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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 April 2017.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR APRIL 2017 MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The BEAR Google Form Database was the recipient of **two BEAR Team visits in April**. Both were from Warren Vaughan and the Bozeman BEAR Team.
- **IWT Update** from Chris Wilhelm:
"Due to the current State of Montana budgetary issues, the Governor's Budget Office has placed certain requirements/restrictions on agencies through the remainder of SFY17. To comply with these requirements, the Department of Labor will need to receive approval for ANY grants or similar expenditures that we award from today through June 30th. This is only a formality, but will cause a slight delay as we acquire the additional approval on awards before I can issue them to applicants." For additional information contact Chris Wilhelm at 406.444.3351 or email iwt@mt.gov

Items of interest to you and your BEAR Clients



May 2-3: [MEDA Spring Conference](#)
May 8-10: [Montana Housing Conference](#)
May 9: MNA [QuickBooks for Nonprofits](#)
May 11: [Foodpreneur Training](#)
May 15-17: [National SBIR Conference](#)
June 27-29 [Tech Tour](#)

[SBDC Training Calendar](#)

[Register for Innovate MT Symposium](#)

[Sponsor Innovate MT Symposium](#)

MARTY BUTTS IN BOZEMAN
A Foodpreneur Training Event
May 11, 2017 | 9 AM - 4 PM
Workshops
Defining the Market for Your Small Scale Food Product
Selling Your Small Scale Food Product
Food System Trends: From Culture to Economy
Small Potatoes is a boutique marketing, advocacy, and consulting firm specializing in small-scale and start-up food product companies seeking to launch and grow their businesses. With more than 10 years of experience, Small Potatoes understands the challenges facing foodpreneurs as well as the intricacies and opportunities in the burgeoning new food economy. Small Potatoes is committed to helping their clients break into the marketplace in a way that is practical, manageable, and sustainable!
Free for all Specialty Crop Producers
\$50.00 for Non-Specialty Crop Producers
Register at: <https://lccdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/367>

Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
2310 University Way Building 2 | Bozeman, MT 59717
For More Info: 406.533.6781

- Watch for it...beginning July 1st, BEAR and SBDC **will no longer serve as a gateway** to IWT Grant access. This will bring changes to the BEAR Program. The MEDA Board is meeting May 2nd and has this topic on its agenda. Stay tuned!
- Interested in reviving, changing up your BEAR Team? Contact the BEAR office (406.563.5259) and check out this website for training events: <http://www.brei.org/upcoming-events.html>

MEDABEARApril2017.doc