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UA Fort Smith News

Arvest Bank to Sponsor CBRED Quarterly Report

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The Center for Business Research and Economic Development (CBRED) at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith announces that an agreement had been reached with Arvest Bank to sponsor the quarterly Fort Smith Regional Economic Outlook Report.

According to center director Dr. Kermit W. Kuehn, the agreement provides the opportunity for wider distribution of the contents of this report while helping to cover the costs associated with the research and publication of the information.



Craig Rivaldo, president and chief executive officer at Arvest Bank, said Arvest Bank welcomes the partnership.

“Arvest is excited about the opportunity to partner with UA Fort Smith to help bring local economic data to our fellow business community,” said Rivaldo. “We are passionate about providing and supporting organizations in regards to economic development. This data and research is great information for us and all of the business community in and around Fort Smith. It’s exciting that our University now has the resources to get this information locally.”

Dr. Steve Williams, dean of the College of Business, said, “At the outset, we were looking for a partner who would support our desire to develop good information about our regional economy and to broadly disseminate this information in our community. It was clear in talking with Craig and his team that Arvest would be an enthusiastic partner with UA Fort Smith in the pursuit of this vision.”

The agreement calls for the hosting of two annual economic forums that would be open to the public and that would review the latest information on the national, state and regional economies, according to Kuehn.

Kuehn said that Kathy Deck, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research in the Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, will also participate in these events. The first forum luncheon will be held Dec. 10 on the UA Fort Smith campus.

Through a separate agreement, the Fort Smith Regional Chamber has agreed to handle registrations for these events, Kuehn said.

Arvest Bank joins Stephens /Times Record and First Bank Corp as sponsors of CBRED projects.

The Fort Smith Regional Economic Outlook Report is a quarterly publication of CBRED. CBRED, as an outreach and support unit of the College of Business at UA Fort Smith, provides information to help regional stakeholders better understand and respond to the factors that affect the health and prosperity of the Fort Smith region.

For more information on the center, go to the website at www.cob.uafortsmith.edu/cbred or contact the center by telephone at 479-788-7938 or by email at CBRED@uafortsmith.edu.

Photo(s) by: Bedford Camera and Video

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