

Breaking News

Williams Riding Herd on Gunther and the BBER

HATTIESBURG – Interim CoB Dean, Alvin Williams, appears to be riding herd on William Gunther, professor of economics and Director of the CoB's Bureau of Business and Economic Research. After months of reports here at USMNEWS.NET showing how Gunther, who earns more than \$125,000 per year *and* who lives near Gulf Shores, Alabama, rarely does anything remotely resembling actual work, Williams was elevated to Interim CoB Dean in April of 2007, citing an increase in the presence of the CoB's centers and bureaus as one of his (Williams') main goals. Since that time, the level of activity in Gunther's BBER has escalated dramatically, with the last example being the BBER's economic symposium to kick off the spring 2008 semester.



Alvin Williams



William Gunther

Now, according to a press release (12-Mar-08) by Jan May entitled "Southern Miss Center to Host Economic Data Workshops," Gunther is back at work, this time offering a series of workshops designed to assist Mississippi's economic developers and analysts in using the Internet-based databases that were financed by Gunther's BBER. The two workshops that the BBER will offer fall on 1-April-08 and 3-April-08. The first of these is located at USM's Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, MS, while the second will be located at the Mississippi Library Commission Building in Jackson, MS. As a result of these venue selections, Gunther will be traveling between Josephine, AL, Hattiesburg, Long Beach and Jackson throughout the first week in April.

Though it appears that the "Williams' riding herd on Gunther" campaign is continuing, Gunther is also making an attempt to profit from the "public service" that the BBER provides. May's presser also indicates that, while the BBER touts the fact that the Internet-based data are "free" to the public, Gunther's BBER will be charging Mississippi citizens \$45 per head to attend the user sessions on 1-April-08 and 3-April-08. As a result, there is nothing "free" about the web service, even though Mississippi taxpayers are forking over large salaries/benefits packages for Gunther and Edward Ranck, another administrator inside the BBER.

May's press release is provided below:

Southern Miss Center to Host Economic Data
Workshops

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Contact Jan May 601.266.5854

HATTIESBURG, Miss. – The Mississippi Regional Economic Analysis Project, a new interactive Web site launched by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at The University of Southern Mississippi is up and running with economic and demographic data for all 82 Mississippi counties and the United States.

The MREAP site is hosted by the Southern Miss College of Business and data is free to the public. Economists, regional planners and economic developers, among others, are finding the site user-friendly, but for those who want to get up to speed immediately in the creation of custom graphs and reports, BBER is hosting workshops in two locations.

The first workshop is set for April 1 at the Southern Miss Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, and the second will be April 3 at the Mississippi Library Commission Building in Jackson.

The cost for the workshops, which run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., is \$45, including lunch and refreshments.

For more information or to register for the workshops, visit <http://www.pnreap.org/mississippi> or call 601.266.5049.