Reimagining Decentralization:

Information, Computation, and Incentives

A Conference in Honor of Stanley Reiter

March 20-22, 2015

Kellogg School of Management

Northwestern University

Evanston, IL

It is our great honor to announce that this year's NSF/CEME Decentralization Conference will be held in honor of Stanley Reiter, who passed away this August. Stan not only produced seminal research and helped build an impressive theory group at Kellogg; he was also a thoughtful, generous friend, colleague, and advisor.

The Decentralization Conference played an important role is Stan's intellectual life. It is also widely viewed as playing a crucial role in the development of the mechanism design literature by providing a forum in which foundational papers could be presented in full technical detail. Many ideas and concepts that are now part of the standard lexicon of theoretical economics: type spaces, incentive compatibility, implementation, matching, and team theory either originated or found early audiences at the Decentralization Conference.

Forty-five years have now passed since the first meeting, and many of those involved with the conference believe it is time that we take a moment to reflect on the conference's past and, more importantly, to reimagine its future and define a new agenda.

To facilitate those discussions, this year's conference will include two panels. In one, some of the original participants in the conference will discuss its history as well as the process through which a field came to be defined. In the other, scholars of various vintages will present their views on possible directions for the conference as it heads into its next half century. Among the participants on these panels will be Roy Radner, Roger Myerson, John Ledyard, Andrew Postlewaite, Jim Jordan, Ted Groves, and Hugo Sonnenschein.

In addition to the panels, we will be organizing a traditional Decentralization Conference in which presenters are given adequate time to go into technical detail. We are open to all papers within the broad category of mechanism design but are especially interested in papers that address the core issues that underpinned the research career of Stan Reiter and his friends and colleagues Leo Hurwicz and Kenneth Mount, namely

incentives, information, and **computation**. Stan's enduring interest was in constructing mechanisms that place minimal informational requirements and maintain incentives while minimizing the computational and cognitive demands placed on participants. We hope to see some papers that continue in that tradition.

We envision this special meeting of the Decentralization Conference as an opportunity to honor Stan, to reflect on the importance of this conference, and to craft a new future for the decentralization conference as a catalyst for foundational ideas.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Evanston this March.