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Front Matter

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W.M. BR

THE WEST MICHIGAN BUSINESS REVIEW

- **Grand Rapids: Socio-Economic Roots**
- **Multi-Community Cooperation in Grand Rapids Metro**
- **Bank Consolidation**
- **West Michigan Stock Returns • West Michigan Economic Forecast**

Coeditor: Professor Hari Singh, Economics Dept.

Editorial Board : Professor Dave Hutchison, Finance Department; Professor Jaideep Motwani, Management Department, and Professor Paul Thorsnes, Economics Department.

By any standards, West Michigan economy is dynamic and robust. In this issue, we analyze selected aspects of the region's growth patterns. Barry Castro's paper lays out the socio-economic antecedents of regional growth within a historical context. Next, Jim Kadlecik discusses the need and possibility of more cooperation among regional public officials. Dave Hutchison takes a look at the national trends in bank consolidation and their potential impact on west Michigan.

Subsequently, we move on to an evaluation of regional stock performance by Gregg Dimkoff. Finally, we complete the circle from the past to the future, by presenting survey results of expected economic performance in 1996. Given the complexity of the regional economy, these articles serve only as surface brush strokes, but they do provide insights into what drives the region's growth and prosperity. Abstracts of some recent publications of SSB faculty which may interest the business community are also provided and we will be happy to send you any of these articles.

In the next issue, we will pick up the paint brush and complete more of the picture - stay tuned.

Dr. Hari Singh