

THOMAS S. LYONS, Ph.D.

Thomas S. Lyons is the Lawrence N. Field Family Chair in Entrepreneurship and Professor of Management in the Zicklin School of Business. His research focus is entrepreneurship and its role in community and regional economic development. Dr. Lyons has written nine books and numerous articles, book chapters and technical reports on entrepreneurship, enterprise development, business incubation, and state and local economic development. He has had a long-time interest in regional systems for fostering entrepreneurship as an economic development strategy. He is the co-developer of such a system, the Entrepreneurial League System (ELS) ®, which has been implemented in Louisville, KY, the Advantage Valley (portions of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio) and in Central Louisiana. Portions of this framework have also been used in Johannesburg, South Africa. Dr. Lyons has served on the board of directors or the advisory board to an empowerment business incubation program, a microenterprise program, and a university-based technology business incubation program. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Rural Policy Research Institute's Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (CRE). Lyons holds a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and has worked as a practicing municipal planner and as a private planning consultant.