



*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.*



Webinar information, helpful EDA links, articles and contact information for each of the University Centers can be found below.

## Webinars Scheduled

### **September 28, 2015 - 1 p.m. CST (2:00 EST) The Commons: Advancing Regional Entrepreneurship**

Please join us for our next webinar that will share how The Commons has become an "entrepreneurial skills accelerator" for the students of Southeast Wisconsin's colleges and universities. The Commons is a widespread collaboration between the region's academic, entrepreneurial and business communities to attract, develop and retain the brightest minds in the region. You can learn more about the Commons at [www.thecommonswi.com](http://www.thecommonswi.com). The EDA University Center in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Center for Commercialization Resources (WCCR), is an important partner in The Commons collaboration.

**WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS:** This [webinar link](#) will launch the session using Blackboard Collaborate, coordinated by the University of Wisconsin. Please plan for 10 -15 minutes to launch and run the software and check your computer speakers. If this is the first time for you to use this platform, you may see a security dialog box asking to confirm the application's digital signature. Click "**Run**" to continue and then follow the prompts.

### **October 2015 - Boom/Bust Economies** (date and time are being finalized)

Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs will conduct a webinar to focus on the economic impacts of extractive industries and discuss how communities can better manage the boom and mitigate the bust of these economic cycles. The focus will be both on local communities that are in the middle of the boom and those that are transitioning from coal or other resource dependent economies.

## Stronger Economies Together (SET) Launching in Three States in the Great Lakes Region

A team of land-grant university-based community and regional development professionals will play a key role in advancing the efforts of six regions in the states of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan to develop and implement regional approaches to growing businesses and creating jobs. The six regions have been selected by USDA Rural Development to be part of the Stronger Economies Together program, a nationwide program undertaken by Rural Development in partnership with the nation's land-grant university system.

The six regions are joining 18 other regional economic-development groups located in eight additional states that were selected on a competitive basis to be part of the year-long [Stronger Economics Together](#) program. The program provides each region with a step-by-step process for designing and implementing a practical and viable regional economic development plan, one based on a careful analysis of the region's current and emerging industry clusters, its population and labor force features, and the insights and priorities of local residents. The expected outcomes of the program include developing a stronger regional mindset, increasing regional collaboration, discovering the region's current and emerging assets and developing and implementing a high quality regional economic development plan that aligns with the region's economic strengths.

Professional staff from the [Purdue Center for Regional Development](#), the Regional Rural Development Centers and USDA Rural Development will be coordinating and providing national leadership to the SET program. USDA Rural Development launched SET in 2010 to help rural communities and counties work together in strengthening and sustaining the economic vitality of the nation's rural areas. To date, regions involved in the SET program have been able to secure over \$120M in grants and low-interest loans to support implementation of their regional plans.

### Upcoming Events

#### Indiana

##### Strategic Doing Certification/Practitioner Training

December 14-16, 2015  
West Lafayette, IN

For more information, contact [strategicdoing@purdue.edu](mailto:strategicdoing@purdue.edu)

#### Helpful EDA Links:

The EDA's 2014 annual report includes an interactive state-by-state map of EDA's FY2014 investments. Find the full annual report and investment map at this link: <http://www.eda.gov/annual-reports/fy2014/>.

Another helpful link provides a directory of EDA regional office contacts, state government contacts, EDD, TAAC, RLF, University Centers, and Tribal planning

### 2015 EDA Chicago - Open House and 50th anniversary celebration

On August 25 and 26 the EDA Chicago Regional Office held an open house at their new offices to celebrate EDA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The regional meeting provided an excellent forum to gain insights into the important opportunities and investments EDA is making in regions across the Great Lakes area. It offered the EDA University Centers the opportunity to continue building strong working ties with economic development districts and councils of government taking part in the Chicago workshop. The information offered at the meeting will help guide the work of the Great Lakes Regional Training Initiative team in the coming months.

The EDA Chicago Regional Office represents Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Jeannette P. Tamayo, Chicago Regional Director, expressed her appreciation for those taking part in the celebration "EDA was privileged to share the special day with its partners and to honor and celebrate all of the staff that worked to make EDA a great agency. Thank you for the continued support and collaboration."



organization sites for each state:

<http://www.eda.gov/resources/>

Guidelines for EDA's updated CEDS process can be found at this site:

<http://www.eda.gov/ceds/>

The site includes access to a recorded webinar focused on CEDS content guidelines. Note that NADO has conducted a series of webinars regarding CEDS. The next one is scheduled for Weds, September 30 at 2 - 3 p.m. EST and will zero in on performance measurement. Register here: [Measuring Your Progress: The Importance of Performance Metrics](#)

## 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 and 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.



## Visit the Great Lakes Regional Training Initiative Website!

[edaucgreatlakes.org](http://edaucgreatlakes.org)

You will find information about the Universities engaged in this effort and 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.

## 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)*

