MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR AUGUST 2010

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – AT ITS BEST
Did you invite your board members to attend the MEDA Professional Development Training? It is training offered at a great price and would provide an opportunity for your board members to engage in great discussions. Whether you are old or new to economic development, plan to attend the Managing your Economic Development Organization and Strategic Planning Training on August 10th – 11th in Billings. PPL Montana has made it possible for the registration costs to be extremely low, plus you save if you attend both days of the training. Register today!

BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE – GOVERNOR’S FORM
Join Governor Schweitzer, educational innovators and representatives of various Montana business and industry sectors to explore how to attract and retain adults with the credentials to propel Montana’s economy in the 21st century. The forum is August 12th, in Kalispell, at Glacier High School. Registration and full agenda information is available at http://www.medamembers.org/GovernorsForumAdultCredentiaing.pdf The workshop is free but registration is required.

MEDA FALL CONFERENCE
The MEDA Fall Conference Committee (Rick Edwards, Chair) met via conference call recently to begin outlining activities and the agenda for the September 14th and 15th event. The conference will take place immediately following the 2010 Economic Summit to save on travel costs and to continue the momentum created from the summit. The location for the conference will be the Copper King Hotel; a block of rooms has been reserved that include lodging for the summit. A few details still need to be worked out but registration should be available the first week in August. A pasty dinner is planned for Tuesday evening at Our Lady of the Rockies.

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
1. [New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink](http://www.medamembers.org/GovernorsForumAdultCredentiaing.pdf). Check out these great community grant links. Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.

2. Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms program. US Department of Commerce program designed to assist American companies that are impacted by imports and been forced to lay off workers. We offer up to $75,000 in matching federal grants for Montana companies that qualify for our program. Visit website at: www.nwtaac.org or contact Patrick Meuleman at 208.343.6855.

3. The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) is now accepting applications for the 2011 Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program. Offered by the office of the Montana State Forester in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, the Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program offers financial assistance for projects addressing four key areas: improving fire prevention in the interface; reducing hazardous fuels; restoring fire-adapted ecosystems; and, promoting community assistance. A complete summary of the criteria, application, instructions, and watershed priority map is attached to this email. These materials are also available on the Montana DNRC Forestry Division grants.
website at http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/grants.asp. Please read carefully and refer to each of these documents as you prepare your application. Applications are due to nfpgrants@mt.gov by 5pm on August 16th, 2010.

COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

**Scholarship Committee**: MEDA Members have until August 13th to submit Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship applications. The amount available is $3,000; criteria and an application form are available on the MEDA website.

**MEDA BEAR Working Group**: The MEDA BEAR Working Group is in the process of revising the Montana Retention Survey for the BEAR program. A conference call has been set for August 16th at 10:00am to fine-tune the survey. Dial in: 712.432.0175 pin 217279.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU
Interested in sharpening your professional skills as an economic and community development practitioner? Looking for new tools to place in your economic development tool box? Check these out.


3. Did you catch the email that the second scholarship round is now open for MEDA Members? Fill out an application for the MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship. http://www.medamembers.org/members/scholarships.html Username: meda Password: membership09

4. Registration is now open for the Montana Nonprofit Association Conference, September 27 – 29, in Helena.

5. Updated BSTF Website: We now have a new website address for the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program. You can access an overview of the program with detailed guidelines, up-to-date application materials for the Category (I) Economic Development and (II) Planning Grants, and a summary of our 2010 funded projects by going to: http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF/default.mcpx

**MONTANA BEAR Report** Learn what is new in your region with the statewide Montana BEAR Program’s monthly report.

View the July 2010 report and catch up on the latest BEAR Team news. There were 16 business visits held in July in the following counties:

- Cascade County - 1
- Park County - 2
- Yellowstone County - 6
- Granite County - 1
- Ravalli County - 3
- Butte/Silver Bow County – 2
- Stillwater County - 1

**CEIC**

**Turning Data Into Knowledge**

**Nonemployer Data Recently Released**
The Nonemployer Statistics report for 2008 was recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau. To access detailed Montana data, go to CEIC’s web site at http://ceic.mt.gov/nonEmployer.asp. There you will find a map of Montana highlighting the number of nonemployer establishments per county and a table showing the number of firms and

The Nonemployer series shows the number of businesses with no paid employees, typically involving a very small operation, which may or may not be the owner's sole source of income. The data for this series comes from business tax forms filed with the Internal Revenue Service; there is no sampling error as no survey data are collected.

For more information on CEIC, visit http://ceic.mt.gov

**My Turn: Family**

I don't know if it is the same for all professions, but it seems that in our economic development circle in Montana we are like family. We look forward to seeing each other, stay connected, hope the best for each other and help each other out whenever we can. Serving as the Director for Montana Department of Commerce, Tony Preite was a key leader of our Montana economic development family. No doubt, along with me you wish Tony all of the very best as he takes on new adventures - some of which will surely involve economic development in Montana. And in the same vein, we all welcome a new leader, Dore Schwinden, to Montana's economic development family. Welcome to MEDA, Dore.

*Do you have a Success Story to share? [Download the report template](http://ceic.mt.gov) and send to MEDA.*