MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR JANUARY 2010

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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: 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. The Department of Environmental Quality will be announcing the opening of its second call for proposals for fiscal year 2010 Mini-Grants during the first week of January. The $1500 Mini-Grants assist local groups with education projects that are focused on nonpoint source pollution and water quality issues. Contact Kristy Zhinin at 406.444.7425 for additional information.

3. The 2010 HOME Competitive Application Guidelines are now available at: http://housing.mt.gov/Hous_HM_Apps.asp or by contacting the HOME program at 841-2820. The application deadline will be Friday, February 12, 2010.

Committee and Working Groups

Professional Development Committee: This committee received support from the MEDA Board to proceed with the following:

- A spring course on managing economic development organizations which will be taught with mostly in state instructors. Board relationships ½ day
- Marketing your organization ½ day
- Funding your EDO ½ day
- Strategic planning – a separate course.

- A traveling road show presentation members can use in their own communities to educate stakeholders, legislators, etc., on just what is economic development today. MEDA Members will be asked for samples of presentations they already use; the presentation will allow for local data and issues to be added.

- In depth training on economic development programs the day before the MEDA conference. This may be a half day event held once per year; presenters would host resource tables for face-to-face discussions on various programs and the application process.

Brett Doney, Chair, committed to have both the management course and the presentation completed for the spring conference. In addition to Brett, committee members include Kellie Danielson (Vice Chair), Lisa Perry, Steve Arveschoug, Linda Twitchell and Tracy McIntyre.

MEDA Members Expertise Database: Over 100 of MEDA’s 249 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: This committee last met on December 1st to review legislative agenda proposals from MEDA's membership. The committee reviewed and discussed 11 proposals and added other issues that were not submitted in the formal proposal process. Rick Edwards, Co-Chair, reported that the committee reviewed each issue and considered: 1. Is this an issue MEDA would take the lead?, 2. Is this an issue MEDA would support and 3. Is this an issue MEDA would oppose?

Next steps for the committee are to answer some of the questions that arose, reach out to other partners such as MACo, Montana Chamber and MT League of Cities and Towns, and hold a face to face meeting in mid-January to discuss the issues. 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.

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:

- January 21, 2010 Rural Communities Can Thrive in the 21st Century
- 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 but if you purchase the entire webinar series at one time, the cost is $250.00, a savings of $49.95.

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 December 2009 report. There were nineteen business visits in December, held in the following counties: Yellowstone – 4, Stillwater – 1, Carbon – 1, Missoula – 1, Ravalli – 1, Broadwater – 1, Lewis and Clark – 1, Gallatin – 1, Silver Bow – 8. Andy Zdinak led the way with seven visits. BEAR Teams are encouraged to push BEAR interviews to identify businesses that qualify for IWT funds.

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: Dues are due! In order to save on paper, copy costs and postage, MEDA will be emailing dues invoices this year. Please be watching for an emailed letter from President Jim Davison. While the benefits of MEDA membership are obvious, it is your participation as an individual that makes MEDA such a tremendous organization. Thank you for your participation and support.

Do you have a Success Story to share? Download the report template and send to MEDA.