



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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For More Information:

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### **UM-Dearborn's iLabs' eCities Research Recognizes the City of Marquette for Developing a Positive Entrepreneurial Climate**

**Marquette, November 15, 2013** – Marquette has been recognized for its work to foster entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the annual eCities study conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. Marquette was honored as a four-star community along with 51 other communities across the state.

Mayor Robert Niemi noted, "We are pleased that the City of Marquette and the greater Marquette community have once again been recognized for a supportive entrepreneurial climate. Entrepreneurs are the life blood and foundation for a strong local economy and Marquette is blessed with some of the best entrepreneurs in the State of Michigan."

#### Four-Star Communities

Four-star communities combined for over \$1 billion in construction in 2012, increased assets by \$94 million and more than 80 percent share services across municipalities.

Alpine Township	City of Milan	Charter Township of
Cascade Charter	City of Niles	Meridian
Township	City of Novi	City of Alpena
City of Ann Arbor	City of Plymouth	City of Marquette
City of Eastpointe	City of Portage	Northville Charter
City of Frankenmuth	Flint Charter Township	Township
City of Grand Rapids	Grand Rapids Charter	Superior Charter
City of Holland	Township	Township
City of Litchfield	Thomas Township	
City of Mason	Village of Almont	

The eCities research surveyed 102 communities from 37 counties in Michigan that are home to 36 percent of Michigan residents and 40 percent of its college graduates. These communities count nearly one-third of the state's entrepreneurs with over \$3.2 billion in self-employed income as residents. These communities also had more than \$1.8 billion in 2012 commercial construction and account for more than 48 percent of Michigan's commercial property.

“This annual project makes the university part of the local leader’s toolkit for economic development. We are tackling a statewide concern and analyzing the parts that local leaders can directly impact,” said Tim Davis, director, iLabs. “Participating communities can identify best practices and methods they can implement to aid in job growth, economic diversification and development of entrepreneurs.”

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, 182 communities across Michigan have participated in the study.

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