


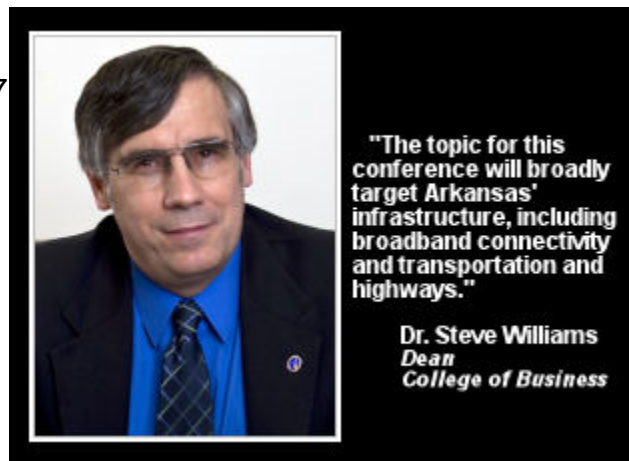
UA Fort Smith News

Videoconference Targets State Infrastructure

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March 15 is the reservation deadline for the March 17 statewide business and economic issues videoconference at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, an interactive event allowing people from across Arkansas to learn the latest economic trends affecting businesses in the state.

The Arkansas Economic Issues Breakfast Series, slated for several locations around the state simultaneously, will be held from 7-9 a.m. in the Reynolds Room of the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center at UA Fort Smith. Registration is \$20 and may be completed by telephone at  479-788-7807 or by e-mail at colbus@uafortsmith.edu.



Dr. Steve Williams, dean of the College of Business at UA Fort Smith, said the upcoming conference is the second in the series which began last September. The March event in Fort Smith, like the September one, will allow for regional discussion and input.

"The topic for this conference will broadly target Arkansas' infrastructure, including broadband connectivity and transportation and highways," said Dr. Williams. "Participants at each location will be able to discuss the topic and related economic opportunities and challenges."

In addition to the College of Business at UA Fort Smith, the series is hosted by the Institute for Economic Advancement at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas, the Delta Center for Economic Development at Arkansas State University, the Economic Research and Development Center at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Southern Arkansas University.

Speaking from Little Rock will be Chris Masingill with Gov. Mike Beebe's office, who will address the federal stimulus funding and its use for infrastructure improvement in the state and Jim McKenzie with Metroplan and the Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Financing, who will address highways and funding highway improvements. Michelle Stockman with Connect Arkansas will address high-speed connectivity from Fayetteville.

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