



The Great Lakes Regional Training Initiative is a collaboration spearheaded by the University Centers in the six-state area of the Chicago Economic Development Administration region.



**Mark your calendars now for the 2016 EDA University Center Showcase
hosted by Michigan State University.**

Kellogg Conference Center, East Lansing, Michigan

September 8, 2016 (7 am - 5:30 pm)

Join the Chicago Regional Office of the US Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration at its annual University Center Showcase highlighting the EDA-supported University Center economic development initiatives in the 6 - state region of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The event will feature presentations from representatives of seven university centers including:

- 1) Bowling Green State University/Ohio University,
- 2) Cleveland State University,
- 3) Michigan State University,
- 4) Purdue University,
- 5) University of Illinois - Champaign/Parkland College,
- 6) University of Minnesota, and
- 7) University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee/Milwaukee School of Engineering, Marquette University, UW-Parkside, UW-Whitewater.

These University Centers are leading the charge toward building a robust American infrastructure for innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development, with each university addressing specific challenges to their region but also implementing the best practices that have worked well around the country.



A note of appreciation.....

Our thanks to everyone involved in this collaborative effort over the past two years including the staff of the University Centers in the Chicago Region, members of the Advisory Board and our partners at the EDA office.

The Great Lakes RTI has been committed to maintaining and promoting an active partnership between local and regional organizations and the EDA University Centers in the Great Lakes area, doing so via its advisory board, webinar series, and communication activities. This has provided a platform for strategic conversations, a necessary activity to address the challenges existing in our region.

Purdue's Center for Regional Development has appreciated the opportunity to lead this collaboration. We believe the benefit of having the University Centers work more closely with each other and to hear first-hand from their clients has been rewarding, allowing us to assess our programs and determine how we can better serve our state and the region.

Advisory Board members have expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to provide input and see this as a way of connecting not only with the UCs, but also within the growing network that has been created as a result of this initiative. Our efforts are encouraged by the strong attendance and participation at the various work sessions.

Funding for this partnership was officially complete at the end of 2015, but we are continuing to explore collaborative opportunities to continue the momentum of the Great Lakes Regional Training Initiative. Thanks again to all of you.....Bo and Peggy

Upcoming Events

Indiana

Strategic Doing Certification/Practitioner Training

April 19-21, 2016

West Lafayette, IN

For more information, contact strategicdoing@purdue.edu

Michigan

Innovate Michigan! Summit - 2016

Michigan State University,
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
East Lansing, Michigan

***Wednesday, September 7,
2016 from 8:30am- 6:30pm***

Impacting Michigan - the Regional Economic Innovation initiative of MSU (REI)

From the Upper Peninsula to Detroit the MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) supports the co-development of community and economic development projects across the state. [Engaging a network](#) of over 1,000 professionals and academics in crowd sourcing innovation, REI has successfully supported the co-development of [57 Student-Led, Faculty-Guided projects and 39 Co-Learning Plans](#) and continues to share its collective knowledge through webinars, videos, and social media across the great state of Michigan. REI is leading the great lakes region in the creation of new knowledge for the development of [new economic development tools, models, policies, and practices](#) in distressed communities and regions.

REI's Student-Led, Faculty Guided projects have involved the participation of over 300 students at 13 different Michigan universities and colleges; the projects have provided tremendous help to Michigan communities, in addition to utilizing students who will help Michigan's future economy. The typical project consists of a professor and students working together to conduct field-based research



Learn, Share, and Create Innovative Economic Development Tools, Models, Policies and Programs.

Visit reicenter.org or [click here](#) to watch last year's Promo Video

Helpful EDA Links:

The [EDA website](#) lists funding opportunities and helpful tools as well as their annual report which includes an interactive state-by-state map of EDA's investments.

Another helpful link provides a directory of EDA regional office contacts, state government contacts, EDD, TAAC, RLF, University Centers, and Tribal planning organization sites for each state:

<http://www.eda.gov/resources/>

Guidelines for EDA's updated CEDS process can be found at this site:

<http://www.eda.gov/ceds/>

The site includes access to a recorded webinar focused on CEDS content guidelines.

Note that NADO has conducted a series of webinars regarding CEDS. The next one is scheduled for Weds, September 30 at 2 - 3 p.m. EST and will zero in on performance measurement.

Register here: [Measuring Your Progress: The Importance of Performance Metrics](#)

What is the Role of University Centers?

Michigan communities. Student team members indicate that 95% of them felt their project had helped to prepare them for employment, and 64% claimed the project had increased their desire to stay in Michigan after graduation. With a network of over 700 Listserv members and 1400 Twitter followers, this initiative has many successes including [Afterhouse](#) (converting abandoned properties in Detroit into semi-subterranean geothermal greenhouses) and providing technical assistance to the [MSU Product Center](#) in order to develop a MSU Food Processing Innovation Center for the great lakes region. Learn more about REI initiatives at www.reicenter.org.

The Great Lakes Webinar Series

A variety of webinars were held by the Great Lakes University Centers in the past year covering a variety of topics including the Boom/Bust cycle of the coal and shale communities, regional entrepreneurship and watershed planning. Archive information can be found [here](#).

USDA Stronger Economies Together (SET) announces Phase VI

The SET program is designed to strengthen the capacity of communities/counties in rural America to work together to develop and implement an economic development blueprint for their multi-county region, one that strategically builds on the region's current and emerging economic strengths. Regions in Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin are eligible in this Phase VI opportunity. Applications are due April 28, 2016. Regional activities will launch in June. [Learn more about SET](#) and the [application process](#).

Visit the Great Lakes Regional Training Initiative Website!

edaucgreatlakes.org

You will find information about the Universities engaged in this effort and gain access to a resource library of the programs and research being completed by the University Centers. [Visit us](#) and bookmark our page for future reference.

Contact the University Centers

Illinois

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



The EDA-supported University Center (UC) program is specifically designed to marshal the colleges and universities' resources, such as specialized research, outreach, technology transfer and commercialization capabilities, as well as recognized faculty expertise and sophisticated laboratories, to support regional economic development strategies in regions of chronic and acute economic distress.

Most UCs focus their efforts on assisting units of local governments and nonprofit organizations in planning and implementing regional economic development strategies and projects. Typical actions provided by the UCs include targeted commercialization of research, workforce development, business counseling services, helping local organizations with conducting preliminary feasibility studies, supplying and analyzing data, and convening customized seminars and workshops.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Indiana

Purdue Center for Regional Development

[Visit Our Website](#)

Michigan

Michigan State University's Center for Regional Economic Innovation

[Visit Our Website](#)

Minnesota

The EDA Center at the University of Minnesota, Crookston

[Visit Our Website](#)

Ohio

Center for Regional Development:
Bowling Green State University

[Visit Our Website](#)

Center for Economic Development: Cleveland State
University

[Visit Our Website](#)

Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs
Ohio University

[Visit Our Website](#)

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Center for Commercialization Resources

[Visit Our Website](#)

Our goal is to identify the training needs of our communities and offer solutions
If there are any comments or suggestions, please let us know.

Contact Peggy Hosea at phosea@purdue.edu

*(The Purdue Center for Regional Development acts as the
coordinator for this multi-university EDA initiative)*

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