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From the Editor...

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From the Editor...

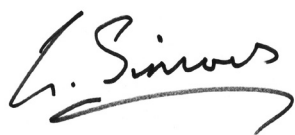
I can say, without fear of contradiction, that none of us could have predicted the multitude of events that we experienced in 2020. From growing racial tensions, to global pandemics, to election turmoil, 2020 had it all and more. Economists talk about positive or negative “shocks” – dryly referring to unexpected events that either benefit or hurt an economy; and, while we were living through it, 2020 seemed to be made up of a long line of shocks, one after the other, until many of us saw the year in its entirety as one massive economic shock.



However, our purpose with the *Seidman Business Review* is not to dwell on the negatives, nor the positives, but to analyze, interpret, and inform. We would be remiss if we did not discuss the COVID-19 pandemic in our current edition of the Review. So, we have several articles that reflect various impacts of the coronavirus, including an analysis using a “pandemic misery index”, as well as the always-popular Grand Rapids Economic Forecast.

We know, though, that there is more to our current business environment than COVID-19. This edition also includes articles on transgender people in the workplace, and health insurance coverage for small businesses, amongst others.

In each “Letter from the Editor” I end by expressing my hope that you will find value in the articles we provide for you. This year, I also want to express my sincere wish that, for you and yours, 2021 will be a good year. So, I’ll leave you with an economists’ blessing: May your benefits outweigh your costs, and may all your shocks be positive!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Simons".

Gerry Simons, Professor of Economics

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Paul Isely, Ph.D.

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Erkmen G. Aslim, Ph.D. and Carlos I. Navarro

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Gerry Simons, Ph.D.

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