MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2013

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By all accounts, the “IMPACT – Partnerships that Work” event held in the Rotunda on January 15th was a great success. It truly was an example of what happens when partners work together for a common goal. “IMPACT – Partnerships that Work” showcased Montana’s economic development programs, organizations that use these programs, and the business success stories that result. The day consisted of displays, a success story slide show, and a luncheon for legislators as well as participants.

Lunch was a hit and drew many legislators to the floor. Food was sponsored by all of our CRDC’s, several LDO’s and several partners (see list under My Turn below) and consisted of three soups with Montana grown ingredients from Real Food Store Helena, sandwiches from Great Harvest Bread Helena, and amazingly delicious logo cookies from Amy’s Custom Cakes. Serving on the committee: Rick Edwards, Andy Poole, Anne Boothe, Jim Davison, Janice Wannebo, Karyl Tobel, Martin DeWitt, Paul Tuss and Christine Bell.

FIVE MEDA COMMITTEES GATHER
Five MEDA committees including the MEDA Board, EDA Working Group, CRDC/EDD Working Group, Online Project Subcommittee and MEDA Legislative Committee have been working independently with several overlapping issues. To strengthen collaboration, Tracy McIntyre requested these groups meet: a meeting was held in December and a second on January 14th. Each of the committees provided updates and received feedback on next steps from the entire group. John Rogers and Meg O’Leary were special guests in attendance. Meeting Minutes

MEDA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
The MEDA Legislative Committee continues its 7:00am call every Wednesday. In addition, the committee receives a list each Friday of the pending hearings for the coming week. Reports containing information about the so called 2019 programs and one-time-only programs, along with success stories, are available at http://www.medamembers.org/members/legislature/
BEAR Highlights:

See Monthly Report and the 2012 Annual Report

- 14 business visits were held in January; 18 action items were generated with 8 closed.
- The 2012 Annual BEAR Report is now available. There were 320 business visits in 2012 with 90 Outreach Specialists involved; view more highlights here.
- An important meeting was held on January 16, 2013, to address growth and change for IWTG the program. Twenty-two people met in person and another 24 people joined via webinar to discuss: Timelines and deadlines; Length of training; Training types; Lesser awards; Forms, Tracking employee retention post-training; Queue process; Access to resources, Improved tracking of funds; Budget shortfall; Funding distribution, and Communication. Several working groups are in the formation process to address these topics.

What the Numbers Say...

Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

Census and Economic Information Center
If you haven’t visited the CEIC website lately, check out these interesting and informative videos:

How Do We Know About Our Nation Through the Decades

Why Statistics?

Answering the 3 Questions of Statistics Using a Picture

Using the CEIC Interactive Map Library

For more information, contact CEIC staff at ceic@mt.gov or (406) 841-2740.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

CRDC/EDD –Montana Online Economic Gateway Subcommittee
This group continues to pursue the building of an online presence for Montana’s economic development efforts. Chris Mehus serves as Subcommittee Chair and submitted a Proposal Form to the MEDA Board in anticipation of the February 4th MEDA Board Meeting.

RLF
The Revolving Loan Fund Working Group met via webinar on January 16th to receive additional training on the LINC Reporting System. Christin Hileman serves as Chair.

GRANT AND FUNDING 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.

- The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology is accepting proposals for funding. Proposals are due March 1, 2013. The Request for Proposals can be found on the MBRCT website at http://businessresources.mt.gov/content/MBRCT/2014Guidelines.pdf. If you have any questions about the RFP, please contact Dave Desch, Executive Director, (406) 841-2760
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.

1. If you need current data about your county, here is a wonderful resource. Very easy to use, simply click on your county on the interactive map.
   http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt/geography

2. The Eastern Montana Energy Expo is pleased to announce the dates for 2013. The event will be May 15-16, 2013. There will be two days of tradeshows and seminars in areas of interest to the energy industry. A Job Fair will also be going on during the event. Anyone interested in exhibiting, having a Job Fair booth or attending, please call or visit our website at www.emtenergyexpo.com or call 406-377-7792

3. The Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) will be sponsoring Spring 2013 infrastructure planning and finance- two workshops and two webinars. The WASACT brochure can be found at: http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/ResourceDevelopment/wasact/

4. The Montana Department of Commerce is pleased to announce a new feature to its website, the “Funded Project Search Utility” button. Look for the yellow resource buttons in the middle of the website to find this link http://businessresources.mt.gov. The link will take you to a public database of Montana Department of Commerce, Business Resources Division funded projects. You can search by program, award year, applicant or other search criteria. If you have specific questions about a project, please contact that program’s staff for further information. Other yellow buttons include links to the current division newsletter and brochure.

MEDA 2013 SPRING CONFERENCE
The MEDA Spring Conference will be hosted by RCEDA, May 8th – 10th, in Hamilton. The MEDA Agenda Committee recently met and is planning a unique “speed presentation” format, tours, plenty of networking time, a legislative summary and the MEDA Annual Meeting. The committee: Julie Foster (Chair), Kathie Bailey, Stuart Leidner, Billie Lee, Karyl Tobel, Tracy McIntyre, and Kellie Danielson.

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:
New MEDA members for January include: Meg O’Leary and Dick Hanson, Montana Dept. of Commerce; Jason Smith and Andy Shirtliff, Governor’s Office of Economic Development; and Wayne Gardella, SBA District Director.

MY TURN: One more time….