

News

CBRED Economic Forum Set for Dec. 9

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The Center for Business Research and Economic Development (CBRED) at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith announced the next Fort Smith Regional Economic Outlook Forum will be held Dec. 9.

According to center director Dr. Kermit W. Kuehn of Fort Smith, the forum coincides with the release of the third quarter Fort Smith Regional Economic Outlook Report, both of which are sponsored by Arvest Bank.

Kuehn will be joined by Kathy Deck, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research in the Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. They will review the latest data on the national, state and regional economy, as well as highlights from the third quarter report. Copies of the report will be made available to forum participants, Kuehn said.

Arvest Bank president Craig Rivaldo said the forum is a great setting to get both an overview of the big picture as well as a closer look at the local economy.

"There is so much going on that it is sometimes difficult to keep things in perspective," said Rivaldo. "Our partnership with the University in bringing this discussion to our community is very gratifying."

According to Kuehn, previous semi-annual forums have seen approximately 100 people in attendance.

"The conclusion of the third quarter brought an end to a tumultuous summer as far as the economy was concerned," Kuehn said. "It didn't help that it was uncharacteristically hot as well. I think now is a good time to consider how the year is going to end and the issues we face going into 2012."

The luncheon meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Reynolds Room of the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center. Tickets are \$15. RSVP is required. To register, contact the Fort Smith Regional Chamber at 479-783-3111 or email whitney@fortsmithchamber.com.



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