

Regional Economic Innovation Update

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Innovate Michigan! Summit 2014

On September 4, 2014, the MSU University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) network came together for the annual [Innovate Michigan! Summit](#). This was a chance for economic developers, planners, local government professionals, and others to create, learn, and share about current trends and innovative practices being done across Michigan in the field of economic development. Of the 160 or so folks in attendance, 35% were economic development practitioners, 14% were university faculty or staff, and 10% were entrepreneurial/business development professionals. A video of the conference can be seen [here](#).

Co-Learning Plans

During the summit, Dr. Rex LaMore and Jennifer Bruen presented the network with a list of innovative ideas that had been collected before the summit. The network used iClickers to rate the ideas, and now that the network has spoken, REI has settled on eight ideas to be used for Co-Learning Plans. In a Co-Learning Project, innovative economic development tools, models, strategies, policies, and practices are researched, and the findings and recommendations serve as a key resource for economic development practitioners and policymakers in Michigan. Co-Learning Plans can be written by practitioners, decision-makers, community leaders, entrepreneurs, scholars, or other stakeholders. [Here](#) is a video about one of REI's 2014 Co-Learning Plans.

The Co-Learning Plan topics to be researched this year are *Supporting Michigan "Triple Bottom Line Businesses, Employer-Led Training Programs, Michigan's Ecotourism Economy, Veteran Employment, Ex-Offenders as an Entrepreneurial Force for Local Economies, Urban Grower Co-ops, The Michigan Scrapper Economy, and Shared Economy Businesses*. The REI has selected its Co-Learning plan authors. Click here to learn more about authors to research these topics. The REI is currently soliciting authors to research these topics in a Co-Learning fashion. Click [here](#) to learn more about the 2014-15 Co-Learning plans.

Leveraging Michigan's Higher-Ed Network

In addition to Co-Learning Plans, the REI University Center also provides support for Student-Led, Faculty-Guided projects. These projects leverage Michigan's vast higher education network to provide communities with technical assistance not normally available while helping students in Michigan's higher education institutions gain valuable experience in the field of economic development. To learn more about the 2014-15 projects, [click here](#).