

Economy topic of public forum at Lenoir-Rhyne

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"Where in the World is the Economy Headed?" is the topic of a public forum to be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26, at the Belk Centrum of Lenoir-Rhyne University.

This free, public event is a Future Forum presented by the Charles M. Snipes School of Business at Lenoir-Rhyne University and sponsored by Alex Lee Inc.

Mark Vintner, managing director and senior economist of Wachovia Corp., will be the keynote speaker. Five panelists representing a variety of backgrounds will then give their perspectives. Panelists will include Don Coleman, president of Hickory Springs; Scott Millar, president of Catawba County Economic Development Corp.; Jeff Bronnenberg, president of Four Oaks Capital; and Dr.

Ted Reingold, professor of business in the Charles M. Snipes School of Business at Lenoir-Rhyne.

"We hope this forum will increase the level of understanding of the state of the economy in America today," said Michael Dugan, L-R professor of business and chairman of the business school. "In doing so, we hope our audience will arrive at a better comprehension of what the future has in store."

Vintner joined Wachovia in 1993 and is responsible for tracking U.S. and regional economic trends. He writes and produces several publications for Wachovia, including the Weekly Economic & Financial Commentary, the Monthly Economic Outlook and regular updates on the housing markets, regional economies and inflations. He

also compiles Wachovia's macro and interest rate forecasts. Prior to joining Wachovia, he was an economist for Barnett Banks in Jacksonville, Fla.

Vintner's work has been featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, BusinessWeek, USA Today and other publications. He is a frequent guest on CNBC, CNN, National Public Radio and "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer."

He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Georgia, an MBA from the University of North Florida and has completed further graduate work in economics at the University of Florida. He has completed the NABE Advanced Training in Economics Program at Carnegie-Mellon University.