

Innovate Michigan! Summit Features Best of Show from Previous Events

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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For Immediate Release

EAST LANSING, Mich. – The popular and dynamic Innovate Michigan! Summit returns for a fourth year on Thursday, September 10 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the East Lansing campus of Michigan State University, 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Economic developers, entrepreneurs, business and community leaders, investors, scholars, students, and local and state government officials are invited to attend, and share, learn, and create unique and innovative approaches aimed at furthering economic growth in Michigan.

Following the lunch break, the Summit program features a “Best of Show” panel, where past Co-Learning Plan project leaders will provide progress updates on their work. Presentations include:

- **Microenterprise Development in Michigan: Assessing Coverage, Access and Outreach (2012)**

“I always enjoy attending the Innovate Michigan! Summit and I'm excited to be invited to participate in the Best of Show this year. I'll be giving an update on the Microenterprise Network of Michigan (MNM) Online Resource Directory project as we continue to improve it and make it more accessible and user friendly for both entrepreneurs and those organizations that provide the technical and financial services they need to be successful... getting them connected!”

– Marsha Madle, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan

- **Educational Attainment as an Economic Driver for States, Regions, and Communities (2013)**

This research builds on national educational attainment and economic growth research and offers an analysis of Michigan efforts to promote investments in education and training that leads to sub-baccalaureate credentials tied to business and industry needs. It includes strategies for increasing alignment between economic diversification and growth, educational investments, and outcomes.



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- **Expanding Economic Literacy by using the Money Smart for Small Business Curriculum (2014)**

“It's an honor to be returning to the Innovate Michigan! Summit and being included in the Best of Show presentation. We've learned a lot over the last year regarding online/self-directed learning and are working on our second set of videos. I'm excited to share what we've learned and what is next.”

– Amanda Blondeau, Northern Initiatives

More information, including registration details and speaker information, is available at REI's website, <http://www.reicenter.org/>.

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The mission of the Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development is to advance MSU's land-grant mission by creating, disseminating and applying knowledge to improve the quality of life in distressed communities.

Michigan State University has been advancing knowledge and transforming lives through innovative teaching, research and outreach for more than 150 years. MSU is known internationally as a major public university with global reach and extraordinary impact. Its 17 degree-granting colleges attract scholars worldwide who are interested in combining education with practical problem solving.

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: Thursday, September 10, 2015

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

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – Best of Show

Keynote: 3:00 p.m. – Nailah Ellis-Brown, Ellis Infinity Beverage Co., Detroit

Compelling story about economic development and entrepreneurial pursuit. Ellis-Brown was born, raised, and educated in Detroit and now operates a successful and expanding Detroit business that produces an all-natural hibiscus tea originally brewed and sold in the Bronx by her great-grandfather.

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FURTHER INFO:

See attached news release

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