



JULY QUICKLY HEATS UP WITH EVENTS



Meet and Greet

Angela Martinez,
Regional Director, EDA

[RSVP](#) by July 7th!

The Montana Innovation Symposium has a special kickoff event for MEDA with a luncheon on July 13th, 11:30am, at the Crowne Plaza, in Billings, sponsored by MEDA and the Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development. This luncheon will feature Angela Martinez, the newly appointed Regional Director of the Economic Development Administration. There will be *no charge for MEDA Members who have registered for the Innovate Montana Symposium. Charge for non-attendees is \$25 at the door.*

Peer-to-Peer iMT Symposium



The iMT Symposium is all about overcoming obstacles for those involved with business in (and out of) Montana. The agenda is packed with national presenters, breakout sessions, networking opportunities, unique networking meals, along with Solution Lounges to provide one-on-one mentoring sessions with attendees.

[Agenda](#) [Registration](#)
[Breakouts](#) [Solution Lounge Sign-Up](#)

More Summer Events

July 19: RLF Working Group Call 10am
July 27: Opportunity Call 10:30am
July 28: [Tech Summit](#)
July 31 – Aug 3: [EDA Conference](#) Denver

[Ec Dev Update Series Schedule](#)

Aug 2 – 4: [NADC Conference](#), Billings
Aug 10: RTA Working Group Call 9am
Aug 11: Joint Working Lunch MEDA/MTA
Aug 12: [Business Open, Old Works](#)
Aug 19-21: [Young Professionals Summit](#)

Save the Date

Sept 19 -21: Seeley Lake Resource Team
Sept 22: HiLine Technology Roundup
Sept 25-28: [IEDC Conference](#)
Sept 27-29: MT Nonprofit Assoc. Conference

Oct 6-7: Compete Smart/MMEC
Oct 12-14 MEDA Fall Conference

Now is your chance to experience a Resource Team Assessment!
MEDA is seeking team members for the Seeley Lake Resource Team
September 19 – 20. [Contact Gloria](#)

WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR MEDA MEMBERS?



Beth Epley (pictured left) is the new Director at Eastern Plains. She can be reached at 406.853.6471. **Jason Rittal**, formerly of Eastern Plains, is now the advisor for Fallon County. Jason's new email address is fallondevelopment@gmail.com. **Joe Willauer** is serving as Executive Director for Headwaters RC&D; **Adam Benson** is working with Pam Haxby-Cote at Butte Local Development Corp. Also new to MEDA is **Laura Andersen**, Energy Office, DEQ. For contact information, view our [membership](#) website.

In Memory of our Friend and Colleague:

JOHN BALSAM

Longtime friend and MEDA member, John Balsam, passed away on July 2nd. Many of us first met John as a consultant with the SBIR program and later came to know him through BEAR and his work with SBDC. John's professional skills were outstanding with expertise in business start-ups, finance, market research, Profit Mastery, and finding funds for technology research. John will be remembered best, however, for those items not often listed on a resume: kindness, gentleness, thoughtfulness, and an ever-available helping hand.



John Balsam

OPPORTUNITY CALL – Next one: July 27th 10:30am

Thanks to our partners at Montana Dept. of Commerce, MEDA Members have a great opportunity to learn of program updates and dig deeper into featured programs during each call. In June, participants learned of fast-approaching program deadlines and new efforts to study and research Montana's tourism industry. Check out the other program updates and news by reading the [meeting notes](#).



MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– If you work with Revolving Loan Funds you will want to participate in this working group as participants discuss, learn and share their day-to-day tasks with RLFs. The next meeting is set for July 19th at 10:00am. [notes](#)
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group will meet on August 10th, at 9:00am, to continue to fine-tune Montana's Resource Team process. MEDA Resource Team Assessments continue to evolve and develop best practices as a result of this collaboration. [notes](#)
- **CRDC/EDD Working Group** will hold its summer meeting August 17th – 18th, in Butte.

MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Third Quarter round is now open with the deadline of July 29th. [Criteria and Application](#) Submit your application today!

MEDA BOARD ACTIVITY

The next MEDA Board meeting will be held the morning of August 11th, at Fairmont, with a working lunch with the Montana Ambassador Board. All MEDA members are invited to attend.

RONAN RESOURCE TEAM RETURNS – SETS PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES



On June 8th, the MEDA Ronan Team returned to help the community establish projects and priorities. The top three: downtown revitalization, identify and vision for Ronan, and business development.



Highlights for June 2016
[Full Report](#)

KICKOFF OF BADLANDS BEAR

On June 8th, Badlands BEAR, part of Eastern Plains Economic Development Council, launched to a great crowd of volunteers, perspective clients, and new resource contacts. The “Business Alive” event was organized by BEAR Team members Amy Deines, Glendive Job Service; Chris Whitlatch, Glendive Chamber; Cathy Kirkpatrick, Dawson Co. EDC; and Kathy McLane, Mid-Rivers Communications. The purpose of the gathering was to inform employers of programs and partnerships with IWT, GOED, BEAR, and the MDLI Apprenticeship Program. Presenters included Liz Ching, Chris Wilhelm, Bo Bruinsma, and Gloria O’Rourke.



Amy Deines



Cathy Kirkpatrick



Chris Whitlatch

Learn more ~ Badlands BEAR http://epedc.com/badlands_bear.html

BEAR TEAM OUTREACH FOR June

Nine visits were recorded in June with the following Outreach Specialists participating:

Katie Weaver - 1	Meagan Lannan -1	Joel Bertolino - 1
Mora McCarthy – 3	Chany Ockert - 1	Michelle Twist - 1

Krista Lammers - 1	Rick Schalk - 1	Karl Janovits – 1
Cal Boyle – 1	Kristy McKay - 1	Jim Davison - 1

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- [Check these out! New Community Friendly Grants](#) Extension Community Resources Program *weblink*. Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.
- **GRANTSTATION:** [Click here to read the entire newsletter](#) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email [MEDA](#) for the username and password.
- [FY2017 Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant Guidelines](#) Deadline: August 10th

TOOLS AND TRAINING FOR YOU –Opportunities to learn or share in your area of expertise

- EDA Economic Development Conference for the Denver Region – July 31 – Aug 3
[Click here to register online](#)
- [Annual Northwest Economic Development Course – August 22 - 25](#)

The annual Northwest Economic Development Course is the premier event offering intensive training in the basic concepts, methods, and strategies of local economic development. A diverse and experienced faculty provides an excellent blend of theory and practice. Course content is oriented toward practical application. Practitioners new to the field as well as those with experience seeking new ideas and tools are encouraged to attend.

- NADC would like to invite you to the upcoming 2016 NADC Economic Development and Procurement Conference – “**NATION BUILDING-EMPOWERING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,**” in Billings Montana, on August 2-4, 2016. The annual conference is in its eighth year and has attracted Native owned small businesses, tribal leaders and prime contractors from the region as well as gaining national attention as the premier economic development and procurement conference in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains regions. Contact: cchandler@nadc-nabn.org

Have a happy and safe summer!