



**PNREC CONFERENCE
TACOMA, WASHINGTON, May 14-16, 2008
CALL FOR PAPERS**

TOPIC: INNOVATION IN THE NORTHWEST

The 42nd Pacific Northwest Regional Economics Conference will take place in Tacoma, Washington May 14-16, 2008. Proposals are encouraged for presentations by economists and allied professionals on many issues of relevance to the economies of the Northwestern United States and Western Canada. In addition, this conference will have an international focus on innovation networks due to a collaboration between the conference organizers at Seattle University and Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale in Dunkerque, France. Presenters in the innovation networks sessions will have the opportunity to see their papers included in one or more peer reviewed books. A number of presentations in this set of sessions are expected from economists from all over the world, offering exciting opportunities to examine innovation processes in regional economies in several countries.

The 2008 PNREC conference will be focused on innovation processes in many aspects of economics. Schumpeter, Branscomb, Nelson, Rogers, von Hippel and many other well known-economists have written about innovation. We are interested in individual paper and panel presentation proposals examining innovation processes in the many fields traditionally covered by presenters at PNREC conferences:

- Technology and Development
- Energy Issues and Economic Development
- Urban Growth and Transportation Issues
- Education - Building Capacity for a Global Economy
- Accountability and Performance Measures in the Public Sector
- Land Use
- Security Issues
- Welfare Reform
- First Nations Development
- Health Care in the U.S. and Canada
- Environmental Change in the Region
- Taxation and the New Economy
- Cross-Border Trade & Transportation Issues

Proposals for individual or panel presentations for PNREC 2008 are due by email to sommersp@seattleu.edu by February 29, 2008; the proposal should consist of a short abstract describing the proposed presentation. Presenters will be expected to register for the full conference and provide a Powerpoint presentation, if it will be used at the conference, not later than May 1, 2008. Presenters are encouraged to bring 15-20 copies of full papers on their topics to the conference for distribution to conferees.

A special feature of the 2008 conference will be a set of plenary and breakout sessions representing the third annual "The Spirit of Innovation" Forum, an international conference co-sponsored by the Research Unit on Industry and Innovation (Lab.RII), Université du Littoral Côte

d'Opale, Dunkerque (France), and the Institute of Public Service, Seattle University, Washington (USA). The "Spirit of Innovation" sessions will focus on innovation and networks. Participants who want to present in these sessions will submit an abstract to an international scientific committee that will consider inclusion of the resulting paper in one or more peer reviewed books to be published by an academic press. The focus of one of three themes of the international Forum is "Characteristics of Innovation in the Northwest." A more detailed call for papers will be issued for the Spirit of Innovation sessions; proposers will be asked to submit an abstract in the fall of 2007 and 25 page paper of publishable quality 30 days prior to the conference. Proposals are expected from economists and economic geographers from the Northwest and from several countries in North America, Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world. This international element at PNREC 2008 will provide new perspectives on regional issues Northwest economists are already analyzing; however, fresh perspectives on these issues will come from international colleagues and the deliberations at the conference itself.