

GLOBALIZATION AND THE MIDWEST

Monday, October 6, 2008
Hyatt Regency Chicago
151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Registration and Breakfast Buffet

8:15 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Welcoming Remarks by **Marshall M. Bouton**, President, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Panel Discussion: **The Midwest in the Global Economy**

Globalization has hit the Midwest hard. Some cities, like Chicago, thrive; so do some university towns, like Madison. But the Midwest does two big things for a living – farming and heavy industry – and globalization has transformed both. The Midwest continues to lose manufacturing jobs. Factory towns and cities struggle to find new ways to support themselves and their people. Farmers, too, face global competition. Farm consolidation continues while rural societies age and decline. Midwestern voters blame NAFTA and question the role of free trade. Societies that rose in the Industrial Age wonder about their place in the Global Era. This session will summarize the challenges facing the Midwest in the age of globalism.

Speakers:

John Austin, Executive Director, The New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan

Bob Holden, Former Governor, Missouri

William Testa, Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Moderator: **Rob Johnson**, Chairman of the Board, Cargill Foundation

10:00 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Keynote Address: **Can Manufacturing in the Midwest Save Manufacturing in the U.S.?**

Speaker:

John Engler, President and CEO, National Association of Manufacturers, and former Governor of Michigan

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Panel Discussion: **Industries of the Future and How to Build Them**

Farms and factories no longer support the Midwest. What then are the Midwest's industries of the future? How can the Midwest build on its past to create its future – for instance, by leveraging its expertise in plants and animals into a new bioscience industry, or its expertise in materials handling into a new nanotechnology industry? Does high-end manufacturing have a Midwestern future and how do we train workers for it? Can the Midwest turn the “green revolution” to economic advantage? In many of these areas, the Midwest, despite its advantages, already lags other regions. Midwestern education – K-12, community colleges and especially the big research universities – powered the Industrial Era is not keeping pace. What educational reforms and cooperation are needed to train workers and provide the intellectual firepower for the Global Era?

Speakers:

Roger Beachy, Director of the Danforth Center in St. Louis

Walter Plosila, Senior Advisor, Technology Partnership Practice, Battelle

Carlos Santiago, President, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

Moderator: **Sylvia Manning**, President, Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Address: **Defining Midwestern Assets in the Era of Globalization**

Speaker:

Thomas Vilsack, Former Governor, Iowa

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Panel Discussion: **The Impact of Immigration**

Across the Midwest, the few places that are growing and thriving – both cities and rural towns – are the ones drawing immigrants. Yet this immigration, especially Hispanic, has become a huge political issue as newcomers, many undocumented, change the very complexion of the mostly white and homogeneous part of the county. The Chicago region has 1.5 million Hispanics: Cleveland, once 50 percent foreign-born, is now less than 5 percent, and struggles to attract immigrants. In the schools of Anoka, Minnesota (Garrison Keillor’s home town) more than 70 first languages are spoken, but traditionally tolerant Minnesota copes with a backlash against immigrants. The Midwest needs immigrants but is often mishandling the challenge they bring. As the nation seeks a more rational immigration policy, what should be the Midwestern stance? How can the Midwest lead in defusing the politics surrounding this issue? How can Midwesterners cooperate in facing the problems – especially educational and economic problems – that go with immigration?

Speakers:

Mark Grey, Professor at University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls

Rob Paral, Research Fellow, Institute for Metropolitan Affairs, Roosevelt University

Lester Heitke, Mayor of Willmar, Minnesota

*Moderator: **Rekha Basu**, Columnist, Des Moines Register*

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Keynote Address: **Globalization and the Rural Renaissance**

Speaker:

Thomas Dorr, Under Secretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Panel Discussion: **Thinking Regionally and Why It Matters**

Globalization presents the Midwest with regional challenges. All global problems – economic and social – affect all Midwestern states more or less equally. But each state tries to cope on its own – and each state is too small, weak and parochial to meet a challenge this big. Globalization sweeps across national and state borders as though they don’t exist. But in the Midwest, state border effectively block the regional cooperation that is key to success. State universities dominate all thinking: state governments dominate all policy. Academics and practitioners who are experts on their own states are often working in isolation of counterparts thinking through similar problems of neighboring states. Cities and states compete with each other for investment, when the real competition is 10,000 miles away. This session will sum up the challenges of globalization and ask how the Midwest can meet them on a regional basis.

Speakers:

Richard Longworth, Senior Fellow, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Abraham Lowenthal, Professor, School of International Relations, University of Southern California

*Moderator: **Ronn Richard**, President, The Cleveland Foundation*

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Networking and Closing Cocktail Reception

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BARNES & THORNBURG, AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**