



NEWS RELEASE

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
St. Louis Little Rock Louisville Memphis

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Mid-South Symposium To Highlight “Best Practices” in Economic Development

ST. LOUIS — “Best Practice Strategies for Economic Development,” a symposium showcasing successful economic development practices around the country and how they can be applied in the Mid-South, will be held Friday, May 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Memphis’ Fogelman Executive Center, 330 Deloach Street. The sponsors are the Fogelman College of Business & Economics at the University of Memphis, the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Memphis Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Leading development economists and planners will address the critical issues of creating a development strategy for local and regional economic development, including attracting foreign investment, tax incentives, and “micro-lending” to small, start-up firms.

(more)

Mid-South Symposium/2

Dr. David W. Kemme, professor of economics and Morris Chair of Excellence at the Fogelman College of Business & Economics, said, "We are bringing some of the most innovative economic development thinkers in the country here to Memphis to discuss issues critical to the economic well-being of the Mid-South. This is an important function of the Fogelman College of Business and Economics."

"This symposium fits closely with The Chamber's performance management mission, which is to learn from other communities and adapt what they have done to ensure the success of our programs and to maintain our competitive advantage over our peer cities," said Willa Martin Bailey, The Chamber's senior vice president for community development/Memphis 2005.

"Keeping a hand on the pulse of the regional economy is an important role for the Memphis Branch of the St. Louis Fed," said Martha Perine Beard, vice president and Branch manager. "The members of the Federal Open Market Committee, the Fed's monetary policymaking body, rely on the kind of regional business and economic information that this symposium promises to provide, so we're pleased to be a part of the conference."

NOTE: A complete agenda of the symposium with speakers and times is enclosed. Also, reporters can obtain advance copies of some of the speakers' presentations by calling Nancy Foote, the University of Memphis, at (901) 678-2907.

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