MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2009

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MEDA Scholarships Return
After careful review of the MEDA Training Survey, the MEDA Board, Scholarship Committee and Professional Development Committee are once again offering Rick Jones Memorial Scholarships for MEDA Members. As the four core IEDC courses have been completed and interest is very broad for the elective course topics, it was decided the best option would be to offer scholarships to assist members in obtaining training. Please review the criteria and application forms; the deadline for submission is October 30th. Visit: http://www.medamembers.org/members/scholarships.html Remember, the username is meda and the password is membership09 to access the "members only" section.

MEDA Membership Update
MEDA received one new member in September: Carol Cunningham, Lake County Community Development. Welcome back, Carol. MEDA Membership now stands at 242. Print MEDA Membership Directory.

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. The Montana Historic Preservation Competitive Grant Program is now accepting applications. This involves $3.6 million in federal stimulus money available for historic preservation projects across Montana. Get the important historic facilities in your community into the running for these funds. The deadline to submit applications is November, 16th, 2009. For more information on the Historic Preservation Competitive Grant Program, or to apply for funds, visit http://recovery.mt.gov/commerce/hpg/default.mcpf, or call 406-841-2776.

Committee and Working Groups
**MEDA Web Committee:** While the work of this committee is complete, the behind-the-scenes work by Vauthier Ferguson Design continues. MEDA members responded well to the expertise survey that will provide the information for the searchable database. The search feature should be in place by the middle of October. Members Only Area username: meda; password: membership09.

**Professional Development Committee.** This committee met via conference call on September 25th and has identified multiple action items that will be of great benefit to MEDA Members: build Montana’s own economic development training course based on the survey results and assemble a second training for stakeholders, new board members, etc., for use by members when new board members enlist. If you have examples of training courses provided by other states to their economic development professionals, please share them with Gloria. Committee members include: Brett Doney (Chair), Kellie Danielson (Vice Chair), Lisa Perry, Gloria O’Rourke, Steve Arveschoug, Linda Twitchell and Tracy McIntyre.

Opportunities For You
MEDA Members get ready for the Troy Mine Tour. See all the conference photos and download presentations.
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.

- **IEDC Annual Conference** October 4 – 7; [http://www.iedconline.org/AnnualConference/index.html](http://www.iedconline.org/AnnualConference/index.html)

- The Montana Small Business Development Center Network along with Bresnan Communications is planning a statewide conference, **Invest in Success**, for Wednesday, October 14th in Great Falls. There will be 25 Breakout Sessions and many opportunities to network with other businesses. You will also meet the ten SBDC Directors from around the state. Topics of interest in the Breakout Sessions are: Survival in a Down Economy, Branding, Retail Marketing, Advertising, Strategic Growth, Exit Planning, Inventory Reductions, Cash Flow Analysis, E-Commerce, Websites and more. Plan to attend and register early! [Register](#)

- For a comprehensive listing of events taking place in the state and the region, visit [Montana Associated Technology Roundtables website](#). Russ Fletcher maintains this invaluable calendar and website that benefits so many.

- Montana Technology Innovation Partnership is holding a workshop titled **LICENSING YOUR INNOVATION**: Developing the Knowledge and Skills to Net the Best Deal. Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to build licensable value and engage in the licensing process. The workshop will be held November 5th, 9:00am – 4:00pm, in Butte. Full details are available when you [register](#).

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

Highlights:  Two trainings were held via conference call for the Helena BEAR Team; two meetings were held regarding the proposed rules for the IWT funds rollout; MEDA BEAR Working Group Conference call held; handout ready for the IEDC presentation in Reno, October 5th.  View the [report](#) for all the details!

There were 11 business visits in September – Yellowstone County 5, Stillwater County 1, Lewis and Clark County 1, Lincoln County 1 and Ravalli County 3.

**My Turn – Linda Beck and What One Person Can do**

I was dismayed to hear that Linda Beck, Big Sky EDA, will be retiring the end of October. Linda is better known to me by the name “Mama BEAR” – as she played a key role in providing expansion and retention assistance to businesses all across the state. Linda has been a faithful mentor and friend to many of us working with the BEAR Program and will be incredibly missed. In thinking of all that Linda has accomplished, I can’t help but remember an old John Denver song titled “What One Man Can Do” – the lyrics say one man can change the world. Thank you, Linda, for being a woman that changed our world…right here in Montana.

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