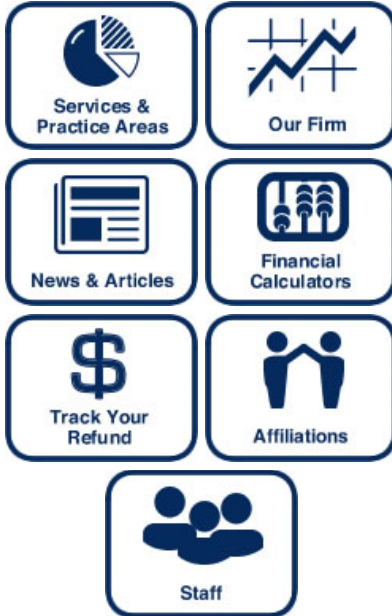


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FedEx's Chief Economist to Speak Jan. 25th

Dr. Gene Huang, Chief Economist and a Vice President at FedEx, will speak Tuesday, Jan. 25, in North Arkansas College's Economic Update Breakfast Series. The event, sponsored by Centurion Financial Services and Porterfield Killingsworth CPA, will be held in the L.E. "Gene" Durand Center on Northark's Center Campus in Harrison.

"We're grateful to Pat Reed and our friends at FedEx Freight for bringing Dr. Huang to Northark," said Dr. Jeff Olson, the college's president. "He is recognized as one of the world's leading business economists. We're very excited about having him speak to local business leaders."

Breakfast will be served starting at 7 a.m. in the Durand Center. The program begins at 7:30. Tickets are available at \$10 each by contacting Amy Bell of North Arkansas College at (870) 391-3160.

Dr. Huang is a member of the Blue Chip Consensus Panel, The Wall Street Journal Economic Panel, BusinessWeek magazine's Business Outlook Panel, and the ABC News Economic Panel. He also is an elected member of the Conference of Business Economists (serving as chairman in 2009-10), National Business Economic Issues Council, the European Council of Economists, and the Harvard Industrial Economists Group.

An honored professor at the School of Management, Fudan University in Shanghai, Dr. Huang is also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council and the St. Louis Fed's Transportation Council. He is Vice President of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE) and President of the Economic Club of Memphis.

Viewed as one of the foremost economic forecasters, Dr. Huang was profiled in BusinessWeek as its "Most Accurate Forecaster" in 2002. In 2006 The Wall Street Journal ranked him as second among the nation's top forecasters.

At FedEx, Dr. Huang and his team focus on corporate economics, enterprise risks, strategic affairs, and the tracking and monitoring of all industries and countries FedEx serves.

Starting his corporate career in 1987 with a Wall Street money management firm, Dr. Huang has worked for some of the world's largest industrial corporations and prestigious research institutions. He received his M.A. from Yale University and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He also holds a LL.B. from Fudan University.

Dr. Huang is the author of two books on business economics and many articles published in U.S., Japanese, and European economic and policy journals. He is frequently requested by news outlets worldwide for his economic commentary.

Previous presenters in the Economic Update Breakfast Series at North Arkansas College include Dr. Kathy Deck (August 26, 2009, and August 25, 2010), Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) in the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and Dr. Michael R. Pakko (January 20, 2010), Chief Economist and State Economic Forecaster at the Institute for Economic Advancement, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

"Northark appreciates the sponsorship of Ken Savells, Tom Porterfield and their colleagues in presenting these speakers," said Olson. "This series was developed to keep local business leaders up-to-date on the overall economic conditions for our area and state. This special presentation by Dr. Huang will provide a national and international perspective."

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