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*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*



**Contact information for each of the University Centers in the region can be found at the end of the newsletter**

## Upcoming Webinars

The first two webinars in our training series have been announced. Watch for save-the-date information coming soon and [contact us](#) with ideas for additional training webinars you would like to see.

### **Michigan State University Establishing an Entrepreneurial Friendly Region**

This webinar will look at the elements of entrepreneurship ecosystems and provide insights into specific elements that are of interest to the Great Lakes region. Beginning with national and international frameworks for assessing entrepreneurial ecosystems, we will then take a closer look at the role of scale and

## Welcome!

University Centers of the Great Lakes region are working together to support regional economic development efforts in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

This innovative collaboration, supported by EDA, will expand the reach of the good work being done by each of the University Centers in their respective states.

### ***In This Newsletter, You Will:***

***Be introduced to the regional website*** representing the University Centers in the six-state region

***Find contact information and more*** about the EDA University Centers in your state and others around the region

***Find training opportunities*** that will provide you with the most current thinking on topics of interest

***Read about one University Center collaboration*** that's gaining traction in Flint, Michigan

## Introducing the Great Lakes

setting in determining critically-needed infrastructure and services for entrepreneurs. At the end of this webinar, you will be equipped with new ideas and case studies to help you facilitate and guide entrepreneurial growth and success in your region.

### **Purdue University** **[Tipping Points and Indicators](#)**

This collaborative program equips decision makers in the Great Lakes region with cutting-edge interactive maps and other tools to protect natural resources and enhance local economies.

## **Annual University Center Showcase**

Join the University Centers for the annual event where they showcase their programs and activities. This year, the UCs in Ohio are hosting. The session will be held in Cleveland on April 21 and 22. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. It's a great event for making important connections and finding university resources.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Illinois**

[Calendar of Events](#)

### **Ohio**

[Calendar of Events](#)

#### **EDA University Center Showcase**

April 21-22, 2015

Cleveland, OH

Contact [Candi Clouse](#) to learn more

#### **Manufacturing Workforce: Building Capacity**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Appalachian Ohio  
"State of the Region" Conference

## **Training Initiative Website!**

It's here! The [regional website](#) is now available.

Check it out and you'll find information about the University Centers. More importantly, you'll 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. Be sure to check out the resources tab.

## **What is the Role of University Centers?**

The EDA-supported University Center (UC) program is specifically designed to marshal the colleges and universities' resources, such as specialized research, outreach, technology transfer, 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.

## **A Collaboration between Two UCs Launches Change in Flint**

In early December 2014, thirty-five people gathered in Flint Michigan for a three-day Strategic Doing practitioner

and certification training. In a drafty, hard-to-hear, concrete floor and wall, former car dealership service garage, something quite remarkable happened. Not only did we learn new ways of thinking, behaving, and doing in collaborative networks but we always found a way to be in deep relationship with one another.

As one participant wrote later, "First, thanks for the great job everyone did putting on this production. I was greatly impressed



May 12, 2015  
Athens, OH  
[More Information](#)

## Wisconsin

### Strategic Doing Course

March 23-25, 2015  
University of Wisconsin-Parkside  
Kenosha, WI

A three-day course offered by Purdue  
[Contact us](#) for more information

## Of Regional Interest Sponsored by NCRCRD

### Bridging the Manufacturing Skills Gap in Rural America

January 29, 2015

Brent Weil  
The Manufacturing Institute

February 12, 2015

Myra Wilson & Frank Gibson  
The Ohio State University Alber  
Enterprise Center

[More Information](#)

by those familiar with, and those new to the process during the too-short 2.5 days. The love for Flint and the respect and camaraderie in that huge space was palpable. Strategic Doing is on the cusp of becoming how we do business in Flint. It is giving us hope that we will transform a dis-invested, post-industrial, left-behind city into a thriving 21st century community of hope and equity."

Bob Brown  
*Flint Strategic Doing Team and Center for Community and Economic Development Michigan State University*

[Contact us](#) for more information about Purdue's Strategic Doing program

## Contact the University Centers

### Illinois

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign  
[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](mailto:phosea@purdue.edu)

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

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