



- Nov 1: MT/ID CDC [New Market Tax Credits Workshop](#)
- Nov 2: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
- Nov 2: Kalispell – [Becoming China Ready](#) MDOC
- Nov 2: Billings – [MTIP Innovation Training](#)
- Nov 3: Missoula – [Becoming China Ready](#) MDOC
- Nov 3: Lame Deer – [MTIP Innovation Training](#)
- Nov 10: MEDA Resource Team Working Group 9am
- Nov 10: [Small Biz Gov't Contracts](#) – Bozeman
- Nov 10: MEDA/ Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship Deadline
- Nov 15: MEDA RLF Working Group 10am
- Nov 15: MWTC [Kickoff of TechEx Export Initiative](#)
- Nov 17: [Leadership Mentoring Series](#) – Prospera
- Nov 19: [Brawl of the Wild](#)
- Nov 30: MDOC/MEDA Opportunity Call 10:30am
- Nov 30: [Sen. Tester Montennial Webinar](#)

### MEDA Fall Conference Highlights and Presentations



*If you had to miss it, enjoy the photos and review the presentations from the [MEDA Fall Conference](#).*

**Evaluation Summary:**

- More training type of presentations
- More interactive sessions
- Bring back the tours
- Keep up the great work!

## MEDA 2016 AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Kathie Bailey, MEDA Awards Committee Chair, worked with a Review Committee to determine this year's winning innovative partnerships and economic development champion.



Above Left: Great Falls Development Authority and its work with ADF; Center: Big Sky Economic Development Authority and the program BillingsWorks. Above Right: Gloria O'Rourke, MEDA's Coordinator, received the Anthony J. Preite Champion Award

## OPPORTUNITY CALL –

### Next one is November 30, 10:30am

Thanks to our partners at Montana Dept. of Commerce, MEDA Members have a great opportunity to learn of program updates and dig deeper into featured programs during each call. In October, participants learned of Montana's bed tax, efforts to expand air service in Montana, and information on a bonding tool from Montana Facility Finance Authority. Check out the other program updates and MEDA news by reading the [meeting notes](#).



## MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– If you work with Revolving Loan Funds you will want to participate in this working group as participants discuss, learn and share their day-to-day tasks with RLFs. The next meeting is set for November 15th at 10:00am. [notes](#)
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group will meet again on November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9am to continue to fine-tune Montana’s Resource Team process. [Notes from the September 8<sup>th</sup> call.](#) Learn more about MEDA’s assessments [here](#).

## MEDA RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENTS

The Seeley Lake Resource Team is planning to return for the second Town Hall meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. At this time the community will identify projects, prioritize them and form working groups to accomplish the tasks. The Ft. Benton Resource Team is set for December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Chinook is still planning on holding an assessment; a tentative date has been set for February 28 – March 1<sup>st</sup> for Philipsburg. Seeley Lake Team [Report.](#)

## MEDA COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **MEDA Membership Committee** – If you look closely at Jenni Graff’s badge (pictured right) you will see a star attached to it. The star indicates she is a new MEDA member. Stars were also placed on badges for those who were attending a MEDA conference for the first time. This idea is one of many that is being generated by the MEDA Membership Committee which strives to make MEDA the best it can be. [Meeting Notes](#)
- **MEDA Legislative Committee** – Members of the MEDA Legislative Committee met in Billings, on October 20<sup>th</sup>, to meet with Senator Llew Jones about the upcoming Legislative Session. Senator Jones indicated funds are going to be very tight; those present shared the need for funding for the so called “2019” programs. All MEDA members are encouraged to reach out to their area legislators and inform them of the value of Montana’s key economic development tools and programs.



## MEDA BOARD UPDATE



The MEDA Board met Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the MEDA Fall Conference. Steve Arveschoug was elected to serve as MEDA’s Vice President and welcomed Jerry Meerkatz, Montana West Economic Development, to the Board.

## MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Fourth Quarter round is now open with the deadline of November 10<sup>th</sup>. [Criteria and Application](#) Submit your application today; three applications were received in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter with all being awarded \$825: Jen Kreiner, Adam Vauthier, and Gypsy Ray.



## Highlights for October 2016

### NEW OUTREACH VISITS IN OCTOBER

Fourteen BEAR visits were entered in the BEAR database in October:

- Butte/Silver Bow County – 3; Pam Haxby-Cote
- Bozeman/Gallatin County - 8; Warren Vaughan
- Helena/Lewis and Clark County – 2; Dave Laber
- Glendive/Dawson County – 1; Amy Deines and Shannon Kadrmas

### JSEC and BEAR in HAMILTON NOVEMBER 15th

Mike and Gloria have been asked to present during a JSEC meeting, in Hamilton, on November 15th. BEAR topics will include the importance of business expansion and retention outreach, various BEAR models around the state, and the mechanics of BEAR.

### IWT UPDATE

Montana Dept. of Labor will likely submit legislation that will remove the SBDC/BEAR/MMEC recommendation step as part of the IWT grant application process. Without the referral from SBDC, MMEC, or BEAR, a business could directly apply to IWT funding from the state. As not all areas are readily served by SBDC, MMEC, or BEAR, this change will allow direct access for an employer to apply for incumbent worker training assistance.

### GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- [Check these out! New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink.](#) Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.
- **GRANTSTATION:** [Click here to read the entire newsletter](#) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email [MEDA](#) for the username and password.
- The Housing Trust Fund Program (HTF) is an affordable housing production program that will complement existing federal, State, and local efforts to increase the supply of decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing for extremely low income (ELI) households, including special needs households, homeless households, and those at risk of homelessness. Beginning in 2016, the State of Montana will receive and administer an annual allocation of federal funds from HUD for HTF grants and conduct program administration through the Montana Department of Commerce (Commerce). The HTF program will help qualified sub-recipients direct funds for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable rental housing for ELI families.  
<http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/HTF>
- The Forest Service has announced a **Request for Proposals for the 2017 Wood Innovation Grants**. USFS is seeking proposals that substantially expand and accelerate wood energy and wood products markets throughout the United States to support forest management needs on National Forest System and other forest lands. The maximum for each award is generally \$250,000. The Forest Service plans to award approximately \$7 million under this announcement. **Full details available at** <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/wip/2017-rfp.shtm>

**TOOLS FOR YOU** –Opportunities to learn or share in your area of expertise

- Announcing the Intro Brownfields Finance WebCourse**  
*Early Bird Rates Expire November 18, 2016* The [Intro Brownfields Finance WebCourse](#) is the industry’s only comprehensive training curriculum that helps economic developers, policy makers and real estate professionals understand and master the financing strategies for the lifecycle of a brownfield property. During this course, attendees will walk through the entire brownfields redevelopment process from understanding the basics of brownfields and legal and regulatory challenges to unearthing the myriad financing tools available to both clean-up and build-up these contaminated or polluted sites. [Register](#)
- The MDOC/Community Development Division** is pleased to announce the newly updated Consultants Directory, now available on the CDD [website](#). The Consultants Directory is a non-exclusive compilation of firms and organizations that offer professional services with expertise in fields such as planning, engineering, architecture, and other forms of technical assistance. This resource was developed to provide general information about available professional services to assist local governments, communities, schools, and the public when financing and managing community projects. If your firm or organization would like to be included in the Consultants Directory, please send a request to [DOCCDD@mt.gov](mailto:DOCCDD@mt.gov), and our staff will assist with adding your organization or firm to the Consultants Directory.
- The Road to Economic Development Marketing Reinvention:** How Digital Methodology is Shaping the Industry. Download the whitepaper [here](#). (Thanks to Sean for sharing this information.)

**Thanks for joining us in Polson, at the MEDA Fall Conference!**

