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It is MEDA's privilege to submit this report for the current contract to 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-17-01 for the month of September 2016.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2016 MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

REGISTER BEFORE OCTOBER 5TH AND SAVE \$\$\$\$ [Agenda & Registration](#)

Plan to attend the MEDA Fall Conference as **the agenda is packed with sessions that will help provide more resources to your BEAR clients. Register as a MEDA Member** and save \$50.



NEW OUTREACH VISITS IN SEPTEMBER

Four BEAR visits were entered in to the database in September with Gallatin County being the sole participant. Warren Vaughan conducted four business visits with the assistance of Angie Frazier on one visit.

IWT UPDATE

Montana Dept. of Labor will likely submit legislation that will remove the SBDC/BEAR/MMEC recommendation step as part of the IWT grant application process. Without the referral from SBDC, MMEC, or BEAR, a business could directly apply to IWT funding from the state. As not all areas are readily served by SBDC, MMEC, or BEAR, this change will allow direct access for an employer to apply for incumbent worker training assistance.

JSEC and BEAR in HAMILTON NOVEMBER 15th

Mike and Gloria have been asked to present during a JSEC meeting, in Hamilton, on November 15th. Save the date and join the meeting if you wish.

OF INTEREST TO YOU OR YOUR BEAR CLIENTS

- Oct 5 – 7: Montana Downtown Conference, hosted by Mainstreet Uptown Butte: <http://www.mainstreetbutte.org>
- Oct 6-7: [Compete Smart/MMEC](#), Fairmont
- Oct 28 – 29: [Governors Food and Ag Summit](#)