C2ER Annual Conference/LMI Institute Annual Forum
2020 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 3 - 5, 2020** in **Columbus, OH**. The theme this year is *The Roaring 2020's: Mobilizing Your Talent and Economy for the New Decade*. 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 research methods, data collection practices, visualization tools, and lessons learned in the field. **We invite members and non-members to submit session proposals by Friday, October 25, 2019.**

Theme
The C2ER Annual Conference/LMI Institute Annual Forum theme for 2020 is *The Roaring 2020's: Mobilizing Your Talent and Economy for the New Decade*. The upcoming conference and forum marks the **60th anniversary** of the annual conference – to recognize this banner year and as we enter a new decade, we are interested in learning how researchers are moving local, regional, and state economies and their workforce forward.

Mobility on Pressing Social Issues: How does your community or region ensure future prosperity is distributed equitably?

Adaptability for Community Progress: How does your community anticipate change to promote economic growth and quality of life?

Portability of Worker Skills: What critical skills in your labor force can transfer as businesses grow in your community?

Capability to Support Business Growth: How does your region leverage research to attract business, cultivate entrepreneurs, and acquire investments (domestic and foreign)?

See session ideas for other potential presentation topics.

About the Conference/Forum
The C2ER Annual Conference/LMI Institute Annual Forum attracts over 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.

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.

A new track we will offer this year will include skill building workshops. If you host a FREE data tool, website, or skillset that you would like to share with business and community researchers, we want to hear from you! Please note that the session is expected to offer an introduction to your tool and a "hands-on" experience to allow participants to get dirty with the data and walk away with new skills and possibly a new tool to share. Workshops should be a minimum of 75 minutes long.

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 *The Roaring 2020's: Mobilizing Your Talent and Economy for the New Decade.* See the sub-topics below and related research questions and ideas. **Please do not feel limited to the session ideas listed below.**

Business Growth
- Selling your city in a tight labor market
- Modernizing manufacturing
- Researchers' role in scaling up new business
- How to move companies and industry up the value chain
- Export assistance in an uncertain trade climate
- Role of Foreign Trade Zones
- Assessing the impact of tariffs on trade and local sourcing
- Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and social impact model updates
- Working with site selectors

Talent & Workforce Development
- Automation's impacts on the future workforce
- Promoting creative upskilling and career pathway efforts for the workforce
- Bringing labor in from the sidelines – justice-involved individuals, etc.
- Attracting, retaining, and investing in talent
- Apprenticeship models and lessons learned
- Educating the STEM-skilled workforce
- Predicting the future of skills and jobs
- Gig Economy Developments
- Specifically using labor market information to enhance research

Capacity Building
- Reporting impacts of Opportunity Zones
- Transforming data into compelling stories
- Utilizing data science for economic and workforce developers to influence action
- Getting Federal grants for research and development
- Sharing new data tools and visualization practices
- States with commercial intellectual property networks

Community
- Transit impacts on businesses and workers
- Role of Quality of Place
- City reinvestments
- What are the right measures of social progress?
- Enhancing and expanding infrastructure

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 *The Roaring 2020's: Mobilizing Your Talent and Economy for the New Decade* 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, October 25, 2019**.

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 20, 2019.
- Please contact Jennie Allison (jallison@crec.net) with questions.

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.