

We welcome the participation and input of the following panelists.

January 2009 Forum Speakers

James C. Epolito
Former President and Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Economic Development Center
Incoming President, Delta Dental of Michigan (April 1, 2009)
Delta Dental of Michigan
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Lansing, MI 48909-7916

On September 1, 2005, James C. Epolito was named the new president and chief executive officer of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the state's lead economic development agency. In that capacity, Mr. Epolito has the responsibility for designing and implementing the Governor's economic development plan for Michigan. The MEDC provides administration of the 21st Century Jobs Fund initiative, directs economic policy development, business retention and attraction, technology development, trade and international investment, tourism promotion, business marketing, and community development functions. Mr. Epolito also serves as a Governor's Cabinet member while coordinating a state focus on job creation through the following sectors: life sciences, alternative energy, advanced automotive manufacturing and homeland security and defense.

Mr. Epolito joined Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) in June 1978 as a legislative analyst and rose through the ranks of the organization. Mr. Epolito initially served as BCBSM's vice president of state and federal governmental affairs before moving on as president and CEO of Blue Care Network - Health Central. From December 1994 through May of 2005, Mr. Epolito was president and CEO of Accident Fund Insurance Company of America and senior vice president of subsidiary operations, BCBSM. As head of the Accident Fund, he transformed the single-state insurance provider generating revenue of \$201 million voluntary direct written premium to a 40-state operation generating more than \$480 million voluntary direct written premium annually.

Mr. Epolito has been recognized by a number of organizations for his leadership, professional achievement and dedication to service in the community, including: Michigan State University, Distinguished Alumni Award – 1998, Michigan Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Distinguished Leadership Award – 2005, and: Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, Community Service Award – 2006. Mr. Epolito serves as president and chairman of the Michigan Strategic Fund and chairman of the Michigan Economic Growth Authority. He also serves as a director of the Venture Michigan Fund and at Capital Bancorp.

Mr. Epolito received his bachelor's degree in communications from Michigan State University in 1978 where he received a varsity football scholarship and won three varsity letters. He received a master's in public administration from Western Michigan University in 1992 and completed the executive program at the University of Missouri - National Institute for Managed Care Administration in that same year, later becoming certified in workers' compensation from Salve Regina University in 1995.

Ronald S. Harichandran, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE
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Ronald S. Harichandran is a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Michigan State University (MSU) and has served as the department chairperson since August 1995. He received a B.E. from the

University of Canterbury, Christchurch New Zealand in 1979, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981 and 1985, respectively. His research focuses on random vibrations, engineering reliability, structural dynamics, finite element methods, advanced composite materials, and non-destructive evaluation, and their application to problems in earthquake, pavement, bridge and fire engineering.

During his tenure as department chairperson, he helped build an engineering study-abroad program in Russia, which is now one of the largest study-abroad programs at MSU. He was closely involved in the planning, construction and fundraising for the 12,200 sq. ft. Civil Infrastructure Laboratory at MSU which facilitates the testing of structures and pavements, and includes a Structural Fire Testing Facility. He interacted with private, government, legislative, and university personnel to establish the first National Center for Pavement Preservation at MSU.

Dr. Harichandran is a *Fellow* of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He currently chairs the ASCE Department Heads Council Executive Committee, has served on the ASCE Body of Knowledge II Committee charged with refining the body of knowledge for future civil engineers, and on the ASCE Committee on Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice. He also serves on the Dynamics and Probabilistic Methods technical committees of the ASCE Engineering Mechanics Institute.

Dr. Harichandran helped to establish the Michigan Transportation Research Board in 2005 and serves as its inaugural chairperson.

Phillip D. Schertzing, Ph.D.
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Phillip D. Schertzing, Ph.D. joined the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University (MSU) in July 2002 with a dual appointment as an academic specialist and as director of the Global Community Security Institute. He coordinates a variety of multidisciplinary emergency management and homeland security-related programs for MSU, including the Campus Community Emergency Response Team Train-the-Trainer Program, funded and approved by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

His instructional responsibilities include graduate-level courses in MSU's online Certificate in Homeland Security Studies program, and in the online Master of Science in Food Safety program. He also serves as faculty liaison for the Emergency Preparedness Club within the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, as adjunct faculty for the Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, as a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Emergency Management*, and as a member of the Regional Advisory Council for FEMA Region V in Chicago.

Prior to joining MSU, Dr. Schertzing served a twenty-five-year career with the Michigan State Police (MSP), retiring in June 2002 with the rank of inspector as the assistant deputy state director of emergency management and homeland security. He continues to serve as the "unofficial" departmental historian for the Michigan State Police.

His education includes a B.A. degree in Religious Studies and a Master of Management degree from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, and a Ph.D. in American History from MSU. He is also a graduate of the 191st session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Forum Moderator

AnnMarie Schneider
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AnnMarie serves as director of policy education and of the Legislative Leadership Program for Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. In addition, she serves as interim director for the MSU Canadian Studies Center. With more than 20 years experience in university and government relations, public policy and communications, AnnMarie Schneider has directed her passion and expertise toward linking research, policy, education, and public deliberation that is focused on society's most challenging issues, domestic and international.

Schneider was instrumental in developing Michigan State University's Legislative Leadership Program, an education forum that links research scholars and newly elected lawmakers in an information exchange that results in well informed policy decisions. With the advent of term limits, she has helped model the development of similar partnerships on a national and international level. As director of this program, she manages a multi-million dollar grant program focused on providing incoming legislators research on contemporary topics.

Schneider's interest in international relations is evident in her work with the Romanian Leadership Partnership, the Canadian National (CN) Forum, and the International Economy Forum. She has worked with faculty to strengthen a reciprocal education and leadership exchange network between Michigan State University and Babes-Boylia University in Cluj, Romania. While serving on the advisory board of the Canadian Studies Center, she helped to orchestrate a *CN Forum*, a public event that addresses U.S. and Canadian Relations and invites discourse between business and nonprofit stakeholders as well as scholars and students. Yet another example is her work with MSU's International Studies and Programs to build a venue that informs policymakers about how they might address Michigan's role in a global economy.

IPPSR Director

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Dr. Roberts currently serves as Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR) at Michigan State University and has been affiliated with IPPSR since April 2003. He holds more than 28 years experience in Michigan government, including 10 years as state treasurer, and time as director of the Senate Fiscal Agency, deputy superintendent of the Department of Education, deputy director of the Department of Management and Budget (DMB), and acting director of DMB. He holds a doctorate and a master's degree in economics from MSU and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Maryland. He has been affiliated with IPPSR since April 2003.