September

and looking toward October...

Sept 6: Deadline for your MEDA Awards!
Sept 6: Train The Trainer Export & FundMatch
Sept 7: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am*
Sept 8: RTA Working Group Call
Sept 9: AgriTech Park Grand Opening, Great Falls
Sept 11 – 12: Market MT Symposium, Missoula
Sept 14 – 16: Co-Op Housing @ Fairmont
Sept 14 – 15: Data User’s Workshop
Sept 19 – 20: Seeley Lake Resource Team
Sept 20: RLF Working Group Call
Sept 20-21: Workforce Symposium, Butte
Sept 22: HiLine Technology Roundup, Malta
Sept 22: MEDA Membership Committee Call
Sept 22-23: Leadership MT Conference, Butte
Sept 25-28: IEDC Conference
Sept 28: Opportunity Call 10:30am
*each Wednesday at 7am

Oct 5 – 7: MT Main Street Conference, Butte
Oct 6-7: Compete Smart/MMEC
Oct 12: Branding/Tourism Workshop – Ronan
Oct 12-14 MEDA Fall Conference

Here’s why you can’t miss MARKET MONTANA:

- Explore marketing ideas and successes from around the state
- Discuss with your peers how to leverage the essence of Montana to add value to your product
- Share insights on Montana’s brand and competitive advantage moving into the future
- Panel sessions and speakers such as Governor Bullock, Erin Francis-Cummings from Destination Analysts, author Liz Carlisle (“Lentil Underground”) and branding visionary David Placek (Lexicon Branding)
- 10 Solution Lounges with a range of topics from Exports, Social Media, International Marketing, Made in Montana, Ag/Food Marketing, Indian Country Tourism and Marketing, and many more!
- $50 registration fee which includes Reception on Sunday evening, breakfast, lunch snacks and conference on Monday. Great Swag!
- Feastival event on the Oval after the conference which highlights and celebrates the success of the UM Farm to College Program and live music

MEDA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE – Deadline is September 6th

Now is the time to shine the spotlight on your innovative project and/or to acknowledge someone you feel deserves to be named the Tony Preite Champion of Economic Development.

More Information
OPPORTUNITY CALL – Next one is September 28th, 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 August, participants learned of fast-approaching program deadlines and activities involving our CRDCs, EDDs, and EDOs. Check out the other program updates and 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 September 20th at 10:00am. [notes]

- **CRDC/EDD Working Group** – The CRDC/EDD summer meeting was held in Butte in conjunction with EDA Peer Reviews, August 17 – 18. NorthWestern Energy was the location host. Multiple issues were discussed relating to regional economic development. Some best practices mentioned:
  - Personally know your board members, know their strengths and areas of interest, i.e., fundraising, board recruitment, program promoter, etc.
  - Utilize self-evaluation form (MNA) for board members
  - Youth (and others) need to be engaged three times before there is board buy-in
  - Hold board meetings at business locations; have a tour after the meeting.
  - Consider holding board meetings at noon at times and other times in the evening.
  - Consider car ownership by the entity but be sure there is liability insurance and replacement costs built in to the budget.

- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group will meet again on September 8th, at 9am to continue to fine-tune Montana’s Resource Team process. Next Resource Team Assessment: Seeley Lake, September 19 – 20. The Seeley Lake Resource Team includes: Jim Smitham, Debi Davidson, Jenni Graff, Eliud Uresti, Richard Knatterud, Lyle Coney, and Gloria O’Rourke. Thanks to the support of the MEDA Resource Team Working Group as well as experienced team members, 12 letters of support were submitted for the three-state grant to study and implement changes in community assessments. Learn more about MEDA’s assessments here.

**MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**
The Fourth Quarter round is now open with the deadline of November 10th. [Criteria and Application] Submit your application today; three applications were received in the 3rd Quarter with all being awarded $825: Jen Kreiner, Adam Vauthier, and Gypsy Ray.
MEDA BOARD MEETING – AND HISTORIC LUNCHEON
The MEDA Board meet August 11th to review the business of MEDA. In addition, the first joint meeting of the MEDA Board was held with the Montana Ambassador Board. Several action items resulted from the meeting including the creation of an MOU outlining areas of collaboration, working together on the next Innovation Summit with GOED, and creating a Communications Committee to improve networking between the two groups.

CHECKOUT THE MONTANA DATA USER’S CONFERENCE

SPECIAL INVITATION TO MEET WITH GOVERNOR BULLOCK
MEDA’s leadership received an invitation to join Governor Bullock in a special meeting to discuss economic development issues and the coming Legislative session. The meeting was very beneficial with great discussion.

LtoR: Gloria O’Rourke, Meg O’Leary, Steve Anveschoug, Sarah Converse, Kathie Bailey, Stephanie Ray, Governor Bullock, Paul Tuss, Jason Rittal, James Grunke, Jim Davison, Pam Haxby-Cote, Sean Becker, and John Rogers.
MEDA COMMITTEE UPDATES

MEDA Membership Committee – Chris Cerquone, Chair, held a meeting August 30th to address areas and issues of making MEDA the best it can be for its members. The next meeting is set for September 22nd at 9am. Any MEDA Member is welcome to join the call. Meeting Notes. Committee members in addition to Chris include: Alyssa Townsend, Eric Seidensticker, Marie Mahugh, Roger Hopkins, Julie Foster, and Russ Fletcher.

MEDA Legislative Committee – Rick Edwards, Chair, held a conference call the morning of August 2nd with this committee to continue work on MEDA’s Legislative Strategy. One outcome is that a digital map is being created to easily identify projects that resulted from the use of key economic development programs. Weekly 7:00am calls will begin for this committee on September 7th.

Highlights for August 2016

FOURTEEN BEAR VISITS IN AUGUST
Fourteen BEAR visits were entered into the database in August with seven counties represented.

August Outreach Specialists participating:

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<th>Shannon Kadmas - 1</th>
<th>Meagan Lannan - 2</th>
<th>Warren Vaughan - 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin Rutten - 1</td>
<td>Chany Ockert - 1</td>
<td>Cathy Kirkpatrick - 1</td>
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<td>Christine Whitlatch - 1</td>
<td>Amy Deines - 1</td>
<td>Lynn Lagerquist - 1</td>
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<td>Kristopher Schock – 1</td>
<td>Carol Cunningham – 1</td>
<td>Gloria O'Rourke - 1</td>
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County Counts: Lake – 1; Wheatland – 1; Flathead – 1; Park – 2; Gallatin – 6; Deer Lodge – 1; Dawson – 2
Full Report

OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS 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.

- Registration Now Open for the 2016 Annual Training Conference in San Antonio
  Are you ready to take a stand for regional development? Join your peers from around the country for the 2016 NADO Annual Training Conference (ATC) in San Antonio on October 15 – 18. Click here to register!

  Success Story:
  - Learn about MMEC - Montana State University’s Montana Manufacturing Extension Center provides the state of Montana with an 8-1 return on investment, based on $250,000 the state invested in 2014, according to a recent study by the University of Montana’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

- 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.

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