



118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A * Anaconda, MT * 59711
406.563.5259 info@medamembers.org
<http://www.medamembers.org>

It is MEDA's privilege to submit this report for the current contract to the Governor's Office of Economic Development, Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Department of Labor and Industry and Montana BEAR Team participants regarding Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program activity in the state. The following is a summary of MEDA BEAR activities as provided for in the Scope of Work under Amended Contract MT-MEDA-ED-12-01 for the month of March 2015.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR MARCH 2015

MEDA SPRING CONFERENCE OF INTEREST TO BEAR TEAMS AND CLIENTS

Thanks for sharing this link; share it and register at the MEDA Membership rate.

[Spread the word!](#)

Montana Economic Developers Conference & Leadership Development Event

Impact: Learning, Sharing & Partnering for High Performance

Of interest to Montana BEAR Teams and BEAR Clients: Great Falls is playing host to Impact! Learning, Sharing & Partnering for High Performance a Conference on Montana Economic Development. For two and a half days, May 4th – 6th, attendees will have the opportunity to learn, network and see first-hand how resources and partners available in every community are used to grow the economy and create jobs.



**Obtain your lodging
by April 10th!**

Economic Development is everyone's job:

- making loans to businesses to buy equipment and create new jobs
- communities setting policies for strategic growth decisions that impact real estate development
- preparing a workforce for growing businesses
- workers buying or building houses
- workforce support – housing, child care, etc.
- communities growing and needing improved infrastructure

everyone is involved and benefits.

MEDA Members and partners are being asked to promote this unique opportunity to hear from:

- Montana Governor Steve Bullock
- Tameka Montgomery, Associate Administrator of the Office of Entrepreneurial Development at the US Small Business Administration
- Ashley Zuelke, Senior Advisor for Export Policy, Promotion and Strategy International Trade Administration, US Department of Commerce
- ADF Group, Calumet Refining and Pasta Montana on how they each used economic development tools to grow
- Barbara Wold, Authority of building business through customer driven strategy and maximizing human assets
- Jeff Finkle, President and CEO of International Economic Development Council

- Della Rucker, expert at helping citizens, businesses, government and nonprofits improve their communities' futures for nearly 20 years
- Workforce Housing resources on what can work for communities

For more details, check out this website: <http://www.medamembers.org/meda/news-&-events/?item=3988>.

Data Highlights for March

- There were 15 BEAR Retention Visits held in March: Eleven in Flathead County and four in Gallatin County.
- Action Items: Park County had a total of four action items with all but one closed. Gallatin County opened 12 action items with 15 closed, and one unable to be closed for a total of 28. Flathead County opened six action items in March.

March Outreach Specialist Visits and Business Updates

The following BEAR Team members completed Business Retention Surveys and/or update reports for the businesses they have contacted.

Chaney Reon Ockert - 4	Mike Jackson - 8	Warren Vaughan - 10
Chris Parson – 2	Katie Weaver – 2	Kiki Huls – 2
Marissa Heggem – 1	Meagan Lannan - 3	Keep reaching out!

Executive Pulse: A bit about Tags

More and more BEAR Team folks are using Tags within Executive Pulse. They are used to “flag” a file, organize a topic, and/or to quickly search and find the information you need. Here is a sample list of tags currently in our ExecutivePulse data system that Outreach Specialists are using: Nonprofit, Safety, Business Plan, Government Contracting, Profit Mastery, Event Planning, Workforce, Fundraising, Back Office, Managing People, Financing, Research, Mediation, Industry Connections, to name a few.

What’s a Startup Weekend?

Here is a great resource to keep in mind for your BEAR clients: Startup Weekend events. They are being held around the state and the next is in Bozeman. Here is a link to the [Butte Startup](#) event so you can see what took place.

All Startup Weekend events follow the same basic model: anyone is welcome to pitch their startup idea and receive feedback from their peers. Teams organically form around the top ideas (as determined by popular vote) and then it’s a 54 hour frenzy of business model creation, coding, designing, and market validation. The weekends culminate with presentations in front of local entrepreneurial leaders with another opportunity for critical feedback.

Whether entrepreneurs found companies, find a cofounder, meet someone new, or learn a skill far outside their usual 9-to-5, everyone is guaranteed to leave the event better prepared to navigate the chaotic but fun world of startups. If you want to put yourself in the shoes of an entrepreneur, register now for the best weekend of your life!

APRIL 17-19 - BOZEMAN, MT

Event date: 4/17/2015 - 4/19/2015 [Export](#)



When:

April 17, 2015 @ 5:30 pm – April 19, 2015 @ 9:00 pm

2015-04-17T17:30:00-06:00

2015-04-19T21:00:00-06:00

Where:

Jake Jabs College of Business Building, Montana State University

Cost:

\$60 for general admission, \$15 for students. All meals + t-shirt included.

Contact:

Ken Fichtler

406-600-3595

[Email](#)

Reminder: Make it your Goal to include non-IWT Businesses in your BEAR Team Visits
BEAR Teams can take advantage of the lull in IWT Grants by focusing on larger businesses in Montana and establishing relationships to determine any expansion or retention needs. Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity!