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UM BUSINESS BUREAU WINS WEB SITE AWARD

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research recently won the national 2013 Website Award of Excellence for BBER's redesigned website, <http://www.bber.umt.edu>.

The award was presented by the Association for University Business and Economic Research at its recent conference in Richmond, Va. AUBER is the professional association of business and economic research organizations at public and private universities and consists of 100 leading economic research centers.

"We're proud to see our website recognized as outstanding among our peers nationally," said BBER Director Patrick Barkey. "Providing online access to BBER's wealth of economic research is key to the role we play helping businesses in particular, and the Montana economy as a whole, succeed."

Re-launched in September 2013, the Bureau's new website provides research studies, articles and data covering diverse topics related to Montana's economy, including energy, health care, housing, forest products, manufacturing, agriculture, entrepreneurship, children and families, population, demographics, state and local area economic forecasts and more. Recent additions to the BBER website include:

- A new search tool that organizes BBER's complete archive of research publications by category;
- Information on the Bureau's new Natural Resources and Energy Research Program;
- An expanded Forest Industry Research section including time series data on quarterly log prices and a new interactive tool allowing users to access timber harvest data at the county- and ownership-level for five Western states;
- Updated analysis of Montana's health care industry, with in-depth coverage of Medicaid expansion, the uninsured and the Affordable Care Act;

- Survey Research case studies covering BBER's best practices in scientific data collection using phone, mail and web-based tools.

Along with access to the Bureau's historic data and reports, the BBER website offers continuous updates on current research, recent surveys and economic news. The site also allows visitors to listen to the Montana Economic Minute daily podcast, subscribe to the Montana Business Quarterly, correspond with BBER employees and register for the Montana Economic Outlook Seminars and other events.

BBER's website development team included Shannon Furniss, communications director; Bob Campbell, programmer/database administrator; Christina Henderson, marketing director; Jonathan Nelson, web designer; Billie Loewen, graphic designer; Nate Hegyi and Deborah Schmaus, publications assistants; Chelsea McIver, forest products research assistant; and student employees Aidan Dowling, Sara Thane and Perri Taylor.

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