

MODERATOR BIOGRAPHY



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Dr. Slaper {slay-per} leads a research team engaged in regional economic analyses, industry and workforce analysis, economic impact studies, demographic estimates and projections, trade and foreign investment analysis, and researching economic growth. The research team he leads recently concluded research on measuring the economic benefits of technology transfer from Naval labs like the Crane Navel Weapons Support Center.

Analysis pertaining to workforce development is the “tipping point” study. This research determines the number of college credits for which an adult student at a community college would, on average, earn significantly higher wages than adults over 25 years of age that did not continue their education.

The IBRC, in collaboration with Purdue University, updated the Innovation in American Regions website in early 2011. In addition to providing data for measuring innovation in regions across the country, this website also presents industry and occupation cluster data at a regional level. Like the majority of IBRC work that Dr. Slaper oversees, the goal of this project is to put analytical tools and practical research into the hands of economic development practitioners to help them answer the fundamental questions underlying economic development in today’s rapidly changing world.

Before joining the IBRC, Dr. Slaper served as senior economist on the Joint Economic Committee of Congress researching topics such as the effect of high energy prices on economic output and the effectiveness of investment incentives in encouraging economic growth. He cut his teeth as an economist at the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.