

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT. . .

Those of us working in the area of applied research can stay in business only if we continue to bring funded projects to our research centers. For federal dollars, we need to prepare a proposal good enough to survive peer review. For local and private dollars, we need to articulate the scope of the project at a reasonable budget. I would like to share two pieces of advice for successful attraction of external funds from local and private sources.

First of all, we prepare a budget that we feel is reasonable. When we submit the budget with the proposal, it is important to tell potential sponsors that "this is the budget we would like to work with but we are always available for counter-offers to make the project work." This statement conveys a positive attitude. Further, a smaller budget than the proposed may still yield a positive profit contribution so the smaller budget covers all out-of-pocket costs.

Second, it is important to get sponsors involved before the final report is prepared. One practical approach is to make sure that the sponsor has an opportunity to review the draft copy and make suggestions. Final reports should never be turned in without first presenting them to the sponsor for input.



Semoon Chang
1998-99 AUBER President

ABOUT THE 1999 CONFERENCES...

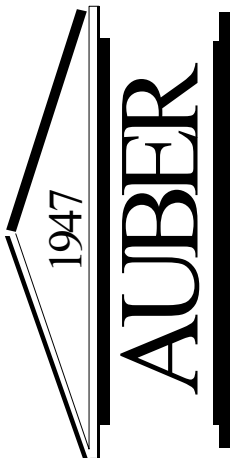
Charles Krider, Janet Fitch, and Jerry Conover have prepared an excellent program for our 1999 Spring meeting in Washington, D.C. Hopefully, many of us can travel to Washington and enjoy the program. Keith Schwer chairs the 1999 Fall Conference planning committee, with Janet Fitch as co-chair. Please communicate with Keith and Janet for all program matters of the Fall Conference.

NOTES FROM THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING...

Members of the ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee had a 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. meeting in St. Louis on January 23, 1999. Carlene Hill did a superb job in leading the meeting, and is in the process of preparing a package of proposals for consideration by the board during the Spring meeting in Washington.

The Strategic Planning meeting was so full of interesting ideas that I decided to adopt one even before it is presented to the general membership. I want *AUBER* to recognize all those who worked hard to host the fall conferences in recent years by presenting a plaque to the host or host center. Further, I want *AUBER* to recognize all retiring as well as retired directors, editors and other professional staff who either worked as an officer or served on the board by awarding them an honorary membership. If you belong to one of the two groups, please let me, Jerry Wall, or Dee Jones know so that we do not miss any of you.

*Semoon Chang, President
University of South Alabama*



The University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) recently completed a user survey of *Florida Statistical Abstract* subscribers. Comments regarding the usefulness of the state abstract were overwhelmingly positive, and sales over time reflect its usefulness to a variety of businesses and public agencies. A good amount of time goes into producing a state abstract and since state abstracts are valuable resources of socioeconomic and demographic information, so why not make the most of the finished product?

Development of "off-shoot" publications designed to meet the specific needs of consumers is one way to expand the usefulness of a state abstract. The media frequently attempt to determine who's first in everything from population to peanuts. County planners are often asked how their counties "stack up" against other counties with similar characteristics. *Florida County Rankings* is an inexpensive, easy-to-produce, easy-to-use product designed to meet the needs of consumers desiring ranked county data. Selected data items from the state abstract are collected, ranked, and presented for each county in *Rankings*.

Ability to rank data from a state abstract may range from easy to difficult depending upon the application used to generate the original tables. Tables produced using Microsoft Excel, or some other type of spreadsheet application with sorting capabilities, are generally the easiest to rank. It may be possible to convert to or to create links to a spreadsheet application if one was not used initially. Experimentation may be in order.

Even though the ranked statistical information is essentially the same as that produced elsewhere, some variety in presentation makes the "off-shoot" volume more appealing. Adding data maps and charts or presenting data in different formats are some ways to introduce variety. Typically, the BEBR *Abstract* staff elects to present primarily raw data in the *Florida Statistical Abstract*. This type of presentation allows data users to "create" their own statistical picture. However, it did not take long to learn that percentage and rate calculations of nominal data were critical to *Florida County Rankings*. The computations not only offered variety, but we found that

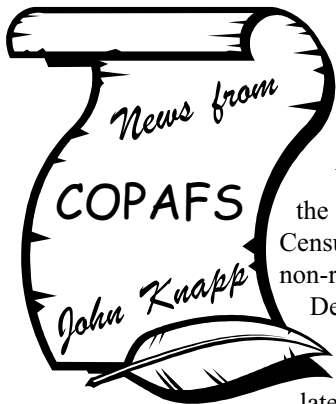
nominal figures almost always rendered the most populous county within the state at the top of a ranked list and the least populous county at the bottom. Boring. Percentages and rates, on the other hand, tended to paint a very different picture in many cases. For example, the number of crimes committed in a more populous county may be greater than in any other county simply because of its population base. However, when crime rates per 100,000 population are compared, a less populated county may exhibit a higher *rate* of criminal activity than the largest county within the state.

County Perspective, a series of individual county reports, is perhaps the most successful of our *Abstract*-related publications. We often find that users are looking for detailed information found in the state abstract, but compiled for only one or a few counties of special interest to them. *County Perspective* features each of the ranked data items produced in *Florida County Rankings*, but offers a comparison of these items in a specified county to the statewide data. Additionally, each *County Perspective* includes a historical series of selected county and state socioeconomic and demographic statistics that are generated from an in-house database. This historical series is not reproduced in any other publication, further enhancing the attractiveness of the individual reports. *County Perspective* subscribers may choose to purchase one county or as many individual county reports as they desire.

Cost-effectiveness of a new publication is a valid concern. Turnaround times of "off-shoot" publications are minimal since the data have already been collected. Printing costs can be cut by copying the publication rather than having it printed and by spiral bounding, if desired. Often a great deal of time, effort, and money goes into the preparation of a state abstract. Therefore, stretching its usefulness makes it an even more valuable resource to consumers.

And, speaking of a valuable resource, congratulations to our very valuable Dee Jones, who was recently promoted to Assistant Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Northeast Louisiana University.

Susan Floyd
University of Florida



SUPREME COURT DECISION ON SAMPLING FOR REAPPORTIONMENT - WHAT'S NEXT?

With the decision on the part of the Supreme Court to not allow the Census Bureau to use sampling for non-response follow-up in the 2000 Decennial Census for reapportionment, the action has now moved to the Congress. The latest issue centers around the

Bureau's decision not to implement Post Census Local Review (PCLR), relying more on pre-census local updating. The House Subcommittee on the Census has introduced a bill to mandate this activity. The Census Bureau has released a Census 2000 Operational Plan Using Traditional Census Taking Methods, and is currently preparing revised budget figures to account for this plan's activity. It is the current plan on the part of the Bureau to have all the adjustments that would be based upon a Post Enumeration Survey (PES) find its way into the data that go to the states as mandated by law, by April 1, 2001. With this intent, we are back to where we started with the suits that finally reached the Supreme Court. The Republicans see this as a means to add people that would vote Democrat and the Administration sees any attempt to stop the incorporation of adjusted data as disenfranchising minorities. Introducing the PCLR legislation, thereby forcing the Bureau to implement a procedure it believes adds little to the process, might end up delaying the Bureau's ability to adjust the data in time for state releases. There is also the issue of whether or not Congress should micro-manage decennial activities through legislation. The proposed legislation would most likely lead to a presidential veto. Meanwhile, the next phase of this fight will move to the appropriations process. *One way or another, it seems inevitable that users of decennial data will have to deal with two sets of books.*

FEDERAL STATISTICS IN THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2000 BUDGET

In general, the funding levels for FY 2000 that have been proposed for the principal statistical agencies provide increases over the resources appropriated in FY 1999. The one major exception is for the Periodic Programs at the Census Bureau, which include major funding requests for the 2000 Decennial Census. For details see the budget table on COPAFS' web page: <http://www.members.aol.com/copafs>. The following is information about the agencies of most concern to AUBER.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS. For FY 2000 the proposed budget authority of \$156.9 million for current programs provides an increase of \$10.8 million over FY 1999. The FY 2000 requests include funds to publish the first North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) based on the Annual Survey of Manufactures and County Business Patterns reports in mid 2000, collect Annual Capital Expenditures Survey data on a NAICS basis for 1999, restructure the program of annual service industry surveys and collect NAICS based annual

statistics for additional service industries. The Periodic Censuses and Programs request of \$2,419.8 million reflects the shift from planning and testing for the 2000 Decennial Census to the operational phase. However, it must be pointed out that this funding request is based on sampling for non-response follow-up. In the late Spring of 1999, the Census Bureau will release a revised budget for the decennial census based upon the Supreme Court decision requiring a traditional census be taken for reapportionment purposes. Funding is also requested to complete the dissemination of data from the 1997 Economic Censuses, and begin preparation for the 2002 Economic Censuses and the 2002 Census of Governments.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS. For FY 2000 the proposed BLS budget is \$420.9 million, an increase of \$22.0 million over the estimated level for FY 1999. The BLS request includes funds to continue to improve the time lines and accuracy of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). BLS is proposing a series of steps to strengthen the statistical and methodological infrastructures supporting the current CPI program. These proposals will: help to revise the CPI more rapidly at the time of the next revision; allow the BLS to produce alternative measures of change in the cost of living comparable in precision to the ongoing CPI; improve the measurement of changes in the quality of the goods and services; bring additional new goods into the ongoing CPI on a more timely basis. BLS is also continuing its work on replacing the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) with the NAICS, and is requesting new resources to develop monthly data on the number of separations, new hires, and current job openings at the national level. Presently there is no broad economic indicator specifically designed to assess the demand for labor or the existence of labor shortages in the U.S. labor market.

BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS. For FY 2000, BEA's proposed budget would increase by \$6.3 million. The proposed funding is requested to update and improve the data used in estimating Gross Domestic Product and national income, and to continue moving forward on other key initiatives in BEA's Strategic Plan for improving its economic accounts. These initiatives include new and improved measures of output and prices by extending BEA's work on quality adjustments; better measures of investment, savings, and wealth by developing a comprehensive accounting for software; and improved measures of international transactions by expanding the coverage of rapidly growing international services and financial instruments.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET RELEASES DRAFT PROVISIONAL GUIDANCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1997 STANDARDS FOR THE COLLECTION OF FEDERAL DATA ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

As a follow-on to OMB's October 1997 announcement of revised government-wide standards for the collection of data on race and ethnicity, the Tabulation Working Group of the Interagency Committee for the Review of Standards for Data on Race and Ethnicity has released this draft guidance report on tabulations. The Guidance focuses on three areas: collecting data using the new standards, tabulating data collected

under the new standards, and building bridges to compare data collected under the new and the old standards. OMB is seeking broader comment on the guidance. After a two-month period for discussion within and outside government, OMB expects to issue provisional guidance at the end of April 1999. It is expected that the guidance issued at that time will evolve further as data from the 2000 Decennial Census and other data collections employing the new collection standards become available. The guidance includes a background and chapters on collecting and tabulating data on Race and Ethnicity using the new old standards along with comparing data under the old and new standards. There are also appendices reviewing the standards, 2000 Decennial Census Dress Rehearsal prototype redistricting data, and a *Bridge Report: Tabulation Options for Trend Analysis*. This is an extensive report that can be downloaded in parts from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Internet site at:

<http://www.ccsso.org>.

To access the report go to the CCSSO home page above, click on Projects, select EIAC and scroll to the bottom of the informational page.

CONSOLIDATION BILL REINTRODUCED IN THE SENATE

At the end of the last session of Congress the Bill (S.1404) to establish a Federal Commission on Statistical Policy to study the reorganization of the federal statistical system was not introduced. At the last minute the AFL-CIO sent a letter to House members voicing its concern about what they perceived as a potential loss of "political independence" of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) if it were no longer placed in the Department of Labor. BLS along with the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis were the three agencies targeted for potential consolidation. Senators Moynihan (D-NY) and Kerrey (D-NE) have reintroduced another Bill (S.205) to establish a Federal Commission; however, this bill has an important change. The current bill does not single out the three agencies; instead, it leaves it open-ended for the Commission. The Commission would consist of 16 Presidential and congressional appointees with expertise in fields such as actuarial science, finance, and economics. The Commission would conduct a review of the entire U.S. statistical system, and issue a report that would include recommendations on whether statistical agencies should be consolidated into a centralized Federal Statistical Service. Title II, which covers statistical confidentiality and the sharing of data between designated Statistical Data Centers, is also part of the bill.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICES (NASS) RELEASES DATA FROM THE 1997 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

NASS has released the first data from the 1997 Census of Agriculture, including comparisons to 1992. For further information contact the NASS Customer Service Center at 1-800-727-9540, or visit their web site at:

<http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

NOTE: THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS A SPECIAL WEB SITE FOR INFORMATION ON THE RESOURCES, LINKS TO STAKEHOLDERS, AND MORE AT:

<http://www.census2000.org/>

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) RELEASES *TRENDS IN THE WELL-BEING OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH: 1998*

This is the third edition of an annual report from DHHS on trends in the well-being of children and youth. The report presents the most recent and reliable estimates on more than 90 indicators of well-being. The entire report will be made available on the Internet at:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov>

BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS (BTS) RELEASES *LONG-DISTANCE LEISURE TRAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES*

This report is the first in a series of detailed profiles about the characteristics of long-distance trips, 100 miles or more, based on data from the 1995 American Travel Survey (ATS). The report, along with other data from the ATS is available on the BTS Internet site at:

<http://www.bts.gov/ats>.

Copies of the report can be obtained by calling BTS at:
(202) 366-3882.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS RELEASES *THE CONDITION OF EDUCATION 1998*

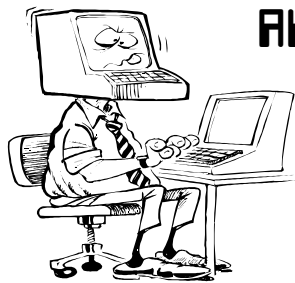
This volume is an indicator report, analyzing key data that measure the health of education, monitor important developments, and show trends in major aspects of education. The volume first presents three issue reports: college access and affordability; progress in educational achievement of Black students; and progress in the educational achievement of Hispanic students. These reports are followed by the major indicator groups: access, participation, and progress; achievement, attainment, and curriculum; economic and other outcomes of education; organization and management of educational institutions; climate and diversity of educational institutions; and, financial and human resources of educational institutions. Copies of the report can be obtained by calling, toll free, the U.S. Department of Education at:

1-877-433-7827.

COPAFS ELECTS 1999 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The officers are: Chair, Jerry Fletcher (American Agricultural Economics Association); Vice Chair, Maurine Haver (National Association of Business Economists); Secretary, Robert Lehnen (American Statistical Association); Treasurer, Patricia Becker (Association of Public Data Users); Past Chair, Nicholas Zill (American Association for Public Opinion Research); Executive Committee members John Cromartie (Association of American Geographers); David Hirschberg (Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.); Don Muff (First Data Solutions); and Mark Nord (Rural Sociological Society).

*John Knapp
University of Virginia*



AUBER TECH TIPS

The University of West Florida (UWF) maintains a web site to promote programs and to provide information. The Haas Center for Business Research developed portions of UWF's Internet interface and designed a simple survey to paint a portrait of site users.

Survey Results

Question	Most Frequent Response	%	Second Most Frequent Response	%
At what speed are you connected to the Internet?	28.8 Modem	50	56K Modem	19
How often do you refer to the UWF site?	Weekly	30	First Visit	30
Initially, how did you find the site?	Search Engine	30	Default Page on Computer	24
Select the category that best describes your current occupation...	UWF Student	39	Student at another school	24
Choose the setting that best describes your most frequent WWW connection point.	Home Computer	66	Office Computer	20
Are you able to find the information that you need from the UWF web site?	Yes	91	Still Browsing	22
Rate this information's usefulness.	Useful	50	Excellent	20

UWF students most frequently visit the site because it is the home page on their computers. These students rate the site as useful and say they visit it weekly to find information. The majority of these users connect to the site from their home computers using 28.8 modems.

The second most frequent visitors to the UWF site are students at other schools. Most of these students find the site through a search engine and report that they are still browsing when asked if they were able to find the information from the site.

To look at the survey, visit <http://www.cbred.uwf.edu/uwf/survey2.htm>; visitors will find a place to record personal information: name, address, email, occupation, company, school, fax, and phone number. Remarkably, 84 percent of the student respondents completed this section of the survey.

The form itself was created using MS FrontPage Server and Editor utilities. For detailed instructions on using the forms component in FrontPage, refer to *Mastering Microsoft FrontPage 98* by Daniel A. Tauber. Chapter 14 guides a webmaster through the process of creating a form and tying it to a database. The responses for UWF's survey are maintained in an Access database, and the results were analyzed using SPSS. At this time, an overall response rate for this survey cannot be determined.

As organizations redesign their web interfaces, surveys like this one will help web designers and administrators to use this media more effectively.

Nicole Gislason, University of West Florida

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

POSITION OPENING:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OUTREACH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
CULVERHOUSE COLLEGE OF COMMERCE AND
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Director is responsible for providing sponsored program services to constituencies of the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration and The University of Alabama, will act as a facilitator in the development of external contracts and grants, and will direct the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER). Incumbent is also responsible for coordinating sponsored programs and outreach activities with other UA divisions. The focus of the activities includes concept development, team building, proposal writing, and providing general assistance in sponsored program administration. Position requires at least five years experience in generating sponsored programs, as well as excellent leadership, presentation, and quantitative skills. Master's degree is required, but doctoral degree preferred, as is a combination of industry and academic experience. Initial review of applications will begin March 23, 1999, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Reference job number AUBER2.

Send resumes to the attention of:

Dr. Edward R. Mansfield, Search Chairman
Department of Management Science and Statistics
Culverhouse College of Commerce
The University of Alabama
Box 870226
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0226

The University of Alabama is an equal employment/equal educational opportunity institution.

The *AUBER NEWSLETTER* is a quarterly publication of the ASSOCIATION FOR UNIVERSITY BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH.

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AUBER Spring Conference 1999 Registration Form

AUBER Spring Conference 1999

April 22 - 24, 1999

Wyndham Bristol Hotel

Washington, D.C.

Name: _____

University: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Spouse Registration: NO YES* Name of Spouse: _____

*Spouses are invited to the Thursday and Friday evening receptions as guests of AUBER. Please add an additional \$30.00 to your registration fee for the Friday luncheon if your spouse will be joining you.

Registration Fees: AUBER Member \$135.00 (\$165.00 with spouse at Friday luncheon)
Non-AUBER Member \$150.00

_____ Payment enclosed \$ _____

_____ Check to follow \$ _____

Refund Policy: Cancellations must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer's Office **no later than Friday, April 9th** in order to receive a refund of the conference registration fee. The conference registration includes all conference materials, receptions, lunch, and refreshment breaks. Please make check payable to **AUBER Spring Conference 1999**.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Wyndham Bristol Hotel will be accepting reservations for the AUBER Spring Conference 1999 at the rate of \$145.00 per night through **March 22, 1999**. The room block will be cancelled at that time. For reservations, call Wyndham Hotel Reservations toll-free **800-996-3426** or direct **202-955-6400**. Be sure to mention that you are attending the **AUBER Spring Conference** and ask for confirmation of the room rate.

In order to get an accurate count for food arrangements, please mail the registration form before Thursday, April 8, 1999, along with payment to:

AUBER Spring Conference 1999
c/o Dee Jones
AUBER Secretary-Treasurer's Office
Center for Business & Economic Research
Northeast Louisiana University
Monroe, LA 71209-0101

1999 AUBER SPRING CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

APRIL 22 - 24, 1999

WYNDHAM BRISTOL HOTEL -- WASHINGTON, D.C.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

AFTERNOON:

1:00 - 5:00 Executive Committee Meeting
4:00 - 5:30 Registration
5:30 - 7:00 Welcoming Reception

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

MORNING:

8:00 - 10:00 Registration
8:00 - 8:30 Coffee, Rolls
8:30 - 8:45 Welcome and Opening Comments
SEMOON CHANG, *AUBER* President, University of South Alabama

8:45 - 9:45 Keynote Address: *Outlook for the U.S. Economy*
Chair: **CHARLES KRIDER**, University of Kansas
Speaker: **GENIO STARANCZAK**, Director, U.S. Macro Long Term Forecasting, WEFA

9:45 - 10:00 Break

10:00 - 11:00 *News About Federal Statistics*
Chair: **JOHN KNAPP**, University of Virginia
Speakers: **EDWARD J. SPAR**, Executive Director, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)
"An 'Inside the Beltway' Report on What's Going on in Federal Statistical Agencies"
CYNTHIA TAEUBER, Chief, American Community Survey Analytic Staff, U.S. Bureau of the Census
"Everything You Need to Know About the American Community Survey"

11:00 - 12:00 *Regional Fed Banks and AUBER Universities: Strategies for Cooperation*
Chair: **CHARLES KRIDER**, University of Kansas
Speaker: **RICARDO GAZEL**, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

AFTERNOON:

12:00 - 1:30 Luncheon
Presiding: **SEMOON CHANG**, *AUBER* President
Keynote Address: *Smart Growth: What is It and How Will It Impact Economic Growth in Local and Regional Areas?*
Guest Speaker: **JOHNATHAN WEIS**, U.S. Office of the Vice-President

1:30 - 1:45 Break

1:45 - 3:00 *The Use of Electronic Data Bases for Distributing Data and Information from AUBER Units*
Chair: **CHARLES KRIDER**, University of Kansas
Speaker: **MARK CAPALDINI**, President, Congressional Information Service

3:00 - 3:15 Break

3:15 - 4:30 *What are the Emerging Sources of Funding for AUBER Units?*
Chair: **JANET FITCH**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Speaker: **PETER BARCHER**, University of Wisconsin

4:45 - 6:15 Reception

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

MORNING:

8:30 - 9:00 Coffee, Rolls

9:00 - 11:00 *AUBER Members' Innovative Projects: Local studies of economic impacts, y2k impacts, Federal Agency visit*
Chairs: **JANET FITCH**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and
LORENA AKIOKA, University of Georgia
Speakers: **JOHN GNUSCHKE**, The University of Memphis, *Ideas for Small AUBER Units*
THAYNE ROBSON, University of Utah, *The Quality of Tourism Jobs*
R. KEITH SCHWER, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, *More Ideas for AUBER Units*
RICHARD WOBBEKIND, University of Colorado at Boulder, *Hogs or Renewable Energy*
JANET SPEYRER, University of New Orleans, *Louisiana Statewide Gambling Study*

11:00 Closing Comments and Adjournment
SEMOON CHANG, *AUBER* President



REMEMBER!!!

Register for the AUBER
Spring Conference,
April 22 - 24, 1999!
Conference hotel is the
Wyndham Bristol Hotel,
Washington, D.C.
See inside for Program
and registration form.

Center for Business & Economic Research
Northeast Louisiana University
700 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71209-8046

