive Officer and chief economist of Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI).

Other AUBER board members include:

- **Benjamin Blair**, director of the Butler Center for Business and Economic Research at Columbus State University;
- **Benjamin McKay**, assistant director of research at the Center for Business Analytics and Economic Research at Georgia Southern University;
- **Carol Rogers**, deputy director and CIO at Indiana University's Indiana Business Research Center; and
- **Eric Thompson**, director of the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Leaving the board after two years of service are Brian Lewandowski, associate director at the Business Research Division at the University of Colorado; Ken Louie, director of the Economic Research Institute of Erie at Penn State; Jeffrey Michael, director of the Business Forecasting Center at the University of the Pacific; and Timothy Slaper, research director at the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University.

The board elections were announced at AUBER's 2018 conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah, which was hosted by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah.

For a complete list of board members and their bios please visit:

<https://auber.org/about/leadership/>

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