From the Dean

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From the Dean…

During its brief but dynamic history Grand Valley State University has earned the loyalty and support of this West Michigan community by committing significant resources of intellectual, cultural, and social capital to the region. The Seidman Business Review (the “Review”) continues to build on that commitment.

I am pleased to offer for your edification this, the most recent, edition of the Review. Again, the Seidman College of Business faculty combines its collective expertise and experience with its genuine commitment to the regional economy to provide cutting-edge, practical commentaries, focused on sharing existing and emerging business issues, knowledge, and innovations—in ways that are relevant and compelling for West Michigan businesses and other public and private organizations and citizens.

This edition begins with Seidman’s annual West Michigan economic and commercial real estate forecasts for 2008 and a performance retrospective of West Michigan’s regional stocks for 2007. In addition, this issue includes the first annual Supply Management report for the West Michigan economy. Finally, the following pages include articles addressing a number of other very timely topics—from the workplace challenges associated with rising incidents of improper uses of Methadone (METH) on the job and re-integrating non-violent ex-offenders, to innovative ideas for taming out-of-control healthcare costs, to the local housing market crunch, to highlights of the community’s Hispanic-owned businesses.

I hope you find this edition of the Seidman Business Review as informative, enlightening, and useful as ever. Moreover, I urge you to peruse the “Panel of Experts” on the last page of this issue. Seidman’s faculty experts are committed to West Michigan business.

—H. James Williams
Dean, Seidman College of Business