CONFERENCE SUMMARY: PRESENTATION FILES AND PHOTOS
Thank you for participating and making the conference a success!

Tuesday, May 6th  Pre-Conference Training

USDA Rural Development Winning Applications Training: Tony Preite, State Director, USDA/RD MT, introduced Program Directors who presented a comprehensive guide to assist in preparing a winning application. [Presentation Slides]

Professional Development - Business Model Canvas. The business model canvas is a tool used by EDO staff, entrepreneurs and businesses when evaluating an idea for a business or a new strategy. Presenters Kellie Danielson and Jessica Rogers, Montana West Economic Development did an outstanding job instructing this hands-on process. [Canvas Presentation]

Center: New MEDA Member Zam DeShields, Big Sky Economic Development, shares the business model for MEDA.

Keynote Address by Dr. Waded Cruzado, President of Montana State University: “Higher Education and Economic Development: A Winning Combination for Montana”

Tracy McIntyre welcomes everyone to MEDA; Paul Tuss introduced Dr. Waded Cruzado, President, MSU Bozeman
**Ignite! Building Cooperatives.** Using the five minute Ignite! format, attendees learned about the cooperative business model and the key role cooperatives are playing in Montana's economy. Moderator and Presenter Brian Gion, MCDC; Kris Shaw, Artitudes; Michelle Keller, Big Flat Market; Anne Boothe, Triangle Communications, and Karl Sutton, Lake County CDC on the Workforce Cooperative Model.

**Leveraging the Benefits of Collaboration**
Erik Amundson serves as a HUD Field Office Director in Helena Montana. Erik shared how local, state and federal governments are working together to coordinate efforts and target resources to shape a practical vision for a sustainable and economically competitive future. Below left: Erik Amundsun and Barbara Stiffarm

**Building Montana Businesses – Economic Development Tools Working Together.** Jim Smitham, Butte Local Development and Julie Foster, Ravalli County EDC demonstrated how multiple state and federal programs work together to achieve project success. Agencies involved included MDOC, MDLI, USDA, SBA and others.

**Congressional Greetings:** All of Montana’s Congressional Delegation shared greetings with MEDA attendees.

**Program Announcement:** Specialty Crop Block Grant Angelyn DeYoung
Building MEDA: 2014 Annual Meeting; Project and Committee Updates

Scholarship Winners

Pictured: Brigitta Freer and John Winegart; Joseph Willauer; Anne Boothe, Chair

Professional Development Update

Kellie Danielson

Transportation and Brownfields Update

Kathie Bailey

Montana Ec Gateway/Web Portal

John Marshall

MEDA Legislative Strategy

Rick Edwards

Special Recognition and Thanks

Andy Poole, center, was recognized for his more than three decades of service to Montana’s economic development.

Billie Lee reacts to being honored for her years of membership in MEDA and work in economic development in western MT.

MSU- Northern Bio-Energy Research Center Tour – Greg Kegel, Dean of College of Technical Sciences provided a tour of the research center.

Social time! President Jason Rittal welcomed everyone to the social. Time for prime networking with MEDA.
A fabulous dinner and entertainment by the Montana Actors Theatre.

Wednesday, May 7th
Keynote Address by Governor Steve Bullock - Main Street Montana Business Plan

Paul Tuss introducing Governor Bullock; the audience listens attentively.

Panel Discussion: The Main Street Montana Project
MEDA attendees were privileged to have this amazing panel with which to interact after learning more details of the Main Street Montana Business Plan.

LtoR: Moderator Lt. Gov. Angela McLean; Jim Molloy, Senior Advisor to Governor Bullock; Pam Bucy, Director, Montana Department of Labor and Industry; Meg O’Leary, Director, Montana Department of Commerce; John Rogers, Chief Business Officer, Governor’s Office of Economic Development.  MT Business Plan

Building Main Street from a Private Sector Viewpoint: An Interactive Panel of Business Leaders. Four business owners share their stories and how key economic development programs in Montana helped to build their success. The panel inspired the audience to continue working hard in the field of Economic Development.

L to R:  Shawn Holden, Owner, Holden’s Hot Wheels; Bob Quinn, Organic farmer, Owner of Quinn Farm and Ranch, Founder and President of Kamut International; Ron Harmon, CEO of Big Equipment Company; and Lorrie Merrill, Executive Director of Big Sandy Activities
Working Lunch: Keynote Address by NorthWestern Energy CEO Bob Rowe NWE’s Dam Purchase and the Impact on Montana’s Economy

Bob Rowe  Presentation

Building businesses with MDOC and MDLI Programs Tools - 2014 BEAR Roundup
It is hard to be last on a conference agenda, but about 30 hardy attendees stayed to listen and learn about programs that would be of assistance to BEAR clients.

Karyl Tobel, MDOC  L to R:  Nick Rich, Carolyn Jones, and Nancy Faroni; MT Dept. of Commerce

Roger Hopkins, SBA  Chris Wilhelm, MDLI/IWT

Thanks to the hardworking MEDA Agenda Committee:  Paul Tuss, Chair; Michelle Burchard, Jason Rittal, Karyl Tobel, Tracy McIntyre, Jim Davison and Kellie Danielson.

Special thanks to our host:  Bear Paw Development Corporation

Plane Tickets winner Jana Cooper  Thanks to the amazing Michelle Burchard Bear Paw Development Corp