



SOCIETY OF BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, AND ECONOMICS

www.sobieconference.org

CALL-FOR-PAPERS

26th ANNUAL SOBIE ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

April 8 – 10, 2026

SANDESTIN GOLF AND BEACH RESORT

Invitation

You are invited to participate in the **26th Annual Academic Conference of the Society of Business, Industry, and Economics** on **April 8 -10, 2026** at the **Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort** in **Destin, Florida**.

SOBIE offers a wonderful opportunity to share your research with your colleagues and enjoy the spectacular **Sandestin Resort**: <http://www.sandestin.com/>. Bring your family to enjoy the beach, the resort, and all the **Emerald Coast** offers in recreation, dining, shopping, and entertainment!

Sandestin offers **SOBIE** guests the conference rate for the weekends before and after the conference. Extend your stay! Enjoy a cerebral break at the beach!

Please share this invitation with your campus colleagues and businesspeople who you think would benefit from participating in this conference.

Mission

The **SOBIE** mission is to encourage business faculty members to respond to current economic and market issues, and find practical solutions to the many problems businesses, individuals, and public policymakers confront.

SOBIE invites business and economic research, as well as interdisciplinary research. Research is essential to the continuity and pursuit of knowledge. The seeds for economic growth, market innovation, more effective business practices, consumer trends, and greater profits often come from the ideas we germinate through our research.

SOBIE was founded on the idea that peer-reviewed research at small colleges and regional universities was viable and needed to be recognized. Faculty, non-academic professionals, businesspeople, doctoral candidates, graduate students, and undergraduate students are invited to participate.

Our journal, **JOBIE** (Journal of Business, Industry, and Economics), is listed in Cabell's directory.

History

SOBIE was founded in 1999 by Doug Barrett and the late Jim Couch, both from the University of North Alabama, with about 30 participants from 5 schools.

SOBIE is now the premier academic conference for small and regional universities, attracting participants from almost every state, several countries, businesses, and government agencies.

Student Research

Since its inception, **SOBIE** has made a commitment to advance the academic and career opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students through research as an extension of the classroom.

Inspire the next generation of scholars by encouraging your students to attend **SOBIE**. Many students use this opportunity to present their senior theses.

Beginning in 2022, SOBIE offers special sessions for students in doctoral programs. Doctoral students should indicate that the student(s) is/are currently in a doctoral program.

SOBIE waives the registration fee for students. However, they should register for the conference. Students are eligible to compete for awards recognizing their research. For consideration, please submit complete student papers by **April 1** to **Alan Chow**: alchow@southalabama.edu.

Publications

SOBIE publishes a peer-reviewed academic journal, **JOBIE**. Please contact Keith Malone, Editor: kdmalone@una.edu.

To view **JOBIE**, go to: www.buildingthepride.com/jobie

Also, we are in the process of moving JOBIE to a new website with streamlined submission, review and publication abilities. The new website will be announced as soon as it is available.

Proceedings

SOBIE publishes proceedings for each conference. Participants may choose to include either an abstract or a completed manuscript in the proceedings. Submissions are included in the proceedings only if the participant chooses to have them included. The guidelines and instructions are available on our website (www.sobieconference.org).

Conference Schedule

Sessions begin each day at 7:30am, allowing you time to enjoy **Sandestin**. On Thursday, sessions begin at 9:00am, immediately following the plenary breakfast and **keynote address**. The speaker for our **keynote address** this year will be Dr. Sridhar (Sri) Ramamoorti, Associate Professor of Accounting, University of Dayton. Dr. Ramamoorti has a blended academic-practitioner background and research interests including psychology of fraud, blockchain, and enterprise risk management among others.

SOBIE attempts to honor your preference for presentation. However, depending on the volume of submissions for a particular day, it may not be possible to honor all requests. Sessions are grouped by subject and typically limited to three papers to allow time for discussion and review. PowerPoint and web access will be provided. Graduate and undergraduate student research is presented in dedicated student sessions.

Other events, such as **SOBIE Golf** and **SOBIE Beach Volleyball** will be announced prior to the conference.

Submission of Papers and Conference Registration

Please make your conference registration, separate from your hotel room, by **Sunday, March 15, 2026**. SOBIE is in the process of upgrading to a new website at www.sobieconference.org and web registration is again available. To register for the conference please visit the above website. If you have any problems with the website, please email Dr. Keith D. Malone at kdmalone@una.edu for assistance with registration.

SOBIE allows you to submit one additional paper.

Cost

SOBIE offers an affordable conference rate of **\$325**. Your conference payment includes a plenary breakfast on **Thursday, April 9**.

Hotel Accommodations

SOBIE offers a variety of accommodations for you and your family. Please make your hotel reservations separate from the conference registration, by **Saturday, March 7, 2026**.

Make your hotel registration by phone using the special **SOBIE** conference code, **24X7C3**. Or you can make reservations online using the link below.

Sandestin Group Reservations:

Online: [SOBIE 2026 Group Reservations](#)

Phone: 800-320-8115

As always, Sandestin has a variety of room types available at the popular **Bayside, Luau, and Beachside locations**, with rates beginning at \$179 at Bayside.

Bayside Guest Room -	\$179
Bayside 1 Bedroom -	\$207
Luau Studio -	\$207
Luau 1 Bedroom -	\$232
Beachside Studio -	\$277

Sandestin also offers additional accommodation choices at the web address listed above.

Area Airports

Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (Panama City; about 30 minutes east of Sandestin): <http://www.iflybeaches.com/>

Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport: <http://www.flyvps.com/>

Pensacola International Airport: <http://flypensacola.com/>

Payment

Once you complete the conference registration, please submit your conference payment to the address below. All payments should be made by check either by your university or personal check. Early payment is preferred, but payment will be accepted at the conference by check or cash. If your school requires a **W-9**, please forward it to this address or bring it to the conference. For your reference, **SOBIE's** tax ID is: EIN 26-1843624.

Make checks payable to **SOBIE** and mail to: **SOBIE**
Keith D. Malone
POB 5238
One Harrison Plaza
University of North Alabama
Florence, AL 35632

Contact Information

Please contact Keith D. Malone, **SOBIE** Conference Chairman at kdmalone@una.edu.

With warm regards,

Keith D. Malone
Conference Chairman, SOBIE 2026