

Regional Economic Outlook Event Scheduled For June 15

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The Center for Business Research and Economic Development will conduct its second Fort Smith Regional Economic Outlook Forum on June 15, according to a news release.

The event at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith coincides with the release of the first-quarter Fort Smith Regional Economic Outlook Report. Speakers will be CBRED Director Kermit W. Kuehn with UAFS and Kathy Deck, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research in the Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Kuehn and Deck will review the latest data on the national, state and regional economy, as well as highlights from the first-quarter report. Copies of the report will be made available to forum participants. The forum and report are both sponsored by Arvest Bank.

Craig Rivaldo, Arvest Bank president, said conducting the forum “is good timing” for this kind of discussion.

“There is a lot of uncertainty out there about our economy,” Rivaldo stated in the release. “We’re just thrilled to help support the university’s efforts to bring this information and this conversation to the broader community.”

About 100 people attended the first semiannual forum in December 2010.

According to Kuehn, the June 15 forum should be interesting because there are many forces pulling the economy in different directions.

“No one knows which forces will win out in the short term,” Kuehn said. “Economists sum it up as ‘uncertainty.’ The rest of us simply call it a confusing mess.”

The June 15 luncheon forum is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Reynolds Room of the Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center at UAFS. Tickets are \$15. RSVP is required.

To register, call the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce at 783-3111 or email whitney@fortsmith.chamber.com.