



## NEWS RELEASE

### Association for University Business and Economic Research

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#### **University Centers Receive National Awards of Excellence for Publications, Websites and Papers; Student Wins New Award for Best Research Poster**

**Contact: Patrick Barkey, 406.243.5113**

Three universities that are members of the Association for University Business and Economic Research have earned national Awards of Excellence for publications and websites, and one center director has received an award for best paper. A graduate student has received one of the organization's newly instituted awards – the Award of Excellence for Research Posters.

The awards were presented at AUBER's 2019 conference held in Savannah, Georgia, hosted by the Center for Business Analytics and Economic Research at Georgia Southern University's Parker College of Business.

"The visibility and prestige of an AUBER award is especially valuable and rewarding, since it is conferred by one's own peers," said Patrick Barkey, AUBER's 2019-2020 president and director of the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

"AUBER has a long tradition of recognizing the excellence of the important work done by its membership, according to AUBER's publications chair and executive director at the University of Alabama's Culverhouse College of Business. "Clear communication about complex topics is one of the things that AUBER members do best, so we are pleased to recognize superlative work that helps our community leaders understand economic realities and plan more effectively."

The **Award of Excellence for Print Publications** was presented to the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University for [Fiscal, Economic, and Social Effects of Immigration in the Hoosier State](#) by Emily Wornell and Michael Hicks, with graphic design by Victoria Meldrum and Sydnee Kuebler.

"This work is helping frame the immigration debate in the Midwest," Hicks said. "Its careful attention to fact, context and the visual display of quantitative information made this accessible to groups across the region."

The **Award of Excellence for Electronic Publications** went to the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana for the [Montana Business Quarterly](#).

"We are proud of the efforts of our publications director, Scott Hawk, in bringing our flagship print publication into the electronic age," Barkey said. "The response of our readers has been outstanding, and we are happy to see his work recognized."

The **Award of Excellence for Websites** was presented to the [Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Alabama](#).

"It was great to see CBER win the website award," said Ahmad Ijaz, the center's director. "Ms. Morgan Cordle and her team, together with the team from Culverhouse College of Business IT Group, put tremendous effort into updating and revamping the center's website. Their dedication to this project is greatly appreciated."

The **2019 Polzin Prize for Best Paper** was awarded to Srikant Devaraj (Ball State), Pankaj Patel (Villanova) and Michael Hicks, director of Ball State's Center for Business and Economic Research, for their paper, "Must Access Laws for Opioid Prescription and County Gross Domestic Product."

"Our study looked at the effect state laws in requiring physicians to access the Prescription Drug Monitoring System had on county GDP, labor force participation and opioid prescription rates," Hicks said. "Our results make clear of the need to adapt these laws nationwide."

AUBER's Polzin Prize is named for Paul Polzin, emeritus director of the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

"I am pleased and honored that the Polzin Prize continues to recognize outstanding research conducted by AUBER members," Polzin said.

A newly instituted award, the **Award of Excellence for Research Posters**, went to Phil Boyum, a graduate student at Georgia Southern University.

Boyum said he was pleased to have won the first-ever award for his research paper titled "Poverty in Savannah and Chatham County 2005-2017."

"It was fascinating to determine that the factors keeping individuals and families from rising out of poverty are far more complex than the standard mindset of 'work hard, get an education and find a better job,'" he said. And it was immensely rewarding to share our findings with the research professionals attending the AUBER conference. I'm proud to represent Georgia Southern."

AUBER is the professional association of business and economic research organizations at public and private universities and consists of 75+ leading university-based economic research centers and affiliate organizations.

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