



**School of Continuing Education**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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#### **SAMMIS WHITE IS CHOSEN TO DIRECT CENTER FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

MILWAUKEE – Sammis White has been busy for decades. White is a Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning. He also is a Center Scientist for the UWM Center for Urban Initiatives and Research. He has worked on local, regional and state economic development projects in partnership with government and industry. He is actively involved in or leads several UWM economic development initiatives.

Now, as the newly appointed director of the Center for Workforce Development of the UWM School of Continuing Education, White adds another vital dimension to his work. He will assume leadership of the Center in early 2004 and currently is phasing into his new responsibilities. The half-time appointment allows White to continue many of his other activities. The Center works with a wide array of university, business and community partners to build and implement workforce development strategies to increase the competitive workforce in the southeast region of the state.

“Professor White is exceptionally well qualified, with a long track record of commitment to finding solutions to economic and workforce development problems. He also worked closely with previous director, Dr. Linda Stewart, on Center projects,” says Susan Kelly, Dean of the School of Continuing Education and Associate Provost of e-Learning. Through his experiences on and off campus, White also has developed knowledge and expertise in urban education, entrepreneurship, fiscal impact analysis, housing policy and welfare reform.

He plans to work closely with School of Continuing Education staff, UWM and industry partners to identify and then meet the resource, training and development needs of Southeast Wisconsin. White emphasizes the importance of coordinating cooperative efforts to meet employers’ range of needs. Among his priorities is to expand the delivery of University resources to the private sector. “I plan to make a push on customized training onsite as opposed to courses offered at the Plankinton,” he said.

Sammis has a career record of working intensely with off-campus agencies and organizations. However, he never has let “outside work” interfere with his role as an educator. As a matter of fact, he brings his experiences into the classroom and often brings students into the “real” world.

While working on regional planning projects, White directed 15 to 20 graduate students in a class in creating an eco-industrial park in the Menomonee Valley for the City of Milwaukee. He also enlisted their

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aid to conduct a retail market analysis for The Village of Elm Grove. He put up to three graduate students on his payroll for each of the following clients' projects: Bradley Foundation: "Milwaukee's Private Schools, their Teachers and Their Principals;" Wisconsin Realtors and Wisconsin Builders Association: "The Fiscal Impact of Residential Development in Wisconsin;" and Wisconsin Policy Research Institute: "Analysis of Wisconsin's Regional Economies."

His teaching efforts have resulted in his earning the Outstanding Teacher award in the School of Architecture and Urban Planning in 2000. He also received the Teaching Excellence Award for all of UWM in 2002, given by the UWM Alumni Association.

He has donated his time to a number of government and non-profit organizations. Among others, White served on the Wisconsin Governor's Commission on State-Local Partnerships for the 21st Century ("Kettl Commission"), the Governor's Task Force on "Brain Drain" and the Wisconsin Secretary of Revenue's Committee on Revenue Forecasting. White helped write several papers for the first three Wisconsin Economic Summits and he currently serves on the board of the Hmong American Friendship Association.

White, a co-founder of the Urban Planning Department at UWM, has taught in the department for 30 years. He also is co-founder of the journal, "Economic Development Quarterly," dedicated to learning how to revitalize the American economy. He was co-editor of the publication for 10 years. He also co-founded and co-directs an organization called the Great Lakes States Economic Development Researchers.

He is author or co-author of over 120 articles, book chapters, research reports and monographs. He has co-authored two books and co-edited three others. His third edited book, "Financing Economic Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," was released in March 2003.

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