Thanks to Our Sponsors
PROGRAM AGENDA
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Opening Lunch/Network Reception
12:45 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. Welcome Darla Moore School of Business
12:50 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. The 2019 South Carolina Economic Outlook State, Metro and Regional Dr. Joseph Von Nessen Research Economist Darla Moore School of Business
1:15 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. Panel: Opportunity Zones Moderator: Ms. Jeanne Milliken Bonds, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Community Development Officer The Honorable Curtis Loftis, Treasurer, South Carolina The Honorable Jim Hodges, Former Governor, South Carolina
2:20 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Break
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tariffs and Trade Wars Impact on South Carolina and United States Outlook Dr. Doug Woodward Director, Division of Research and Professor of Economics Darla Moore School of Business
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. After 10 Years of Economic Expansion, Will Wages Finally Rise? Dr. Joseph Von Nessen Research Economist Darla Moore School of Business
3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Questions and Answers
3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wrap-up

SPEAKERS:

JOSEPH C. VON NESSEN is a research economist in the Division of Research at the Darla Moore School of Business where he specializes in regional economics, regional economic forecasting and housing economics. He regularly conducts a wide variety of economic impact analyses, feasibility studies and independent market research projects for clients in both the private and public sector. Von Nessen engages in industry-level and regional economic forecasting for organizations at the state, national and international level. He has served as lead researcher on projects with clients as diverse as Sonoco, BlueCross BlueShield, North State Bank and Savannah River National Lab, among others. He has also been the recipient of many grants from both local and national sources, including the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Defense. Von Nessen is a frequent speaker for business and government leaders throughout the southeast, providing information and consultation about business, housing markets and local economies. He also makes frequent media appearances to discuss various local economic topics of interest.

JEANNE MILLIKEN BONDS is the Senior Manager, Regional Community Development for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. In her role, she provides leadership for strategic stakeholder collaboration and community-level solutions, focusing on low- and moderate-income communities in support of the Federal Reserve System’s Community Development functions. Jeanne leads several Federal Reserve System teams, including a team focused on the Community Reinvestment Act and co-leads a team focused on rural policy issues. Jeanne previously worked for the N.C. Courts as a special assistant and Deputy Director to the Chief Justice and the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center where she focused on community and economic development initiatives across North Carolina. She has served as an elected official on a town council in N.C., including Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor. And, she has worked closely as an advisor with several N.C. governors in efforts focused on economic well-being and growth of both urban and rural communities, including the N.C. Commission for a Competitive N.C. Jeanne has led and served on a number of community and statewide boards of directors and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Community Capital Alliance, an organization that supports the needs of the community development finance sector in the state through policy, leadership and training as well as provision of access to community capital and facilitation of community development solutions. Prior to the N.C. General Assembly, Jeanne was a recipient of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Initiative (N.C. REDI) Fellowship where she focused on underserved and undercapitalized communities through loan products. She has a B.A. in Economics and a M.P.A. (concentration in public policy) from the University of N.C. at Chapel Hill. In 1997, she was North Carolina’s recipient of the Donald Henry Toll Fellowship from the Council of State Governments.

CURTIS LOFTIS is the State Treasurer of South Carolina. As Treasurer, he is the state’s “private banker,” managing, investing and returning custodian of tens of billions of dollars in public funds. Treasurer Loftis is a nationally recognized advocate for public pension reform, a cause he has championed since taking office. His leadership has been featured in numerous publications, including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Bloomberg and The Bond Buyer. He is a sought-after speaker and has presented to groups such as the Wall Street Journal Private Equity Conference, The SkyBridge Alternative (SALT) Conference and the World Pension Forum. He was named “Friend of the Taxpayer” by the South Carolina Association of Taxpayers. He was elected in 2010, winning all 46 counties, and was re-elected in 2014 and 2018. Since taking office, Treasurer Loftis has returned $158 million in unclaimed funds to South Carolinians – more than all previous state treasurers combined. He also has overseen an increase in the number of enrollees in the state’s College Savings Plan to more than 150,000 accounts and total assets of $3.5 billion. Additionally, Treasurer Loftis administers the South Carolina ABLE Savings Program, providing eligible individuals with disabilities the opportunity to open tax-advantaged accounts in order to save for their future. Treasurer Loftis is Chairman of the Board of Financial Institutions, Vice Chairman of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, Southern Vice President of the National Association of State Treasurers, Vice Chairman of the South Carolina Education Authority and Vice Chairman of the South Carolina Tobacco Authority. He also serves on the executive board of the College Savings Plans Network and is Immediate Past President of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. He is a member of the Cayce-West Columbia Rotary Club.

GOVERNOR JIM HODGES is President and Chief Executive Officer of McGuireWoods Consulting LLC and a partner with McGuireWoods LLP. He advises clients on energy, healthcare, education, economic development and other issues, dividing his time between Washington, D.C., and Columbia, S.C. Governor Hodges provides strategic and policy advice to a wide range of clients dealing with issues at the national level. He has been a member of the National Governors Association since 2010, including the National Legislative Prayer Breakfast and the National Legislative Prayer Breakfast. He is also a member of the South Carolina Community Foundation and the South Carolina Education Authority. He also serves on the executive board of the College Savings Plans Network and is Immediate Past President of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. He is a member of the Cayce-West Columbia Rotary Club.

DOUG WOODWARD, PH.D. is professor of economics and the director of the Division of Research at the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in 1986. He joined the University of South Carolina faculty in 1987. Woodward’s research interests include regional economics, firm location, urban and industrial clustering, and foreign direct investment. He is co-author of a book on foreign direct investment in the United States, The New Competitors, ranked as one of the “top ten business books of 2010” by Fortune as one of the books “CEOs are reading.” He has published widely in academic journals, including the Journal of Urban Economics, the Journal of Regional Science, Regional Science and Urban Economics, the Journal of Economic Geography and the Review of Economics and Statistics. His recently published papers have investigated local labor market behavior and knowledge spillovers. Professor Woodward also has ongoing research comparing regional economic cluster development across the world.