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ECONOMIST FINDING BRIGHT SPOTS IN THE ARKANSAS ECONOMY

Kathy Deck, chief economist with the **UA Walton College of Business' Center for Business and Economic Research**, was our guest on this week's edition of **Talk Business**.

Deck, who just wrapped up her quarterly business forecast a week ago, spent a majority of time talking about the brighter spots in the Arkansas economy, especially in northwest Arkansas where she's located.

Interestingly, northwest Arkansas is leaving this recession down about 10,000 jobs, but since the region started from a better point than other areas of the state, it is in solid shape.

Some additional observations:

Health services - Northwest Arkansas has seen growth in this sector and has potential to become an even stronger regional force, especially with the **UAMS Medical School** campus coming online, says **Deck**.

Leisure tourism - "With **Crystal Bridges [Art Museum]** and some of the amenities that will surround it going in ... I think we really do have an opportunity to attract some folks to come visit northwest Arkansas for the purpose of leisure tourism," **Deck** said.

Manufacturing - "When we look at this recession nationwide, its been a really been a kind of traditional, business-cycle recession," said **Deck**. She notes that inventories were way up, which led to manufacturing "falling off a cliff" during the hard times. Now that inventories have been drawn down, manufacturing is bringing the economy back, she adds.

Deck also shares her thoughts on what she's seeing with consumer spending and the **Fayetteville Shale** play. You can watch **Deck's** full interview with **Talk Business host Roby Brock** in the video below.

Pre-med/Researcher
Donaghey Scholar
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