



NEWS FOR MARCH 2014

- **SPRING SCHOLARSHIPS**
- **WEB PORTAL MEETINGS SET**
- **SPRING CONFERENCE**
- **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**
- **MEDA WORKING GROUPS**
- **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**
- **CEIC – EXPLORE**
- **GRANT AND FUNDING OPS**
- **OPPORTUNITIES & TOOLS**
- **BEAR HIGHLIGHTS**



MEDA/Big Sky Economic Development/Lockwood success: " I don't know if we- the people of Lockwood- will ever be able to thank the MEDA Lockwood Resource Team enough. We certainly could not have gotten to this point without your concern and efforts." Don Reed, Chair of the Lockwood Steering Committee. L to R: Eleanor Kindness, Gloria O'Rourke, Stan Jonutis, Dale Detrick, Shannon Peterson, Kathie Bailey, Dianne Lehm.

MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Think spring. The Spring Round of MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarships is now open. It is time to select a training and apply for a scholarship that would benefit you and your work in the field of economic development. The MEDA scholarship program is in memory of Rick Jones who set the bar high for dedication and professionalism in Montana.

MEDA member Katharine Thompson, Community Development Manager, City of Kalispell, recently achieved Certified Economic Developer status and now has the letters CEcD after her name. Katharine was assisted with MEDA Scholarship funds along the way, studied hard, sat for the exam, and is now recognized for her achievement. For more MEDA Scholarship information visit: [Criteria and Application](#) Scholarship funds are generated from your MEDA dues. Be sure to email your application by April 10th.

MEDA WEB PORTAL – MEETINGS CONTINUE

Momentum continues to build for the MEDA Web Portal Project. The first three regional meetings are now complete with great feedback and information gathered by John Marshall and Aaron Brossoit. Thanks to WGM Group (Missoula), MBAC (Helena), and Triangle Communications (Malta) for hosting the meetings. Excitement is growing for the project as everyone gets a clearer picture of the possibilities for the gateway. The final two meetings are set in Billings and Miles City. Big Sky EDA and Miles City Economic Development are hosting.

- Billings Regional Meeting: March 3rd, 3:00pm - 5:00pm, Rosebud Conference Room, Big Sky EDA offices at 222 N. 32nd St.; Billings.
- Miles City/Eastern MT Regional Meeting: March 4th, Noon - 2:00pm, 1010 Main, basement of the courthouse. Lunch will be ordered in by participants.

SPRING CONFERENCE UPDATE

The agenda is falling into place thanks to the hard work of the MEDA Spring Conference Agenda Committee. In addition to great speakers and a focus on addressing the needs identified in the Main Street Montana Report, the meeting will include professional development training, program training, special speakers and a dinner theater. Program training and Professional Development training will begin at 8:00am on Tuesday, May 6th, with the conference beginning at Noon and concluding at 2pm on May 7th. The Agenda Committee includes: Paul Tuss, Chair; Michelle Burchard, Jason Rittal, Karyl Tobel, Tracy McIntyre, Jim Davison and Kellie Danielson. Bear Paw Development is serving as host with the location for the conference at MSU Northern, in Havre. More information will be available soon.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The MEDA Membership Committee held its first meeting on February 13th. Jim Smitham is serving as Chair and joined by Alyssa Townsend-Hudders, Roger Hopkins, Tracy McIntyre, Marie Mahugh, Julie Foster, Jim Smitham, Stuart Leidner and Martin DeWitt. The committee is charged with reviewing current MEDA membership benefits, making suggestions on improving, changing, and/or adding benefits, listserv information, conference fees, as well as promoting MEDA and recruiting new members. Any and all MEDA Members are welcome to join the work of the committee. Next meeting: March 11th; 1:30pm.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS

MEDA CRDC/EDD Working Group – The next conference call for the CRDC/EDD Working Group is scheduled for April 30th at 10:30am. The group will meet with Jodi Duncan, EDA, to review EDA reporting issues. The CRDC/EDD webpage is: <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/crdcedd/>

MEDA BEAR Working Group – The 2014 MEDA BEAR Roundup will take place immediately following lunch on May 7th as part of the MEDA Spring Conference. A luncheon will be held with Montana BEAR Teams to discuss all things BEAR, including a roundtable with MT Dept. of Commerce program officials. Time will also be set aside for training on Montana Dept. of Labor programs that are a fit with economic development projects. The BEAR website for the working is: <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/bear/>

MEDA Transportation Working Group – Kathie Bailey, Chair, held a meeting with Montana Dept. of Transportation Director Michael Tooley and his Planning Department staff to visit with MEDA members on transportation projects and issues. The meeting took place on February 11th; minutes are available [here](#).

MEDA Brownfields Working Group –Katharine Thompson, City of Kalispell, facilitated the first conference call for this group. Great information was exchanged. Minutes are available at <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/brownfields-environmental/> The next call is set for March 4th, 10:00am – 11:00am. All are welcome to participate; dial in using 712.432.0175 pin 217279.

NEW MEDA MEMBERS – WELCOME!

MEDA gained four new members in February: Dave DeGrandpre, Land Solutions, Charlo; Casey Lozar, State Tribal Economic Development Commission, Helena; Kelly McCarthy, The Artos Group, Billings; Steve Zeier, Zeier Consulting, Billings. MEDA's membership stands at 205.

MEDA Online News –March 2014

The Census and Economic Information Center provides current, easily accessible and thorough economic and demographic analysis, maps, data, and expert assistance to meet the needs and requests of Montanans. Explore CEIC's website today.



The screenshot shows the CEIC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, ACS, Maps, Energy, Economics, Learning Center, U.S. Census, Search, and Contact Us. Below this is a header for the Department of Commerce. The main content area features a 'Welcome to Census & Economic Information Center' message, a 'What's New' section with links to 'Latest ACS Five Year Data', 'CEIC Data User's Conference', and 'Real Time Dashboards', and a table of 'MT Labor Force Stats'.

MT Labor Force Stats	Latest Value	Percent Change from Month Ago
Total People in MT Labor Force	512,931 in Dec 2013	-0.01%
Employed	485,366 in Dec 2013	0.07%
Unemployed	27,565 in Dec 2013	-1.37%
MT Unemployment Rate (%)	5.4 in Dec 2013	0.0%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

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

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. Email [MEDA](#) for the username and password.
- **The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology** is accepting proposals for funding. Proposals are due March 3, 2014. The Request for Proposals can be found on the MBRCT website at <http://businessresources.mt.gov/content/MBRCT/FY2015Guidelines.pdf>. If you have any questions regarding the RFP, please contact Dave Desch, Executive Director [\(406\) 841-2760](tel: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.

- U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Native American Affairs (SBA/ONAA) presents: **8(a) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING**. The purpose of this workshop is to provide operational and leadership strategies to build capacity, foster growth and expansion, and ensure sustainability of tribally-owned businesses. Through this workshop, you will gain a better understanding of the special rules and considerations for Native American companies in the 8(a) program. <http://www.cherokee-cnts.com/training.aspx> Wednesday, March 12, 2014 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **BBER Outlook Seminars** <https://www.bber-secure.umt.edu/register2014.asp>
 - Lewistown – Tuesday, March 11, Central Montana Education Center
 - Havre – Wednesday, March 12, Montana State University-Northern, Hensler Auditorium.

This half-day seminar and luncheon will highlight economic trends for local, state and national economies. The seminar runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration costs \$80, which includes lunch, BBER's forecast publication, a bound copy of the presentations, and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER's award-winning business journal.

- **CTAP TRAINING.** Montana Department of Commerce Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) and the Department of Environmental Quality Permitting & Compliance Division will be hosting a workshop on March 11th & 12th, 2014 in Sidney, MT. The two day workshop will provide in-depth training on exemption and subdivision review under both the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act (Title 76, Chapter 3, MCA) and the Sanitation in Subdivisions section of MCA (Title 76, Chapter 4). The workshops will be held on the 2nd floor of the Richland County Community Building, located at 1201 W. Holly in Sidney, MT. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. If you have already registered, you are on the list! If you have not registered and are interested in attending one or both days, please RSVP to Maria Jackson, Planning Specialist, at mjackson3@mt.gov or by phone at (406) 841-2550.
- **EQUAL PAY SUMMIT** The Montana Equal Pay Summit will convene Montanans from every corner of the state to address gender pay equity and opportunity for Montana workers and employers. March 31st at 6:30 p.m. in SUB Ballroom A MSU-Bozeman, Montana. Seating is first come first served for this free event. <http://www.equalpay.mt.gov>
- **Applications are now open for the Leadership Montana Class of 2015!** **Leadership Montana** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing together business, government, education, nonprofit, healthcare, and other leaders from around the state for a program of leadership development, networking, and education on the issues facing Montana today. The Class of 2015 will be the eleventh Leadership Montana class, and will join an alumni organization of over 400 graduates from 50 different Montana communities. More information is available online at www.leadershipmontana.org
- **NADO: New Executive Director Training!** May 15 – 17. This new and comprehensive training program is designed for new (three years or less) executive directors; training topics will include leading a regional development organization, getting into the business, your board and your owners, personnel, finance, marketing, and much more. Registration and more information will be coming soon. For additional questions, please contact NADO Executive Director Joe McKinney at jmckinney@nado.org or [202.624.5947](tel:202.624.5947).



BEAR stands for Business Expansion and Retention and is the statewide program for keeping and growing Montana's businesses. [See Monthly Report](#)

[REVIEW THE 2013 BEAR TEAM REPORT](#) and learn how the Montana BEAR Program impacted businesses in 2013.

31 FEBRUARY VISITS!

There were 31 Retention Visits held in February. Amazing! It is great to see renewed activity in several counties. Counties with retention visits: Deer Lodge – 1; Flathead – 11; Gallatin – 8; Lake – 3; Lincoln – 1; Missoula – 1; Silver Bow – 3; Stillwater – 1; Sweetgrass – 1; Yellowstone – 1. Action items reported: Gallatin County – 24; Flathead County – 1; Yellowstone County – 1.

February Outreach Specialist Visits:

Allen Kawaski – 1	Chad Moore – 1	Courtney Hartman – 1	Dale Mahugh - 3
Deborah McAtee – 1	Gloria O'Rourke – 1	Jim Smitham – 3	Joel Bertolino - 1
Johnette Watkins – 1	Kari Martell – 1	Kiki Huls – 4	Lindsey Simpson - 1
Marissa Hauge – 1	Michele Letendre – 1	Mike Jackson – 12	Mike Williams – 1
Mora McCarthy – 6	Rick Edwards - 1		