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## From the Dean

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## From the Dean...

**W**elcome to another edition of the *Seidman Business Review* (the “Review”). The Seidman College of Business acknowledges—and takes very seriously—its responsibility to this, the West Michigan Community. That is why we jumped to action early during the fourth quarter of 2008 to convene this business community’s and Seidman’s finance, banking, and economics experts to address the issue of the historic financial crisis that threatens this Community’s financial viability. We thank you for helping to make Seidman’s two events hugely successful: “The Historic Financial Crisis—A West Michigan Conversation” (September 30) and “CNBC’s [Bill] Seidman Evaluates the Nation’s Financial Crisis” (October 9th). We appreciate the opportunity to serve!

This edition of the *Review* includes West Michigan economic and commercial real estate forecasts for 2009, a supply-management purchasing index review, and a performance review of West Michigan’s regional stocks. It also includes articles addressing a number of very timely topics: from the credit crisis link to Grand Rapids housing prices, to alleviating poverty and creating jobs through social investment funds, to socially conscious innovation on the Lakeshore, to making the case for allowing siestas in the workplace. Oh—and you must not miss the preview of the upcoming “Economic Recovery Breakfast (February 11th),” entitled “The U.S. Economy—Where do we go from here?”

Our sense of responsibility to this Community impels us to provide this annual review of the West Michigan economy and our regional businesses, as well as the regionally relevant articles. As the recession bangs away at our economy, the Seidman College continues to provide cutting-edge, compelling, and real-world commentary on existing and emerging business knowledge and innovations, in ways that are relevant to West Michigan businesses and other public and private organizations.

I trust you will find this edition of the *Seidman Business Review* as informative and compelling as ever. Together, we can weather the current economic storm...



H. James Williams  
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