

Walsh College survey finds optimism in economy

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— A Walsh College survey of alumni from the business college indicates they are more optimistic about the economy in the United States than the state of Michigan.

Just under one third expect the business environment to improve in the U.S. and the state.

Yet, despite their concern with Michigan's economy, the majority of survey takers are optimistic about their own household economic situation, according to the third Walsh College Economic Sentiment Survey.

Even though the survey was limited to alumni, Walsh College Finance and Economics Chair Dr. Linda S. Wiechowski found it relevant because, "While there are many studies that measure economic sentiment, this study is distinctive in that it targets a population with graduate and undergraduate degrees in business disciplines."

In general, optimism about the economy has grown among this group with business expertise

since Walsh's first survey done in the third quarter of 2011.

The newest survey conducted during the first quarter of 2012 and released this week, was implemented by members of the finance and economics faculty at Walsh College. The representative group of Walsh alumni responded to a variety of economic and business-related topics.

"In general, survey takers are cautiously optimistic about the country's economic outlook, but fairly guarded concerning the state of Michigan," according to the release.

While 48 percent expect the national economy to experience "good" or "mostly good" times over the next five years, only 37 percent expect the same for Michigan.

The outlook regarding business conditions is relatively positive for the country, with 31 percent of survey participants expecting an improved business environment during the next 12 months.

In contrast, 30 percent expect "continuously good" or "mostly good" times for

Michigan during the same period.

Survey takers appear to be very optimistic about what their household financial situation will be 12 months from now, with 36 percent expecting conditions to improve and only 10 percent expecting a decline in their household finances.

The Walsh faculty team found this "encouraging, when considering the majority of those surveyed reside within the state of Michigan and expressed a negative outlook for the state's economy."

Walsh is a private, non-profit, upper-division all-business college where 4,500 students study for bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees as well as professional certificates.

To learn more details about the study, visit www.walshcollege.edu/News/WalshCollegeEconomicSentimentSurveyRevealsGrowingOptimism?showBack=t&PageIndex=0.

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