

Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise

The Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise was established to promote and develop an increased understanding of free enterprise to make students and area residents more knowledgeable about the economic forces that shape their lives and the well-being of the country. The chair also emphasizes the appropriate relationship between government and business in a free society and has an impact not only upon students at MTSU but also upon the regional community.

The Chair in Free Enterprise seeks to provide opportunities for dialogue between the campus and middle Tennessee communities and individuals of national and international reputation. We invite a wide spectrum of persons whose accomplishments are well known and whose contributions will enrich our academic and cultural experiences.

Weatherford Chair of Finance

The Weatherford Chair of Finance, an endowed academic chair in the Jennings A. Jones College of Business, was established in 1986 to honor Jack O. Weatherford, one of Tennessee's most distinguished bankers. The chair directs MTSU's Financial Institutions Management program, preparing students for challenging positions in the management of banks, savings institutions, pension and mutual funds, and stock brokerage companies.

MTSU ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY



COSPONSORED BY
JENNINGS A. JONES
CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE IN FREE ENTERPRISE

MTSU BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTER

WEATHERFORD CHAIR OF FINANCE

The Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise, the MTSU Business and Economic Research Center, and the Weatherford Chair of Finance will cosponsor this Economic Outlook Conference.

Distinguished speakers from the public and private sectors will provide valuable insight into questions pertinent to today's economic issues.

Who Should Attend

Bankers, business owners and managers, community officials and leaders, business persons, business and economics faculty members, students, and those interested in the future economic growth of this region will be particularly interested in attending.

Location

The conference will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center.

Individual Fee

A modest charge of \$50 per registrant is necessary to cover facilities, meals, and registration. Refunds are not permitted, but substitution of registrants is welcomed.

Registration

To register, please go to www.mtsu.edu/econconference. The last day to register is September 14, 2012.

Program

Friday, September 21, 2012

8:15–9:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION**

9:00 a.m. **WELCOME**
Dr. Brad N. Bartel
University Provost, MTSU

Mr. Aubrey B. Harwell Jr.
Chairholder, Jennings A.
Jones Chair of Excellence
in Free Enterprise

9:15 a.m. **ADDRESS**
Mr. Greg Gonzales
Commissioner of
Financial Institutions
State of Tennessee

10:15 a.m. **BREAK**

10:30 a.m. **MIDSTATE/REGIONAL
ECONOMICS UPDATE**
Dr. David A. Penn
Director, MTSU Business and
Economic Research Center

11:30 a.m. **LUNCHEON**

Noon **Presentation of the
Jennings A. Jones Champion
of Free Enterprise Award -**
Mr. J. B. Baker

12:15 p.m. **LUNCHEON ADDRESS**
Dr. Donald Ratajczak
Regent's Professor of
Economics Emeritus,
Georgia State University

1:15 p.m. **ADJOURN**

BERC

The Business and Economic Research Center (BERC) supports the public service activities of Middle Tennessee State University's Jennings A. Jones College of Business. Research, workshops, and seminars are offered to those in the community desiring assistance in understanding the economic and business climate of Tennessee, whether in its local, regional, or international dimensions. Particular emphasis is given to middle Tennessee.

The center maintains significant databases of regional, national, and international information and provides research resources and databases for the MTSU community.

For more information

Dr. Jim Burton, Dean
Jennings A. Jones College of Business
MTSU P.O. Box 101
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-2764

Dr. David Penn, Director
Business and Economic Research Center
MTSU P.O. Box 102
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-2610

Directions to Embassy Suites

Traveling east or west on I-24, take Exit 76 (Murfreesboro). Head north on Medical Center Parkway, and the hotel will be located on the right.

Embassy Suites Murfreesboro
Hotel and Conference Center
1200 Conference Center Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Phone: (615) 890-4464
Fax: (615) 890-4465
embassysuitesmurfreesboro.com



A Tennessee Board of Regents University

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MTSU Economic Outlook Conference 2012



Greg Gonzales is the 18th commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions. He began serving in this role in 2005, and was reappointed by Governor Bill Haslam. He has served in the department since 1986. Gonzales is Tennessee's chief

regulatory officer of all state-chartered depository and licensed nondepository financial institutions. Additionally, he has served as assistant commissioner and general counsel for the department.

Gonzales serves on the board of directors and is chair of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS), the professional organization of state banking commissioners in the United States. Commissioner Gonzales served for many years as a member of the board of directors of the Money Transmitter Regulators Association (MTRA), an organization of a majority of the states that regulate funds transfer companies. He is still involved with the organization. Commissioner Gonzales also served on the U.S. Treasury's Bank Secrecy Act Advisory Group.

Gonzales was born in Cookeville, Tenn., and graduated cum laude in *cursu honorum* with a bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University in 1980. He earned a law degree from the University of Tennessee in 1984.



Donald Ratajczak, Ph.D., was director of the Economic Forecasting Center in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University for more than 29 years. He is now Regent's Professor of Economics Emeritus, having retired from

Georgia State University in June 2000. Before founding the center in 1973, Dr. Ratajczak was director of research for the UCLA Business Forecasting Project.

Under his direction, the Economic Forecasting Center became recognized as a leader in inflation analysis, a source for economic development in the South, and one of the most accurate forecasting centers in the country. *Business Week* cited Ratajczak for his accuracy in predicting national trends. In 1994, Dr. Ratajczak won a Blue Chip Award for forecasting accuracy during the previous four years.

Dr. Ratajczak regularly comments on inflationary trends for CNBC and on Federal Reserve policy and other economic issues for CNN. He has been on the *Today* show, on national news programs for all the major television networks, and on public television and National Public Radio.

Dr. Ratajczak presents his views on economic conditions to many professional and industrial groups and has been asked to provide testimony before the U.S. Congress on many different economic issues. He is a columnist for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and a source for many major media outlets.

He received his undergraduate degree from Haverford College and his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



David A. Penn, Ph.D., director of the Business and Economic Research Center at Middle Tennessee State University, has served as associate director for the Center for Economic and Management Research at the University of

Oklahoma. Previously, he was adjunct professor of economics at the University of Central Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma, chief economist at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, and infrastructure project leader for the Oklahoma Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Oklahoma, a master's in international studies from the University of Denver, and a bachelor's in political science and history from Northeastern Oklahoma State University. He received a W. R. Howell Research Fellowship from the University of Oklahoma. He has published numerous articles and reports and was principal investigator on several funded research projects covering a variety of topics concerning regional economics.



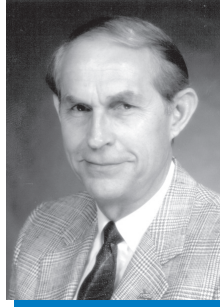
Aubrey B. Harwell Jr.

is chairholder of the Jennings A. Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise. He is managing partner of the Nashville law firm Neal and Harwell, where he specializes in crisis management, white-collar criminal

defense work, and commercial litigation. He has been named one of the "Best Lawyers in Tennessee" by *Business Tennessee* magazine; he was called a mid-South "Super-Lawyer" and selected to appear in *Who's Who Legal (Business Crime)* by the International Bar Association, and he has been noted as one of "The Best Lawyers in America."

A graduate of Vanderbilt University and the Vanderbilt University School of Law, Harwell has taught at the Vanderbilt University School of Law and Belmont University and has served for many years as vice chair of the board of trustees at the Nashville School of Law. He has authored or coauthored several legal publications and is a frequent speaker at seminars and symposiums throughout the United States. For more than four decades, he has provided volunteer service and leadership to numerous local and national nonprofit and charitable organizations.

His honors include the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and the National Silver Buffalo Award from the Boy Scouts of America, the Joe Kraft Humanitarian Award from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, and the John Tune Public Service Award from the Nashville Bar Association.



William F. Ford, Ph.D.,

holds the Weatherford Chair of Finance. He formerly served as dean of the business school at the University of Denver, CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, president of First Nationwide Bank, senior vice president

of Wells Fargo Bank, and executive director and chief economist of the American Bankers Association. Dr. Ford often appears on national television and business news radio shows as an economic policy expert. He has authored or coauthored some 100 articles in business and academic journals, has served on the boards of six corporations, and is a director of the National Association for Business Economics.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy Submarine Service, he earned his B.A. in economics (summa cum laude) from the University of Texas and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Dr. Ford is also a graduate of Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.



J. B. Baker is owner of Sprint Logistics and chairs the board of Volunteer Express Inc. and Associated Companies. Baker started out in sales with Mason-Dixon Truck Line, gaining a decade of experience before joining Volunteer Express in

1982 to start a sales department. He became general manager and then president before purchasing the company.

He has an associate art degree from Martin Methodist College and a B.S. from Middle Tennessee State University. Mr. Baker has a broad spectrum of community involvement, including fifteen active board appointments, and he serves on numerous organizational committees.

Mr. Baker has received many awards of recognition for his outstanding contributions to the Tennessee Trucking Association. In 2009, he was awarded the prestigious Pinnacle Award from the association. An avid participant in the Boy Scouts of America, he received the Silver Beaver Award from the Middle Tennessee Council. Mr. Baker will receive the Jennings A. Jones Champion of Free Enterprise Award.