



Student Speaker Biographies

Alexander Hook a Fargo, N.D., native, is the Undergraduate Research Assistant with UMD's Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER). He is a junior pursuing a major in economics and a minor in political science with plans to attend graduate school. Alexander will present on several economic indicators, such as labor force, unemployment rate, and industry trends including that of the region's water resources. This is his second REIF presentation for UMD's BBER. Alexander's full report will be available online in December as part of the complete REIF report and will feature information on approximately 15 regional trends.

Almira Salimgarieva who was born in Uzbekistan and grew up in Russia, is majoring in Economics and Finance at UWS. She will be graduating in spring 2018 and plans to pursue a doctoral degree in Economics. Since spring 2017, Almira has been part of the UWS REIF team. She will present information on Consumer Confidence Indicators at the October 31 REIF breakfast.

Mitchell Blomberg Silver Bay, M.N. native, is pursuing a triple major in Finance, Management, and Economics at UWS. After graduation in spring 2019, Mitchell plans to stay in the Twin Ports area for his career in business. He has been part of the UWS REIF team since fall 2016 and will present information on the Regional Equity Index at the October 31 REIF Breakfast.

Katherine Grotte is a senior at the College of St. Scholastica, majoring in economics and minoring in mathematics and a proud Duluthian. She is the enthusiastic lead student researcher enjoying every second of the work. She joined the team to develop real life research skills that positively affect her local community and to become better acquainted with the inner workings of the local economy. She looks forward to presenting her team's research at the upcoming breakfast.



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