Regional Economics Faculty Research Staff

Anthony Barrett is Professor of Economics in the School of Business and Technology at the College of St. Scholastica, where he has taught for 24 years. Previously he taught at Westminster College in Missouri. His research is in the areas of Monetary Policy, International Finance and Political Economy. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from George Washington University, a Master's in Economics from Brown University, and a BSFS in International Economics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

Robert Hoffman, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the School of Business and Technology at the College of St. Scholastica.. Dr. Hoffman teaches courses in finance, managerial economics, microeconomics, game theory, and law and economics. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Boston College, where his thesis was on The Stability of the Unit Banking System.

Jennifer Pilon is an Assistant Professor in the School of Business and Technology at St. Scholastica where she teaches finance and accounting classes. She earned her Master of Arts in Management from St. Scholastica and Bachelor of Accounting from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

James A. Skurla is Director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER), at UMD where he conducts and supervises regional economic and business research. With nearly 30 years' experience in economic development, he has expertise in business plans, economic impact and feasibility studies, business assessments, and loan packaging, and previously worked on business development for aquaculture, wood, peat, and clay products at UMD's Natural Resources Research Institute Business Group. Mr. Skurla holds a Master's in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Statistics and Finance), and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He is a Certified Financial Economic Developer and member of the National Development Council.

Jerry Hembd is Professor in the UW-Superior Department of Business and Economics and Academic Director of the Sustainable Management online bachelors and master's degree collaborative programs. He is a State Specialist in Community and Economic Development with UW-Extension and is Director of the Northern Center for Community and Economic Development. Dr. Hembd holds a Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Stanford University. He has been working in the area of community development – domestically and internationally – for more than 30 years and is currently focusing on sustainability. He is also a founder and board member of Sustainable Twin Ports and its Early Adopters of Sustainability Project, and he serves on the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board.

Zamira S. Simkins is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the UW-Superior Department of Business and Economics with teaching and research interests that include: macroeconomics, economic development and growth, international economics, comparative economic systems, political economy, and applied economic analysis. Previously she worked on policy-oriented research projects at the World Bank, the National Center on Education and the Economy, and the United Nations. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from American University, a Master's degree in International Affairs and Administration from Missouri State University, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University.