

Bio Sketch of William E. Becker

Bill and his wife Sue marked their 50th wedding anniversary on a cruise in 2017, with the families of their three daughters that include three grandsons. Bill and Sue have traveled the world together during his career as an economist and econometrician specializing in the development and assessment of educational practices along with analysis of issues related to human capital.

Dr. Becker earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the College (now University) of St. Thomas in 1967, a master's degree in economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1970, and a doctorate in economics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1973. He has received several teaching and research awards and his career is featured in several different versions of *Who's Who*.

Professor Becker has published 90 articles and 12 books, all meticulously edited by Sue. His articles appear in the major journals in economics, such as those of the American Economic Association (*American Economic Review*, *Journal of Economic Literature* and *Journal of Economic Perspectives*). He authored *Statistics for Business and Economics* (South-Western, International Thomson Publishing) and *Statistics for Business and Economics Using Microsoft Excel* (SRB Publishing), and co-authored *Business and Economics Statistics* (Addison-Wesley). He co-edited *Academic Rewards in Higher Education* (Ballinger), *Econometric Modeling in Economic Education Research* (Kluwer-Nijhoff), *The Economics of American Higher Education* (Kluwer), *American Higher Education and National Growth* (Kluwer), *Assessing Educational Practices: The Contribution of Economics* (MIT Press), *Teaching Economics to Undergraduates: Alternatives to Chalk and Talk* (Edward Elgar), *Incentive-Based Budgeting Systems in Public Universities* (Edward Elgar), *The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: Contributions of the Research Universities* (Indiana University Press), and *Teaching Economics: More Alternatives to Chalk and Talk* (Edward Elgar).

Professor Becker received numerous grants from both private and public foundations including the National Science Foundation. He has been a consultant for the United States Department of Justice, United States Department of Education, and numerous large corporations and has given expert statistical and econometrics testimony in Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana courtrooms. He has delivered invited lectures, conference presentations or consultancies in Germany, England, Italy, former Yugoslavia, Hungary, Indonesia, Spain, Thailand, Latvia, Russia, Abu Dhabi, Mexico, Canada, Portugal, Scotland, New Zealand, Singapore, China, The Netherlands, and Belgium.

Bill is a professor emeritus of economics at Indiana University Bloomington. Before joining the faculty of Indiana University in 1979, he was a tenured faculty member at the University of Minnesota, where he also served as executive director of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education and where he returned for the academic year of 1988 to serve as acting director of the U of M Management Information Division. He has held extended visiting appointments at Princeton University and the universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Queensland and Western Australia. He was an adjunct professor at the University of South Australia (1996-2015). He was editor of the *Journal of Economic Education* (1989-2009) and simultaneously served on the editorial board of the *Economics of Education Review*. In 2005-06 he was president of the 450 member Midwest Economics Association. He continues to be a research fellow of the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA, Bonn Germany), and a research network member of the Center for Economic Studies and Institute for Economic Research (CESifo, Munich Germany).

In retirement Bill and Sue have continued to travel, visiting Vietnam in 2015, travelling on European rivers in 2016 and 2017, cruising around Cape Horn in 2018 and a passage through the Panama Canal in 2019. Bill's winter months are spent serving on the Coconut Grove Sailing Club Race Committee (Biscayne Bay, Florida) and summers sailing Lake Monroe (Indiana), with occasional work as the Fourwinds Marina sailboat rigger.