



2025 Annual Conference – October 24, 2025
Rauenhorst Ballroom, Coeur de Catherine
St. Catherine University

Economics in the News

- 8:30-9:00am: Registration/Coffee
- 9:00-9:15am: Welcome/introductions
Dr. Kristine West, St. Catherine University
- 9:15-10:15am: Leonid Hurwicz Lecture

Dr. Menzie D. Chinn, Professor of Public Affairs and Economics, Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin

Title: The Closing of the American Economy: Impact and Durability
- 10:15-10:45 am: Student research posters and coffee break
- 10:45 am-noon: Roundtable discussion on economic data

Angelina Trâm Nguyễn
Director of the Labor Market Information Office, Minnesota Department
of Employment and Economic Development
Aaron Sojourner
Senior Researcher, W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
Abigail Wozniak
Vice President and Director of the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth
Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- 12:15 – 1:00 pm: Lunch, MEA Business Meeting, Student Paper Contest winners
- 1:00 - 1:30 pm: Student research posters – more time to mingle and network!

Speaker Biographies

Menzie D. Chinn, PhD



Menzie D. Chinn is Professor of Public Affairs and Economics at the University of Wisconsin's Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs and the Department of Economics. His research focuses on international finance and macroeconomics. He is currently a co-editor of the *Journal of International Money and Finance*, and a Research Fellow in the International Finance and Macroeconomics Program of the National Bureau of Economic Research. With Doug Irwin, he is coauthor of *International Economics* (Cambridge University Press, 2025), and with Jeffry Frieden, coauthor of *Lost Decades: The Making of America's Debt Crisis and the Long Recovery* (2011, W.W. Norton). He is also a contributor to Econbrowser, a weblog on macroeconomic issues.

Prior to his appointment at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2003, Dr. Chinn taught at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He received his doctorate in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, and his AB from Harvard University.

Angelina Trâm Nguyễn, MDP



Angelina Nguyễn is an economist and Director of Labor Market Information Office at the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). Her office releases Minnesota's monthly jobs report and advises the Governor, legislators, and government leaders on state's labor market. She joined DEED's Senior Leadership Team after managing the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Statistics Unit. She serves as a liaison with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and advises the U.S. Secretary of Labor through the Workforce Information Advisory Council.

Nguyễn holds a Master of Development Practice from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Mathematics, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Minnesota.

Abigail Wozniak, PhD



Abigail (Abbie) Wozniak is a labor economist and Vice President at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, where she serves as Director of the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute. Her research has examined migration between states and cities, employer compensation and screening policies, and sources of inequality in the labor market. Dr. Wozniak has served in advisory and affiliate roles for many institutions, including NBER, IZA, LERA, Upjohn Institute, the Economic Innovation Group (EIG), McKinsey, and EconJobMarket.org. Her work has been featured regularly in the media, and she has been interviewed on *Marketplace*, *NPR*, *BloombergTV* and other outlets. Dr. Wozniak will serve as president of the Midwest Economics Association in 2026.

Dr. Wozniak is a graduate of Harvard University (PhD) and the University of Chicago (AB).

Aaron Sojourner, PhD



Sojourner is a labor economist and senior researcher at the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. From 2009 to 2022, he was on the faculty of the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management and is an Affiliated Researcher there. His research focuses on (1) effects of labor-market institutions, (2) policies to promote efficient and equitable development of human capital with a focus on early childhood and K-12 education systems, and (3) behavioral economic approaches to consumer finance decisions.

Dr. Sojourner completed his Ph.D. in economics at Northwestern University, holds an M.A. in public policy analysis from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in history from Yale University.