ONLINE NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

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MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT
Montana is buzzing about the summit! MEDA is serving as a sponsor for the Montana Economic Development Summit and is holding a social for members and partners September 15th, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, prior to the summit on the 16th. The social will be held at Headframe Spirits, 21 S Montana St, in Butte. MEDA and Montana Ambassadors are providing light snacks; Headframe Spirits can provide two drinks per person (no host) and are staying open late just to accommodate our group. Invite a friend and plan to join us. The summit agenda is to go be posted this week – keep checking the website at http://www.montanajobssummit.com

MEDA FALL CONFERENCE - IGNITE MONTANA!
While the agenda still has a few missing minor details, registration is now open for the 2013 MEDA Fall Conference. The conference will be held in Sidney and offer training, tours, program dating, networking and the unique presentation model of Ignite Montana. The conference will wrap up with the sealing of the MEDA time capsule to commemorate 20 years of progress and partnerships. What are you bringing for the time capsule? Agenda Committee: Leslie Messer, Chair; Jason Rittal, Jim Atchison, Kellie Danielson, Martin DeWitt, Karyl Tobel, Brett Doney, and Tracy McIntyre. Have you submitted your five minute innovative project/idea for the Ignite Montana! segment?
Registration and Agenda

MEDA SCHOLARSHIP ROUND IS NOW OPEN
Anne Boothe, Scholarship Chair, recently announced the 2013 fall round of the Rick Jones Memorial MEDA Scholarship applications will be accepted until 5:00pm September 10th. The application and criteria information is available here.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS
CRDC/EDD WORKING GROUP – Paul Tuss, Chair, organized a face-to-face meeting for this working group the end of August, in Billings. Minutes are not yet available but agenda items included Best Practices, Regional Activities Report, EDA Reporting, CRDC Reporting, Insurance for CRDC/EDD groups and RLF’s, Social Media and CRDC/EDD Funding. Those present found it very beneficial to have in-depth conversations on regional issues.
OTHER WORKING GROUPS – With summer winding down, MEDA will make a push to re-ignite its Working Groups. Working groups provide members an opportunity to learn of new items, issues, and funding on a specific topic. Be watching your email inbox for a meeting with your working group!

MEDA Online News – September 2013
Bringing Data Together Spatial to Solve Community Decisions

The power to spatially overlay data sets allows users to view data interactively. For example, the map below combines unemployment and population data for the U.S to demonstrate this relationship. In the dark blue areas, there is high population growth and high unemployment. However, the areas in bright red actual show the reverse relationship – static or decreasing populations and high unemployment (map link is http://storymaps.esri.com/unemploymentpopulation/).

This type of map helps inform communities as to the type of programs which may be options in crafting economic and community solutions.

The new CEIC interactive mapping tool gives users this same capability - to investigate spatial data, design custom maps and share these maps with others. There are over a dozen base maps prepared by CEIC GIS coordinator Leslie Zolman and hundreds of additional layers in the map library. Staff is available to help and there are free on-line tutorials available as well. The interactive map site can be accessed at http://ceic.mt.gov/Maps/maps_featured.aspx.

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](http://montananps319grants.pbworks.com/319-Mini-Grant-Home) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email MEDA for the username and password.

- Mini-Grants Available For Water Quality Education and Outreach - The Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. (SWCDMI) is accepting applications for mini-grants of up to $2,000 to fund local education and outreach efforts that address nonpoint source pollution and water quality issues. The call for applications round begins on August 26, 2013, with an application deadline of September 27, 2013. $8,500 will be available for this round of funding. For more information on the mini-grants, application forms or for assistance in preparing the grant application, please contact: Jan Fontaine, SWCDMI/MACD, 406.443.5711 or by email at mail@macdnet.org or visit the mini grant wiki website at http://montananps319grants.pbworks.com/319-Mini-Grant-Home.

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. **Montana Department of Commerce Business Resources Division Finance Programs 2013-2014 Certified Partner Training:** TRAINING IS NOW AVAILABLE
   The Business Resources Division is excited to announce that new ELearning webinars for the various funding programs is available for the next period of certification/recertification between before **September 13, 2013.** Each webinar includes a webinar course and a test. New Certified Partners and those receiving recertification will be announced at the Fall MEDA Conference in October 2013. **NEW AND RECERTIFIED PARTNERS – wear your Sunday best we’ll take a group picture this year!** Please see the links to the webinars and quizzes at the Business Resources Division Home Page: [http://businessresources.mt.gov/default.mcpx](http://businessresources.mt.gov/default.mcpx)

2. **The Community Development Society and the Heartland Center for Leadership Development 2013 Professional Development Fall Webinar Series** "Community Responses to Disaster." [Get more information](.).

**BEAR**

**See Monthly Report**.

In August:

- Lewistown BEAR Team Training was held August 27th thanks to Roy Jones and the Lewistown Job Service. One great idea shared: take along a BEAR Report to demonstrate how the data is used to a potential client. Point out how the survey gives the business owner a confidential voice on various issues.

- There were 17 Retention Visits held in August with 17 Action Items closed or updated. Counties with retention visits: Missoula – 1, Gallatin – 5, Flathead – 5, Ravalli – 2, and Yellowstone – 4. Outreach Specialist Visits:

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<tr>
<th>Mike Jackson - 5</th>
<th>Chad Moore - 4</th>
<th>Vickie Steele – 1</th>
<th>Angie McDonald - 1</th>
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<td>Amy Gault – 1</td>
<td>JR Strand – 1</td>
<td>DeAnn Thomas – 1</td>
<td>Mora McCarthy - 2</td>
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<td>Bill Nicholson – 1</td>
<td>Michael Morrison – 2</td>
<td>Warren Vaughan – 1</td>
<td>Patty Cox - 1</td>
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- BEAR Team Outreach Specialists are still strongly encouraged to click: 1. Add; 2.: Metrics Survey; 3. Last business contacted, and input their time spent, jobs retained or created, private and/or public funding, etc. Entering this data will further demonstrate the value of the program.
MY TURN: Bizzabo
Did you give the ap for the Montana Economic Development Summit a try? It is pretty cool. Just visit the spot you always go to on your phone to download aps. Search for “bizzabo” and download it. Next, search for MT Jobs, click join, and...you are in! You can use the ap to meet someone, find out who is attending and pinpoint potential connections. The ap also lets you socialize by communicating directly with fellow attendees and adding them to your social networks. Finally, you can browse the agenda, view sponsors and follow tweets, all with an ap the funny name of Bizzabo. See you at the summit!