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RESEARCH CENTER TO HOLD QUARTERLY BUSINESS ANALYSIS BREAKFAST

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – The Center for Business and Economic Research in the Sam M. Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas, is partnering with the Northwest Arkansas Chambers of Commerce to host the Quarterly Business Analysis on Thursday, April 29. The breakfast event, open to the public, will be held from 6:45 to 7:50 a.m. at the Embassy Suites, 3303 Pinnacle Hills Parkway, Rogers.

Jeff Collins, director, Center for Business and Economic Research, will present a 30-minute program that provides statistical highlights for the first quarter of 2004, projects key economic trends, and discusses short- and long-term issues facing the local and state economy. In addition, there will be a discussion of the implications to the business community of K-12 reform.

“Legislation to reform K through 12 education in the state will have both immediate and long-term effects on existing and future businesses in the state. Short run tax implications resulting from both an expanded sales tax base and rate are likely to affect state businesses negatively. In the long run, increased worker productivity is likely to yield significant benefits to business through employee performance or higher incomes which translate into greater demand locally for products and services,” Collins said. “The question remains, will the businesses bearing the cost of improving education be the beneficiaries of improved educational outcomes?”
The primary purpose of the Quarterly Business Analysis program is improving the dialogue between stakeholders in the region. “We want to encourage cooperation and share information that is vital to economic growth,” added Collins. “The goal is solid and sustainable economic development in Arkansas.”

The cost for the Quarterly Business Analysis program and breakfast is $12.50. Pre-registration by Friday, April 23, 2004, is required. Places can be reserved on-line for the QBA at: http://cber.uark.edu/ by calling (479) 575-4151 or by e-mail at cberinfo@cavern.uark.edu. The program will last for approximately 50 minutes including time for questions and answers.

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