

James E. Robey

Director, Regional Economic Planning Services

Jim Robey's research and technical assistance on economic issues and in economic and workforce development has assisted corporate, nonprofit, and economic and workforce development entities in problem resolution and strategic decision making, from the local to the national levels. Spanning more than three decades, his expertise includes industry studies, applied occupational analysis, economic impact modeling and analysis, economic and workforce development research and analysis, and site selection assistance.

Robey's research focuses on regional economic, education, economic development, and workforce development issues across Michigan and the nation. He prepares annual employment forecasts for southwest Michigan's metropolitan areas, directs the production of *Business Outlook for West Michigan*, and provides economic insights for regional economic development across northwest Ohio, and the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, New York, and New Jersey. He has additionally coauthored research on a variety of national and regional issues.



He received his Ph.D. in Urban Studies (1997), with an emphasis on Economic Development, and his Master's degree in Public Administration (1993) from the Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Sociology (1979) from Edinboro State College. Prior to joining Upjohn, Robey was an Associate Vice President with Southwest Michigan First in Kalamazoo, MI, where he directed local economic development efforts in Marshall, MI and served as a site consultant. Prior to working in Kalamazoo, Robey was Managing Director at Mohr Partners, Inc., where he focused on site selection and economic and workforce development strategies, and was Vice President of Research at TeamNEO, where he oversaw and developed economic research across 16 northeast Ohio counties.

His selected publications include:

Demand Study for Construction Employees.

August 27, 2014 [Supported by The Construction Diversity Committee, Commission on Economic Inclusion, Greater Cleveland Partnership, Cleveland, OH] (with George Erickcek, Brian Pittelko, Claudette Robey, and Doug Hoffmann)

[Economic Development Strategic Plan for the City of Waco, Texas.](#)

May 16, 2014. [Supported by the City of Waco, Texas] (with George Erickcek, Don Edgerly, Brian Pittelko, Claudette Robey, Bridget Timmeney, and Dennis Burnside)

[Regionalism, Networks, and Partnerships: A Leadership Approach to Economic Development.](#)

December 2011. [Supported by Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce] (with George Erickcek, Brad Watts, and Claudette Robey)

[What Should EDA Fund? Developing a Model for Pre-Assessment of Economic Development Investments.](#)

Upjohn Institute Staff Working Paper No. 09-155, July 2009 (with George Erickcek, Brad R. Watts, Jacob Duritsky, Kevin O'Brien, and Claudette Robey)

February 2016