

2018

Contents

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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



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