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From the Dean

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From the Dean...

Welcome to another edition of the *Seidman Business Review* (the “Review”). As the new global economy presents new challenges to all West Michigan’s businesses, the Seidman College of Business continues to provide cutting-edge, relevant, and real-world commentary focused on sharing existing and emerging business knowledge, legislation, and innovations, in ways that are relevant and compelling for West Michigan businesses and other public and private organizations.

Grand Valley State University and the Seidman College of Business are especially proud to provide to this community significant resources of intellectual, cultural, and social capital, especially in light of the history of the University, and its founding by a group of business leaders. During its brief history Grand Valley has fulfilled very well its promise to the West Michigan community in the best sense of the expectations of those founders. The *Review* continues the fulfillment of that promise.

Again, this edition begins with West Michigan economic and commercial real estate forecasts for 2007 and a performance review of West Michigan’s regional stocks. It also includes articles addressing a number of other very timely topics—from the challenges of accommodating disabilities, to powerful healthcare trends, to education’s importance to the economy, to the projected expansion of retail markets.

Seidman’s faculty experts excel at both teaching and applications-based research and implementation—as confirmed and highlighted in our recent reaffirmation of AACSB International accreditation. Accordingly, 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. Perhaps you can utilize Seidman’s faculty expertise to improve your operations and facilitate your business and management initiatives.



—H. James Williams
Dean, Seidman College of Business