MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2009

- MEDA Scholarships
- Grant and Funding Opportunities
- Committee and Working Groups Update
- Opportunities For You
- Montana BEAR Report
- What the Numbers Say
- Census 2010 Update
- My Turn - Door is Always Open

$L1,000 MEDA Rick Jones Memorial SCHOLARSHIP WINNER
Carolyn Keller is the winner of the Fall/Winter MEDA Scholarship round. Carolyn, of Montana Business Assistance Connection, will be traveling to Alexandria, VA to take the IEDC certification exam. Congratulations, Carolyn!

Grant and Funding Opportunities
1. **New Community Friendly Grants** [Extension Community Resources Program weblink](http://www.extension.org) 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. Montana State University’s College of Business (CoB) is seeking local and regional businesses as well as not-for-profit organizations, willing to offer management students practical business experience during the upcoming spring semester in return for research, issue analysis or operational advice. For more information, call MSU at 994-7017 or email gbishop@montana.edu

Committee and Working Groups

**Professional Development Committee.** This committee met twice in November via conference call; minutes are available in the Members Area at [http://www.medamembers.org](http://www.medamembers.org). The committee plans to focus on the following three areas in the weeks ahead:

1. Annual economic development presentations to MACo, League of Cities and Towns, local and regional leadership.
2. EDO management course – stand alone course, separate from a MEDA conference.
   a. Board relationships ½ day  
   b. Marketing your organization ½ day  
   c. Funding your EDO ½  
   d. Strategic planning – a separate course.
3. Annually - Arrange with state and federal agencies either for spring or fall conference; add on a day for learning about state and federal programs.

Committee members include: Brett Doney (Chair), Kellie Danielson (Vice Chair), Lisa Perry, Gloria O’Rourke, Steve Arveschoug, Linda Twitchell and Tracy McIntyre.

**Scholarship Committee.**
Anne Boothe, Chair of the Scholarship Committee reported the committee will open the next round in January and hope to see a better response.

**Web Page Expertise Database:** VauthierFerguson Design has completed the MEDA Membership search and expertise database. Only 100 of MEDA’s 242 membership have taken advantage of this service thus far. The database tool was advertised in the Montana Associated Technology Roundtables, on the Montana Partners Listserv and in the Montana World Trade Center newsletter with the result of four new members for MEDA. The link for the database is [http://www.medamembers.org/directory2.php](http://www.medamembers.org/directory2.php) and may be searched by name, by area of expertise or by CRDC region.

First ever holiday lighting of the Fairview Bridge.

Linda Beck, founder of the BEAR program in Montana, was recently honored in Billings.
**Legislative Committee:** The MEDA Legislative Committee solicited proposals from MEDA’s membership to begin the framework for MEDA’s 2011 Legislative Agenda. The Committee will meet via conference call on December 1st to review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board. The interim committee is: Evan Barrett, Paul Tuss, Tracy McIntyre, Andy Poole, Larry Mires, Rick Edwards, Brett Doney, Terry Myhre, Kellie Danielson, Kathie Bailey and Steve Arveschoug.

**What happened to your Working Group?:** Go to MEDA’s LinkedIn page and re-start your group’s discussion.

**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.

**Grant Workshop:** The community development specialists at Big Sky Economic Development Authority will present a free introductory workshop about the grant-seeking process on Wednesday, December 9th, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the Big Sky EDA conference center located on the first floor of Granite Tower, 222 North 32nd Street in downtown Billings. To learn more about the resources available at Big Sky EDA visit www.bigskyeda-edc.org.

**Business Luncheon:** The Montana World Trade Center and World Affairs Council of Montana invite you to join us for a complimentary Business Luncheon Featuring: Donald Tong, Hong Kong Commissioner of Economic and Trade Affairs to the US Government “Turning Economic Doldrums into Opportunities” Thursday, December 10th, 2009; Doubletree Edgewater, 100 Madison ~ 11:30 – 1:00 pm. Seating is Limited. Please RSVP By Monday, Dec. 8 Montana World Trade Center 243.6982 or mwtc@mwtc.org or World Affairs Council 728-3328 or wacworldquest@gmail.com

**Profit 101:** The Montana Business Assistance Connection (MBAC) has partnered with MMEC to present a Profit 101 Workshop in Helena, MT on December 9th from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Montana Department of Commerce Building (301 South Park Building – Rooms 226 & 228). This session is primarily for economic development groups in an effort to gauge potential partnerships on this growth services program (called Winning Ways), but if you have a business who is interested they are certainly welcome to attend. There is NO COST for this workshop, but registration is required. To register go to the following link and find the Helena – December 9th session to register: http://profit101training.com

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

Report Highlights: IWT Training is set for Thursday, December 3rd at 9:00am. View the report for all the details!

There were nine business visits in November – Yellowstone County 3, Stillwater County 1, Fergus County 1, Ravalli County 3, and Cascade County 1. BEAR Teams are encouraged to push BEAR interviews to identify businesses that qualify for IWT funds.

**WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY**

Federal funding comes in many different categories from wages and salaries for federal workers to social security payments to retired Montanans. In 2008 Montana received $8.8 billion in direct federal expenditures or obligations with an additional $68.3 million in direct loans, $1.1 billion in guaranteed/insured loans and $1.8 billion in insurance for a grand total of $12.4 billion of federal funding. To see the per capita federal direct expenditures by county, see CEIC’s web site at http://ceic.mt.gov/cbep.asp and click on CFFR Map.

**CENSUS 2010 NEWS**

CEIC staff and subcommittee members continue to spread the message of Montana Is Counting on You to all corners of the state. For updates on what each subcommittee is doing, go to http://ceic.mt.gov/2010_Web/ccc_sub_2.asp. Our outreach efforts are also being mapped, see http://ceic.mt.gov/2010_Web/pdfs/EventsMap2010.pdf. Please contact the CEIC staff if you have an event you’d
like us to attend or need Census 2010 information. To contact CEIC staff go to http://ceic.mt.gov/2010_Web/contact.asp.

**My Turn: The Door is Always Open**

It is getting to be that time of year again – time to mail membership invoices. I feel that part of my job is to know what your issues are and what you expect from your MEDA Membership. Lately, several opportunities have been provided to MEDA Members that have received little response: scholarships, searchable database to showcase your expertise, a legislative proposal opportunity and discussion groups on LinkedIn and Facebook. Perhaps I am missing the boat on what our membership most needs; thus, please know that the MEDA Office door is always open. I would very much like to hear from you on what would most be utilized and appreciated from your MEDA membership. Thanks for taking the time. Cell: 490.0462 Email gloria@medamembers.org

*Do you have a Success Story to share? [Download the report template](#) and send to MEDA.*