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Chmura Economics & Analytics

Company Profile, Bios, and Press Contact Information

Information provided in regard to the Blue Water Border Economic Impact study.

Prepared
for

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I. Company Profile

Chmura Economics & Analytics (Chmura) was founded by Christine Chmura in 1999. The firm is a women and minority owned small business with headquarters in Richmond, Virginia. Chmura currently has eight professional staff members plus temporary support staff. A branch office is located in Cleveland, Ohio. The firm specializes in applied economic consulting, quantitative research, and software solutions requiring the integration of advanced economic analysis. Project-based work has included workforce and economic development, site selection, tourism studies, and fiscal and economic impact analyses. Chmura publishes *Virginia Economic Trends*, now in its tenth year, as well as *Ohio Economic Trends*; Chmura's electronic publications and forecasts are available via www.chmuraecon.com. Software products include JobsEQ®, currently in widespread use by economic development agencies throughout the nation.

Chmura's client base includes economic developers, workforce practitioners, education reformers, firms seeking information and data to make sound decisions, governors and secretariats, chambers of commerce, lobbyists, developers, target marketers, counties and localities, firms and corporations seeking fiscal analysis for project and incentive-based discussions, as well as many other public and private entities with needs for credible information on a timely basis. Chmura's online products serve over 10,000 international users and subscribers across the nation receive Chmura's weekly and quarterly publications.

Chmura Economics & Analytics is committed to achieving 100% customer satisfaction in all project engagements. Our philosophy is that when our customer succeeds, we have been successful. We exist because our customers exist. Therefore, we strive to create an atmosphere of 'shared risk' with our clients. Our approach is built on performance management and the Malcolm Baldrige principles.

II. Bios of Lead Project Personnel

Christine Chmura

PhD, President – Prior to founding Chmura Economics & Analytics, Chris was the Chief Economist at Crestar Financial Corporation and prior to that an Associate Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. She received her PhD in Business with a major in Finance and a minor in Economics from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia.

Chris currently serves on the Governor's Economic Advisory Board of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Virginia Commonwealth University Foundation Board of Trustees, the Board of the National Association of Business Economics, and the Governor's Commission on Climate Change. She's been described by Virginia Newswire as "a regular on the Virginia speaking circuit, [she] has built a following around the Old Dominion as one of the few non-academic economists with in-depth knowledge of the state." (Workforce Wizardry, April, 2004). She writes a monthly column on the economy for the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. Chris holds a patent for JobsEQ and is a nationally recognized presenter.

Xiaobing Shuai

PhD, Senior Economist - Dr. Shuai conducts model building and regional and macroeconomic trend forecasting. His interest rate forecasts are published in the Blue Chip Financial Forecasts while his forecasts for housing market activities are published in Housing Market Report. His research with Chmura also includes regional economic development, workforce development, and other education related issues. Previously he worked as a senior analyst with Capital One Financial Corporation in Richmond. His expertise includes credit risk management and econometric modeling.

Xiaobing is a native of China and graduated from Fudan University in Shanghai. He pursued graduate study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he obtained a master's in Agricultural Economics and a PhD in Economics. Xiaobing's research has won several awards including the Henry Taylor Doctoral Dissertation Award in 2000 and the 2005 National Association for Business Economics Contributed Paper Award. His papers have been published in *Business Economics*, the *International Economic Journal*, and *Environment and Development Economics*, and he has presented at the National Association for Business Economics Conference and the Virginia Association of Economists Conference.

Greg Chmura

Senior Statistician & Executive Editor - Greg directs Chmura's survey research which includes design, implementation, and analysis of business and consumer surveys. Greg is editor of the firm's publications which include the quarterlies *Virginia Economic Trends* and *Ohio Economic Trends*. Further, Greg works with our IT department in software design and testing, documentation, and training. He earned Bachelor's of Science degrees in Mathematics and Physics from Cleveland State University. In further studies he earned a Certificate of Secondary Education. Greg was previously a professor at Cuyahoga Community College and has also worked in actuarial science.

III. Press Contact Information

For the press, the Chmura Economics & Analytics point of contact is:

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