MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2010

- MEDA Scholarship Applications due Feb 26th
- Grant and Funding Opportunities
- Committee and Working Groups Update
- Opportunities For You
- Montana BEAR Report
- Census 2010 Update
- What the Numbers Say
- My Turn: Thinking Spring Conference

MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS – APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE
The first round of MEDA’s scholarship competition for 2010 is now open. Visit our Members Only Link, click on Scholarships and fill out the application form. The deadline is February 26th with a total of $5,000 available.

Grant and Funding Opportunities
1. New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink 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. Volunteer Community Improvement Projects
   Home Depot Building Healthy Communities Grant Program
   The Home Depot Building Healthy Communities Grant Program provides support to nonprofit organizations, public schools, and public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their communities. Grants support community improvement projects that include activities such as building, rebuilding, painting, or refurbishing; increasing energy efficiency or sustainability; landscaping or planting of native trees; community facility improvements; and the development and/or improvement of green spaces. Grants of up to $2,500 are made in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools or materials. The application deadlines for 2010 are March 1, July 1, and November 1. Visit the Home Depot website to take the eligibility test and submit an online application.

3. The TSEP Application Guidelines are finally available; these are still a draft at this point. You can find them on the TSEP web site by going to: http://comdev.mt.gov/CDD_TSEP_Grants.asp. Also on the web site, is a letter that summarizes all of the proposed changes and provides information about a hearing on February 4, 2010 regarding the proposed adoption of the guidelines.


Committee and Working Groups

Professional Development Committee Planning will begin in February to organize the pre-conference on June 9th. The focus will be on federal and state programs to enable those involved in economic development to receive a refresher course on available programs. Following the presentations, a time will be set aside for program representatives to discuss specific projects with attendees. Committee members include Brett Doney (Chair), Kellie Danielson (Vice Chair), Lisa Perry, Gloria O’Rourke, Steve Arveschoug, Linda Twitchell and Tracy McIntyre.
MEDA Members Expertise Database: Over 100 of MEDA’s 229 membership have taken advantage of this feature on MEDA’s website thus far. Just click on the Find Other Members button on the bottom of each page to access the data. If you have not yet entered your expertise information, visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/62WTJDB

Legislative Committee: Rick Edwards reported on the Interim Legislative Committee’s progress at the January 14th MEDA Board Meeting. The committee has reviewed and discussed 11 proposals and added other issues that were not submitted in the formal proposal process. Board members added to the list and made suggestions on the topics. 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 or MEDA’s Facebook Page and restart your group’s discussion. Need help getting started with LinkedIn or Facebook? Email MEDA.

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.

1. **Save the Date:**
   “The ‘Next’ Economy: A Statewide Public Discussion on Jobs and Innovation”
   Monday and Tuesday, April 5 & 6; The Grantree Inn, Bozeman, MT
   More information coming soon. Registration is open, at http://www.wheelercenter.org

2. The Montana World Trade Center will hold a luncheon training seminar titled “Double Your Trade Show Results — Guaranteed”. The event is part of the International Business Seminar Series sponsored by the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and the Small Business Administration. Barry Siskind, an internationally recognized industry expert, will be the keynote speaker and will share the secrets of trade show success. The event is from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, at MonTech, 1121 Broadway in Missoula. The cost is $25 for MWTC members/affiliates and $35 for nonmembers, and lunch will be provided. To register contact the Montana World Trade Center at 406.243.6982 or email seminar@mwtc.org.

3. **Joint Webinar Series:** The Heartland Center for Leadership Development in collaboration with the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship is pleased to announce a new webinar series with the theme Strategies for Community Prosperity. The five-part webinar series will begin in January and conclude in May with the following schedule and topics:
   - February 18, 2010  Entrepreneurial Coaching--From Crisis to Economic Growth
   - March 18, 2010  Plowing New Ground--Refreshed Leadership Development for Revitalized Economies
   - April 15, 2010  Energized Youth--Energized Communities
   - May 20, 2010  People Count--Rebuilding Rural Communities with People Attraction Strategies

   Each webinar is will start at 12:00 p.m. (Central) and end at 1:00 p.m. The training team includes Milan Wall and Kurt Mantonya from the Heartland Center and Don Macke and Craig Schroeder from the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. The cost of each webinar is $59.99.

   For more details and registration information about this exciting webinar series, please visit the Heartland Center's webinar page at http://www.heartlandcenter.info/webinar_reg/

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

View the January 2010 report as well as the 2009 Annual Report. There were seven business visits in January, held in the following counties: Yellowstone – 1, Stillwater – 1, Carbon – 1, Missoula – 1, Flathead – 1, Lake – 1, Lincoln – 1, Silver Bow – 1.
The US Census Bureau is gearing up for the Census 2010 count. Watch for their ad during the Super Bowl. Record your own Public Service Announcement about the importance and benefits of the Census to your community by calling 720-533-4230. If you designate a radio station, the Census will do all the production and send it to the station. Look for the Census Road tour. On February 12, 2010, the *Portrait of America* Road Tour will be at the Capitol Building in Helena from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. At the event, participants can learn about the 2010 Census and the positive impact of their participation can have on their local community and the nation. Check CEIC’s Census 2010 web site [http://ceic.mt.gov/2010_Web/index.asp](http://ceic.mt.gov/2010_Web/index.asp) for updates.

### WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY
Montana's population grew 0.7% between 2008 and 2009, ranking the state 29 out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Montana’s revised 2008 population estimate was 968,025. By July 1, 2009, 6,954 additional people had made the Treasure State their home. Population changes are due to births and deaths plus in-migration and out-migration. These components of change will be published by the US Census Bureau in late 2010. Percentage-wise, Wyoming grew the fastest at 2.1% while Michigan experience the largest percentage loss of -0.3%. Check CEIC’s website for the latest numbers: [www.ceic.mt.gov](http://www.ceic.mt.gov).

**My Turn:** Before I get into the spring conference update, let me thank each of you who have already paid your 2010 dues. About 1/3 of our membership is all set and paid up for 2010...thank you! Regarding the MEDA Spring Conference, not one but two conference calls were held in January to get plans rolling for the June 9 – 11<sup>th</sup> event in Miles City. The Agenda Committee reviewed the evaluation summary from the Libby conference and is making plans based on MEDA member’s suggestions. The committee is close to announcing a theme and is already working on sponsors. Eastern Montana and the community of Miles City are gearing up to be amazing hosts.

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