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## From the Editor

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## From the Editor...

“Where are we?” and “Where are we going?” That’s what my daughter, looking intently at our Rand McNally Road Atlas (remember those?!), would always ask when we took family trips. And that is what I, as an economist, often ask too. In this information age, we might think we know everything, but neither question is trivial, nor always easy to answer. However, the answers to these questions are vital to the success of every business and organization.

I am not claiming that the articles in this edition of the *Seidman Business Review* will provide you with *all* the answers, but they will help shed some light on topics that are relevant to all of us who live and work in West Michigan. Some of the articles look at where we are – What is the state of our local economy? What barriers are keeping women from leadership positions? How are regional stocks performing? Other articles address where we are going – What do West Michigan employers foresee for the coming year? Where is the local labor market headed? What are the prospects for area real estate?

Like me, I think that you will find these articles interesting and informative, with a variety of subject matter. As in the past, I strongly encourage you to review the list of Seidman Faculty Experts provided on the last page and to contact those whose expertise may be of value to you. My Seidman colleagues can help you better understand both where your business or organization currently is *and* where it is going.



Gerry Simons, Professor of Economics



## Seidman Business Review 2018 Contents

- 2 Grand Rapids Economic Forecast 2018**  
**Paul Isely, Ph.D., Richa Bhurtel, Graduate Assistant, Gerry Simons, Ph.D., and Wei Sun, Ph.D.**  
How do area business leaders feel about the economy? What are their projections for employment, sales, and exports?
- 6 Housing Market in the Grand Rapids Area**  
**Laudo M. Ogura, Ph.D., and Paul Isely, Ph.D.**  
Rising housing prices, low unemployment, and a high demand for housing - what does all this mean for West Michigan?
- 9 West Michigan Snapshot**  
**Gerry Simons, Ph.D.**  
The West Michigan economy has gone through a lot in the last decade. How is it doing now?
- 12 Supply Chain Finance: Should the Practice Be Adopted?**  
**Roy McCammon, President, West Michigan Transport**  
What are the benefits of Supply Chain Finance (SCF), and how will it benefit the firm as a whole? What is holding up the widespread adoption of SCF?
- 15 Retaining and Attracting Talent in West Michigan**  
**Dan Wiljanen, Ph.D.**  
Find out how to retain and attract talent. What are some strategies and tactics for improving employee engagement?
- 17 Why Aren't There More Women Leaders?**  
**A Look Inside One West Michigan Organization**  
**Carol Sánchez, Ph.D., and Sonia Dalmia, Ph.D.**  
Women make up 47% of the work force, yet hold fewer than 20% of top leadership jobs in U.S. organizations. What factors impact women achieving leadership positions?
- 20 West Michigan-Grand Rapids Economic and Commercial Real Estate Forecast**  
**Jeff Hainer, Colliers International - West Michigan**  
The commercial real estate market is complex. Find out what the experts at Colliers International have to say about the prospects for 2018.
- 26 Siloed Management or Integrated Value Creation: How Do West Michigan Businesses Stack Up?**  
**Daniel Pellathy, Ph.D.**  
How can companies best respond to today's dynamic market environment? How well do West Michigan companies incorporate the integrative model?
- 29 West Michigan Stock Returns**  
**Gregg Dimkoff, Ph.D.**  
2017 was another great year for West Michigan stocks. Find out how regional companies performed.
- 33 Seidman Faculty Experts**  
A listing of the various areas of expertise of Seidman College of Business faculty.