

# Footnotes...

SECOND QUARTER 2005

## ***Making news . . .***

### *Three studies attract significant attention*

During the last quarter, the Public Policy Forum released the results of three studies relating to the economic health of southeastern Wisconsin. Each of the reports provided a new context for measuring our region's performance.

- Using data from the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Census Bureau, the Forum found that the seven counties of southeastern Wisconsin had a net loss of \$2 billion in personal income from 1993 through 2002. In the process of doing the study, the Forum created what it calls the "net income migration" index as a barometer of how the region is doing economically.
- The Forum also created the first ranking of the nation's largest metro areas in terms of their ability to attract federal funds. The study showed the Milwaukee area is behind in important categories of federal funding. Out of the 50 largest metro areas, Milwaukee ranked 27th in direct payments; 30th in loans; 23rd in grants; 39th in wages, and 48th in procurement contracts. Overall, it ranked 40th.
- Property taxes are foremost in people's minds when they purchase a home, but the Forum found that when you factor in property values, you get a more accurate picture of how expensive or inexpensive it is to live in a particular community. Doing so puts Racine and Milwaukee – two cities that suffer from the stigma of high taxes – in a more favorable light.

For the complete reports, go to [www.publicpolicyforum.org](http://www.publicpolicyforum.org).

## ***Back to the future . . .***

### *Forum focus turns to development, new members*

The Forum's executive committee has decided that membership and sponsorships are the way to help stabilize the Forum's finances. For about the last 15 years, grants and contracts have contributed roughly 75% to the Forum's revenue stream with the remainder coming from membership. Prior to that, it was just the reverse. For the new direction to be successful, the executive committee realizes it will take all of the current membership's participation.

## ***Morocco in Milwaukee . . .***

Aziz Nahya, Morocco's chief of the division of cooperation in the country's Ministry of National Education, visited the Public Policy Forum in May to learn more about school choice. Accompanied by an interpreter, Nahya spoke with Anneliese Dickman about Milwaukee's voucher program experience. Nahya's visit was made under the auspices of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program.



*Aziz Nahya, of Morocco, gathers information about school choice from Forum Research Director Anneliese Dickman.*

## **Footnotes**

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## ***Thirst for information about region's water problem quenched*** *Waukesha symposium lays out different perspectives*

In April, more than 200 attendees from the private, public, and non-profit sectors gathered at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Brookfield to discuss the region's water

problems. “Solving the water puzzle,” sponsored by the Forum and the Waukesha County Chamber of Commerce, featured panels of experts on water science and water policy. Lively discussions ensued. The luncheon was highlighted by water experts from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Go to the “Events” section of [www.publicpolicyforum.org](http://www.publicpolicyforum.org) to view the full presentations of each speaker. ❏



**Top to bottom:** Forum President Jeff Browne (left), Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Executive Director Kevin Shafer, and Midwest Environmental Advocates counsel Jodi Habush Sinykin review a presentation; Peter McAvoy, water policy consultant, The Brico Fund, concludes the symposium with a summary of its results; Godfrey & Kahn environmental attorney Art Harrington talks about the legal ramifications of water issues; Hydrologist and Groundwater Specialist Jim Krohelski, of the U.S. Geological Survey, explains groundwater flows to the standing-room-only crowd.

## ***“Salute to Local Government” draws huge crowd*** *Focus on regional cooperation*

Setting the alarm a bit earlier posed no problem for the more than 500 attendees of this year’s “Salute to Local Government” breakfast. And their efforts were rewarded as Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett set the tone urging greater regional cooperation throughout southeastern Wisconsin. Presentation of the first-ever Quality of Life Award provided one of the event’s more emotional moments. Visually impaired Don Natzke, from Milwaukee County’s Office for Persons with Disabilities, received the award on behalf of the Wil-O-Way Recreation Program and made an eloquent and impassioned plea for everyone to recognize that all people no matter who they are or what their abilities have something positive to offer the community, and that no one should be overlooked.

This year’s categories and the winners included:

- **Excellence in individual teamwork**  
City of New Berlin Police Department for its “Mission Possible” program on local access TV informing residents about the department’s activities and issues.
- **Intra-governmental cooperation**  
Milwaukee Municipal Court for its Driver’s License Workforce Development Program giving persons who have failed to pay parking fines a 120-day extension before suspending their driving privileges.
- **Inter-governmental cooperation**  
City and County of Milwaukee for their joint Web portal to make information on local government easier to find.
- **Regional cooperation**  
Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc. for its private-public partnership in guiding redevelopment of the Menomonee Valley.
- **Private-public cooperation**  
City of West Allis, the Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corp., and Whitnall Summit Company for efforts to help small businesses get started or existing small businesses to expand, and for redevelopment of the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing complex.
- **Quality of Life Award**  
Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities for the Wil-O-Way Recreation Program offering accessible and affordable recreation to county residents of all ages and abilities.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Michael R. Miller, former mayor of West Bend
- **Norman N. Gill Award for Individual Excellence in Government**  
Gordon Kacala, executive director, Racine County Economic Development Corporation ❏

## More than 500 attend “Salute”

*Clockwise, starting at right:* Milwaukee Municipal Court Judge Derek Mosley accepts the “Salute” award for the Driver’s License Workforce Development Program; Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett opens the “Salute” with a call for greater regional cooperation throughout southeastern Wisconsin; Norman N. Gill Award winner, Gordon Kacala, executive director of the Racine County Economic Development Corporation, talks about the importance of working together to secure the region’s future; Largest “Salute” crowd in several years listens intently as Julie Penman, board member of Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc., accepts an award for the valley’s revitalization; Award presenter, Milwaukee Public Television’s Dan Jones (left), watches as New Berlin Police Department Lieutenants Michael Glider (center) and Philip Kiedrowski are presented with an award for their “Mission Possible” program.



*Center picture:* Michael R. Miller (left) accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award and is congratulated by Milwaukee Public Television’s Dan Jones for his 18 years as mayor of West Bend.

## *How to be a success in business . . .*

Anneliese Dickman, J.D., the Forum's research director, recently presented a paper, "Diversity and Tomorrow's Profile: Women in Corporate Leadership," at a Washington, D.C. conference of The Institute for Women's Policy Research. The premise of her research was that a relationship exists among gender diversity, corporate leadership, and fiscal performance. "Show me a corporation that puts a priority on gender diversity and corporate leadership, and I'll show you a company that is a fiscal success," she says. ❖

## *Anyone for singles . . .*

Out of the top 40 U.S. metro areas, Milwaukee ranked 23rd in its allure for singles, up from 25th last year. The survey, done by Forbes.com using data from Forbes, the U.S. Census, Carnegie Mellon University and several other sources, based the rankings on six categories: singles, nightlife, cultural opportunities, coolness, job growth, and cost of living alone. Milwaukee fared well in cost of housing, cultural opportunities, and the number of singles. It fared poorly in job growth and coolness. Denver ranked first; Chicago, 11th; and Minneapolis, 14th. Pittsburgh was last. Milwaukee outshined San Antonio, Portland, Tampa, Indianapolis, and Charlotte, among others. ❖



## *Congratulations . . .*

Anneliese Dickman, J.D. has been promoted to research director of the Forum. Formerly, she was senior researcher. ❖