C2ER Annual Conference/LMI Institute Annual Forum
2019 Call for Sessions

The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) and the Labor Market Information (LMI) Institute are currently soliciting proposals for the next annual conference and forum, which will be **June 5 - 7, 2019** in **St. Louis, MO**. The theme this year is ***Meeting in the Middle***. Below is information on this year's conference and details on how to submit your proposal.

Breakout sessions are a key component to the success of our conference. They enable our attendees to share, learn, converse, and interact with one another on topics of mutual interest and compare data collection practices, visualization tools, and lessons learned in the field. **We invite members and non-members to submit session proposals by Friday, November 9, 2018.**

Theme

The C2ER Annual Conference/LMI Institute Annual Forum theme for 2019 is ***Meeting in the Middle***. As we come together from across the U.S. and meet in St. Louis with this theme, we are interested in exploring how and where economic and workforce development research intersect. Sub-theme topics include:

- **Old Economy Meets the New Economy:** Many communities, especially in the Midwest and in rural areas, have slower economic growth grounded in traditional industries. By contrast, many high-tech, fast-growing metros are no longer affordable places to live and work. It takes a balancing act! How are cities reinventing themselves or working to sustain growth? What rural development strategies show promise? How does smart infrastructure fit into this?

- **Talent Supply Meets Employer Demand:** Companies face a shortage of workers, especially those with middle-to-higher skills. What does the supply/demand analysis show? Can talent attraction/retention strategies pay off? How can education, workforce, and economic planners better align supply efforts that include adults currently on the labor market sidelines?

- **Storytelling Meets Data:** With big data, changing data sources, and data visualization evolving at a rapid pace, it is hard to keep up. Data tools help but rarely tell the compelling story by themselves. The middle ground is needed: excellent data and tools combined with storytelling skills. What are some best practices for turning numbers into knowledge?

- **A Beautiful Friendship: Research Partnerships:** Partnerships between organizations can lead to great things – LMI and Chambers, Education and Workforce, Businesses and Government. What are successful partnerships accomplishing and how are they structured so everyone wins? How are you sharing data and analysis?

Session Structure

This year's conference is looking to expand its approach to sessions by offering a variety of session formats including non-traditional presentations. Each breakout session will be 75 minutes long. We encourage you to submit new and innovative ways to use this time to share new knowledge and approaches, facilitate panel discussions, and/or engage attendees in active conversation. Possible formats may include traditional panels of three 15-20-minute presentations, full roundtable discussions, or five-minute lightning presentations by a few presenters followed by an open period for questions and dialogue. If any of the themes presented below resonate with the research you and your colleagues are doing, please submit a proposal!

Session Ideas

Proposals may address one or more of the following ideas as they relate to the theme of *Meeting in the Middle* or any of the sub-themes listed on the prior page:

- Tackling affordability issues in major cities
- Modernizing manufacturing
- City reinvestments
- Rural development and infrastructure strategies
- Attracting, retaining, and investing in talent
- Bringing labor in from the sidelines – justice-involved individuals, etc.
- Selling your city in a tight labor market
- Promoting creative upskilling and career pathway efforts for the workforce
- Middle-skilled or supply/demand research
- Apprenticeship models and lessons learned
- Educating the STEM-skilled workforce
- Predicting the future of skills and jobs

- Transforming data into compelling stories
- Being a better data presenter
- Sharing new data tools and visualization practices
- Using data and behavioral science to influence action
- Utilizing data science for economic and workforce developers
- Creating partnerships between economic and workforce agencies and education
- Implementing information sharing strategies
- Working with site selectors
- Specifically using labor market information to enhance research in any of the abovementioned topics

Instructions

- Please submit proposals via our [survey tool](). Only submissions completed via the [survey tool]() will be considered.
- A separate survey must be completed for each proposal.
- Sessions must be centered on economic and/or workforce development research or the use of data to make economic and/or workforce development policy decisions.
- Vendor proposals will only be considered for Vendor Sponsored Sessions. Sales or marketing sessions will not be considered.
- Proposals should reference how the proposal relates to **Meeting in the Middle** in economic and workforce development research.
- Full panel Sessions (usually with three presenters) are approximately 75 minutes. Individual presentations are 15-20 minutes long.
- Session proposals are due by 5:00 pm EST on **Friday, November 9, 2018**.

Guidelines

- There will be no compensation for traveling to, or speaking at, the event.
- Proposals are being solicited from C2ER and LMI Institute members and nonmembers alike.
- If you are proposing a panel, you will be responsible for confirming that panel's speakers, managing topics of focus, and organizing bios to submit to C2ER/LMI Institute prior to the event.
- C2ER/LMI Institute reserve the right to edit or make changes to proposed session titles, descriptions, modes of presentation, panels, and moderators. This includes combining proposal ideas that complement each other into one session.
- Speakers are welcome to attend their conference session only at no charge. If you are interested in attending the full conference, contact Spencer Abrams (sabrams@crec.net) for the prorated speaker registration fee.
- C2ER/LMI Institute will provide a response to all submitted proposals no later than December 21, 2018.
- Please contact Jennie Allison (jallison@crec.net) with questions.

About the Conference/Forum

The C2ER Annual Conference/LMI Institute Annual Forum attracts around 250 attendees who are primarily researchers from state labor market information, economic development, and workforce development offices; community colleges; workforce boards; and other organizations in the economic and workforce development fields. The conference includes a variety of keynote and plenary speakers, roundtables, and local tours to offer world class networking and the opportunity to see community and economic development in action.

About C2ER

Founded in 1961, the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) is a membership organization that promotes excellence in community and economic research by working to improve data availability, enhance data quality, and foster learning about regional economic analytic methods. C2ER's 1,000+ members span a broad range of specialty skills and collectively touch all aspects of community and economic development in the U.S. and Canada. C2ER accomplishes this mission by:

- Conducting training, advocacy, and research
- Delivering innovative products and services for researchers
- Developing professional networks

About the LMI Institute

The Labor Market Information (LMI) Institute is the pre-eminent resource for supporting the development, interpretation, and use of labor market information. The LMI Institute supports and promotes the production and use of high-quality workforce and employment information by:

- Providing training and professional development to state and other LMI professionals.
- Improving the knowledge, skills, and understanding of LMI customers.
- Offering management, staffing, and coordination to support the nationwide LMI infrastructure.
- Fostering and encouraging the use of local, state, and national LMI in decision-making related to workforce development, economic development, education, and other relevant policy areas.