



PRESS RELEASE

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For More Information:
City Manager Bill Vajda 906-225-8102
Mr. Tim Davis, Director, iLabs at tadavis@umd.umich.edu or 313.593.4060.

UM-Dearborn's iLabs eCities Research Recognizes the City of Marquette for its Positive Entrepreneurial Climate

The City of Marquette has been recognized for its work to foster entrepreneurial growth and economic development in a study by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. Marquette was honored as a four-star community, along with 53 other communities across the State.

"The City of Marquette is honored to receive this prestigious designation," said Marquette Mayor John Kivela. "We continue to excel at a time so many other cities across the state and nation are struggling," he said. "The entrepreneurs that Marquette attracts and retains say a great deal about our community. We have a positive economic climate and a quality of life that many of us believe is unsurpassed," Kivela stated.

The eCities research surveyed 114 communities from 40 counties in Michigan that are home to 34 percent of Michigan residents and nearly half of its college graduates. More than 125,000 entrepreneurs with over \$3 billion in self-employed income call the participating communities home. These communities also had more than \$1.5 billion in 2011 commercial construction and more than 70 percent share services with other communities.

"We are pleased to have had more communities than ever from throughout the state participate this year in the eCities research," said Mr. Tim Davis, Director, iLabs. "This project assists local communities by identifying best practices and methods that they can implement to aid in job growth, economic diversification and development of entrepreneurs."

The communities were honored at a ceremony at UM-Dearborn on Tuesday, Oct. 30, which included video profiles of each of the top performers. Support for eCities 2012 is provided in part by the DTE Energy Foundation, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and UM-Dearborn's College of Business.

The annual eCities research project, which began in 2007, uses data supplied by the participants as well as other public records to assemble a six-factor, 32-item index of entrepreneurial activity, looking at such factors as clustering, incentives, growth, policies, community and education. The study focuses on entrepreneurship because of its importance to expansion and diversification of Michigan's regional economies and the impact small businesses have on job creation. To date, 165 communities across Michigan have participated in the study.

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