

MSU aims to expand Michigan-Ontario economic partnerships

New project promotes closer binational regional cooperation and increased global competitiveness

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For Immediate Release

LANSING, Mich. – The MSU Center for Community and Economic Development (MSU CCED) has launched a new project to promote closer binational regional cooperation and increased global competitiveness in areas related to green chemistry, agri-food, and regional marketing.

These areas were identified at the first Blue Water Binational Regional Collaboration Conference in October 2013 for potential binational collaboration.

MSU CCED will work with multiple Michigan and Canada partners to identify barriers to closer collaboration, and potential steps to overcome these barriers.

“Research and experience continually demonstrate that strategic initiatives such as these are instrumental for competitive economic development in the global economy,” said J.D. Snyder, project director. “Collaboration gives individual businesses a huge opportunity to be internationally competitive.”

“Collaboration between business and industry is essential for economic success in our region,” said Serge Lavoie, president of the SouthWest Ontario Economic Alliance (SWEA). “Our organization is very excited to participate in this important initiative.”

Binational regional collaboration has been identified by public officials, economic leaders, and researchers as an important method of regional economic development in the global knowledge economy. As the global economy becomes more interconnected there is growing pressure for increased cooperation. Regions must consistently seek new and innovative solutions to remain globally competitive.

The MSU CCED has recently completed research on models of binational regional collaboration in North America and in Europe, and found that the most effective forms of binational collaboration include participants from the private and public sectors, and involve multi-level mechanisms of policy alignment to achieve shared objectives.



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The project is funded by the Michigan Applied Public Policy Research program (MAPPR), and will conclude with policy recommendations on binational initiatives to the Michigan Legislature in June 2014.

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The Center for Community and Economic Development advances Michigan State University's land-grant mission by creating, applying, and disseminating valued knowledge through responsive engagement, strategic partnerships, and collaborative learning.

MSU CCED is dedicated to the empowerment of communities in creating sustainable prosperity and an equitable global knowledge economy.

MSU CCED was established in 1969 in partnership with public and private organizations, and has developed and conducted numerous innovative programs to address local issues while building the capacity of students, scholars, and communities to address future challenges. MSU CCED focuses its resources on the unique challenges of distressed communities throughout Michigan.