

Innovate Michigan! Summit promotes economic development with sharing, learning, and idea creation

Conference brings together economic experts and professionals working on the front lines of economic development at local and regional levels throughout Michigan

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August 23, 2017

For Immediate Release

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Registration is open, and there is still an opportunity to attend the highly regarded Innovate Michigan! Summit on Friday, September 15 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. Economic developers, entrepreneurs, business and community leaders, investors, scholars, students, and local and state government officials are invited.



The annual event is designed to share, learn, and create unique and innovative approaches aimed at furthering economic growth in Michigan.

Funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), the program continues the multi-year work supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce in collaboration with the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED).

University Outreach and Engagement

The Summit agenda showcases strategic partnerships, collaborative learning, and responsive community engagement by the MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI), a multi-year program that supports a network for bringing innovative ideas to action in Michigan.

Center for Community and Economic Development

Since 2011, the REI Center at Michigan State University has generated nearly 100 projects and an estimated \$60 million in spurred investment.

1615 East Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912

“REI is changing the way we think about economic development and community collaborations. The Summit brings together a wide array of stakeholders who will talk about how it applies to growth, job creation, and prosperity in communities across Michigan,” said Rex LaMore, director of the MSU CCED. LaMore is responsible for bringing the grant to MSU, and overseeing the outcomes during its six-plus years of implementation.

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The [REI Storymap](#) features web-based software that mixes project narratives with

geographic data. Updates on individual projects can be found on the [Success Stories page](#).

“The Summit is a great opportunity for economic development researchers and practitioners to connect. Each year, the Summit generates robust discussion among its participants about innovative projects and initiatives aimed at improving regional economies in communities across Michigan, and it serves as an important exchange for ideas and practices,” said Britany Affolter-Caine, University Research Corridor interim executive director and program director.

The sessions will feature topics such as social entrepreneurship, public infrastructure, ecotourism, innovative ideas in traditional small towns, and round table discussions where participants meet experts in business, finance, marketing, funding, human resources and more.

The keynote address will be given by Rishi Moudgil, the founding executive director of GreenLight Fund Detroit. Moudgil leads a venture philanthropy effort that invests in proven social impact programs for children and families in poverty, based on a rigorous annual process led by a local cross-sector coalition. He has been named an American Express Next Gen fellow with Independent Sector, a Chicago Public Education Fund venture philanthropy fellow, and a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Grand Angel.

Summit registration, complete agenda, and the Summit video are available on the REI website: <http://www.reicenter.org/>.

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*NOTE: Rex LaMore will be available for comment and interviews at alternative times if media contacts are unable to attend the event.

**NOTE: The 5th Annual Michigan Inventors Expo is also scheduled at the Kellogg Center on Friday, September 15 during the Innovate Michigan! Summit. Inventors are invited to showcase their products, and participate in the Spin, Pitch & Sell contest for further advancing their inventions.

Attend the Summit and take a moment to explore the Michigan Inventors Expo.

Media Advisory

Innovate Michigan! Summit

Hosted By: Michigan State EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation
MSU Center for Community and Economic Development
U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration

Date: Friday, September 15, 2017

Where: Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
219 South Harrison Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Time: 1-6 p.m. (networking reception 6-7:30 p.m.)

Keynote: Rishi Moudgil, Founding Executive Director of GreenLight Fund Detroit

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FURTHER INFO:

See attached news release

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