



CULTIVATING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS FOR JOB GROWTH

2011 MEDA Fall Conference Summary
Red Lion Hotel and Flathead Valley Community College
October 6th – 7th Kalispell, MT

Hosted by: Montana West Economic Development

Thursday, October 6th

Pre-Conference
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



Made Possible by PPL Montana

Training Topic: Funding your Economic Development Organization

Kellie Danielson, Chair of the MEDA Professional Development Committee, welcomed everyone to the professional development training. Leaders from various Montana economic development organizations shared their expertise on a range of revenue streams that fund their economic development organizations. Thanks to Jim Smitham, Kim Morisaki, Tracy McIntyre and Deb Singer for presenting.



Deb Singer



Professional Development Attendees



Kim Morisaki

MEDA Conference: CULTIVATING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS FOR JOB GROWTH



MEDA officers Larry Mires and Tracy McIntyre (standing) and Kalispell Chapter Montana Ambassadors Jeannie Luckey and Taen Vine.

The MEDA conference began with a luncheon at the Flathead Valley Community College Arts and Tech Building. The Kalispell Chapter of [Montana Ambassadors](#) assisted with registration. Attendees were welcomed by Kalispell Mayor Tammi Fisher and viewed Doing Business in Montana [video clips](#).

Evan Barrett, Chris Aageson, Jim Smitham and Terry Myhre provided an update on the [Montana Site Selector](#) website. The tools on this site help business owners/managers select the best site for doing business in Montana.

Trent Williams and Chris Beacham, [Regional Technology Strategies](#), updated attendees on the Montana Regional Sector Analysis projected funded by EDA and BSTF in partnership with MEDA and Montana BioScience Alliance.

Thanks to support from Marcy Allen, BREDD, MEDA attendees were able to hear two presentations and learn from the expertise of Christine Hamilton-Pennell, [Growing Local Economies](#), Founder and President.

Presentation #1: [Gardening Basics: It's a Philosophy, not Another Program](#)

Presentation #2: [It's More than Databases](#)



Christine Hamilton-Pennell



Thanks to the technology available at Flathead Valley Community College, a video conference was held with Steve Radley, President & CEO, NetWork Kansas – The Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship.

[View Steve's presentation.](#)

Because over 75 MEDA Members completed the Membership Survey, a special ice cream break was forthcoming. Home Made Ice Cream from [Sweet Peaks Ice Cream](#) - Social and Speed Networking.

MEDA 1ST EVER SPEED NETWORKING

Tracy McIntyre facilitated this unique networking event.



[Watch the video!](#)



Next, attendees selected from four tour options. According to the evaluation forms, MEDA Members want more tour options in the future.



Algae Aqua-Culture Technologies – Smart, integrated biosystems creating a green & sustainable system for light industries, communities and local economies.

<http://www.algaeaqua.com/AACT/Welcome.html> Tour host: Tina Oliphant



Nomad Global Communication Systems - Nomad specializes in working with local, state and federal emergency management personnel to design and develop products that meet the mission critical requirements that they demand. <http://www.nomadgcs.com/> Tour host: Brad Salonen



WaveForm International – makes cutting edge technology available to ophthalmologists and optometrists both nationally and internationally from their R&D facility in Kalispell.

<http://www.waveformlenses.com> Tour host: Kim Morisaki



Kalispell EDA Tour: Flathead County Economic Development Authority - Preparing to Meet the Future. This tour demonstrated how Kalispell has used economic development opportunities, built projects and strengthened investment to the community in terms of jobs and a broader tax base.

Tour host: Kellie Danielson and City of Kalispell employees.



Reception and [New Member Orientation](#)
 Enjoying the MEDA evening reception/social pictured left to right: Dave Morey, Dan Lloyd, Nancy Guccione and Debi Davidson. MEDA attendees were greeted by Tagen Vine, Kalispell Chapter, Montana Ambassadors.



CULTIVATING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS FOR JOB GROWTH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7th



MEDA Survey and Strategic Plan
 Following breakfast and messages from Montana’s congressional delegation, Tracy McIntyre reviewed the MEDA Membership Survey responses and how those responses are building the framework for MEDA’s Strategic Plan.
 View Tracy’s presentation and MEDA Membership responses [here](#).

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Several of the breakout presenters are pictured below:
 L to R – Deb Singer, Tracy McIntyre, Mike Strang, Carolyn Jones and Cathy Cooney.



MEDA Members enjoyed the following breakout sessions:

- Economic Gardening for your Energy Related Businesses: MEDA Energy Working Group, Deb Singer, Chair; [Deb’s presentation](#) and [handout](#); Dustin de Yong’s presentation.
- Connecting to Montana’s 2nd Largest Industry: MEDA Tourism and Recreation Working Group, Mike Strang, Chair; [Mike’s and Tracy’s presentation](#); [Victor Bjornberg’s presentation](#)
- All Things New - New Programs: Introduction of new programs available. Joe McClure: SBA; Carolyn Jones: [SSBCI Handout](#)
- Intergenerational Wealth Transfer – [What’s the Big Deal?](#) Cathy Cooney, Montana Community Foundation

AWARDS AND CLOSING

THE ALL-NEW KINDLE 3G

SMALLER, LIGHTER, FASTER,
with 50% BETTER CONTRAST



Free 3G Wireless

Tina Oliphant was the lucky winner of the Kindle drawing. Thanks to PPL Montana for sponsoring the Professional Development Training.

Montana Department of Commerce representatives handed out awards to Certified Development Partners for those who completed Business Resource Division training courses.



President Larry Mires thanked everyone for attending.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:



SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to our 2011 MEDA Fall Conference Agenda Committee – Kellie Danielson, CECD, Chair; Kimberly Morisaki, Andy Poole, Karyl Tobel, Tina Oliphant, Julie Foster, Tracy McIntyre, Larry Mires and Marcy Allen.