

The Department of Economics has developed and will continue to expand its focus in applied economics, particularly concentrating on economic policy. We have incorporated economic policy issues and initiatives in all facets of our activities. The development and use of metrics is a key component of economic policy analyses, and we have continued to incorporate this aspect into our focus as well.

Current Activities

The faculty in the Department of Economics are internationally recognized scholars in their respective fields. The faculty publish in the top economic journals in the world and have contributed to and informed policy debates on a wide range of topics:

Dr. Cyril Chang *has worked in the area of health care economics, lending his expertise to studies on the understanding of indigent patient care and its associated costs; the evaluation of TennCare; using cost effectiveness as an evaluation instrument of health programs such as smoking cessation. He has also served on advisory panels for Rep. Harold Ford and Sen. Bill Frist, is the Co-director, Memphis Alliance on Public Health Research, and has recently been appointed to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.*

Dr. David Ciscel *has conducted research for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis on urban sprawl and is recognized as an expert on the living wage in Memphis. He has conducted research in family labor supply and its relationship to the market that suggests that new economic policy is needed for families to more fully participate in both paid and unpaid markets.*

***Dr. Richard Evans'** activities as Director of Forecasting for the BBER inform local and regional entities on appropriate economic policy. He has been engaged in forecasting revenues for the state of Tennessee and for the City of Memphis. He also sits on the Tennessee Real Estate Appraisal Commission.*

***Dr. Julie Heath,** as Director of the Center for Economic Education, has addressed public policy issues surrounding K-12 education, both at the local level and with the State Board of Education. The Center provides professional development for area teachers, as well as help in curriculum development.*

***Dr. David Kemme's** research on banking reform and exchange rates has motivated and informed governments in Eastern Europe in their transitions to market economies. He has provided information to the Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress, on Russia's financial transition, and has been invited to present research to U. S. Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, and the United Nations*

***Dr. Albert Okunade's** analyses of the pharmaceutical industry has led to new ways of evaluating and assigning R&D costs and cost recovery.*

***Dr. Rose Rubin's** research results in public policy recommendations in the areas of income distribution and poverty, and the economics of aging.*

***Dr. Shelley White-Means'** research on health care access for underprovided sub-populations has suggested reforms in the area of health administration. She has also informed various entities concerning long-term care issues and the particular concerns of the indigent elderly population.*

***Dr. Richard Zhang** does research in applied macroeconomics. His research informs the on-going dialogue with respect to issues such as fiscal and monetary policies and their effects on capital formation. Dr. Zhang is also a critical link in our metrics focus.*

2. Identify those areas that fit within the University's areas of focus and within your College's areas of focus.

The Department's focus on applied economics with a public policy orientation furthers the University's goals of promoting interdisciplinary activities, enhancing our global perspective (a goal shared with the College) and more effectively engaging the community. Much of the work done (listed above) by Drs. Ciscel, Chang, White-Means, Rubin, Heath and Evans involves other units on campus and/or is highly interdisciplinary in nature. Dr. Kemme is highly involved in providing input into global issues, and community involvement is a priority with the vast majority of the faculty. In particular, the Center for Economic Education and the Center for Health Economics has provided the Department an

*important vehicle for providing service to the community and enhancing the visibility of the Department and University. A more complete listing of the Department's community focus can be found in **Service, #1**, below.*