

Good News Report

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Dr. Ben Widner, Department of Economics and International Business, will receive the 2009 Award for Outstanding Service by an Individual from the American Society of Hispanic Economists. This is the first time ASHE is giving the award. Subsequent awards will be given every two years. Dr. Widner will receive recognition at the annual meeting of the ASHE in San Francisco in January 2009.

College of Business economics experts are in demand and have been giving workshops on the financial markets' volatility and testifying at legislative committee meetings. In various combinations, Doctors Tony Popp, Jim Peach, Chris Erickson and Ken Martin have provided expertise at:

- The Las Cruces Economic Forum.
- The Las Cruces Economic Club.
- The Sun Valley Kiwanis Club.
- The Legislative Rural and Economic Development Committee in Santa Fe, NM. Dr. Peach spiced up the presentation by reporting several times the status of the Dow Jones industrial average which was down 520 points at the end of the testimony.
- The Rural Development Interim Legislative committee.
- KSFR radio, Santa Fe's NPR station.
- NMSU's KRWG-TV show, "Minding Your Business."
- KSNM-570 AM radio, "The Southwest Senior" show.

The Center for Economics and Personal Finance Education conducted its last teacher training in Entrepreneurship for the calendar year in Albuquerque. In attendance were several middle and high school teachers. Funding was provided by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the National Council on Economic Education. Dr. Ben Matta also consulted with a group of teachers and curriculum directors for the Albuquerque Public Schools on plans for the new series of workshops in economics for middle school and high school teachers of history and government to be conducted by the Center during summer 2009.

Dr. Liz Ellis, Department Head, Finance/Business Law, 575.646.3201

Financial planning expertise is in demand. Dr. Liz Ellis has made four presentations on estate planning and end-of-life planning issues to federal court employees in Las Cruces. She delivered another session on the same topic to federal court employees in Albuquerque and another three sessions to the Albuquerque and Santa Fe federal courts.

Dr. E. Pookie Sautter, Department Head, Marketing, 575.646.3341

Dr. Collin Payne's research on obesity, consumer behavior and America's eating habits is receiving national attention and has been featured on "Good Morning America," the "Today Show," and the "Tim Conway Jr. Show" in Los Angeles. USA Today, El Paso Times, Las Cruces Sun News, and NMSU's Round Up have also published articles. Dr. Payne presented his research at the Association for Consumer Research in San Francisco, and also spoke at the Las Cruces Public School's in-service meeting at Oñate High School. He also had an article accepted in Annals of Internal Medicine (impact factor of 15) and has signed a contract to write book chapter for Woodhead Publishing. Dr. Payne has been nominated to serve as a member on the *Journal of Consumer Research* policy board.