



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release
October 29, 2015

For More Information:
City Manager's Office / 228-0435
Tim Davis, iLabs / 313-593-4060

UM-DEARBORN'S iLABS' eCITIES RESEARCH RECOGNIZES MARQUETTE FOR DEVELOPING A POSITIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL CLIMATE

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 five-star community along with 35 other communities across the state.

"The City of Marquette is honored to receive this Five-Star recognition," said Marquette Mayor Mike Coyne. "Marquette has worked hard and has been very successful with Economic Development. We have invested community resources to continue our successful growth."

The eCities study surveyed 66 communities from 29 counties in Michigan that are home to more than 19 percent of Michigan residents and 10 percent of its college graduates. These communities count for nearly one-fifth of the state's entrepreneurs, who earned more than \$1.8 billion in self-employed income. More than 60 percent of these communities have a local business database, nearly one-third provide business improvement grants, and nearly 40 percent have full-time economic development employees.

"The eCities project highlights how local governments from across the state of Michigan are cultivating and supporting economic development. These communities show how local governments can work in distinct and strategic ways to energize public spaces, while investing in businesses and job development," said Tim Davis, director, iLabs.

Five-Star Communities (**denotes best practice community*)

Five-star communities spent more than \$3.4 million on economic development, had more than \$31 million in additions to assets in the past year and had more than \$29 billion in combined real and personal property values.

Cascade Charter Township	City of Marquette	City of Plymouth
City of Coldwater	City of Midland	Plymouth Township
City of Dearborn	City of Mount Pleasant	City of Sault Ste. Marie*
Delta Charter Township	Northville Charter Township	City of Troy
City of Dexter	City of Novi	City of Wixom
City of Grandville		
Kochville Township	Pittsfield Township*	

Four-Star Communities (**denotes best practice community*)

Four-star communities saw over \$475 million in commercial construction and issued 1,796 in commercial construction permits. Additionally, more than 75 percent of four-star communities had shared economic development programs and half had full-time economic development employees on staff.

Village of Almont	City of Grant Blanc*	City of Rochester
Alpine Township	City of Grant Rapids	City of Romulus
Comstock Charter Township	City of Madison Heights*	Saginaw Charter Township
City of Farmington Hills	City of Mason	City of Saline
Flint Charter Township	Charter Township of Meridian	City of Tecumseh*
Garfield Charter Township	City of Norton Shores	Thomas Township

The communities will be honored today, Thursday, October 29, at UM-Dearborn. Support for eCities is provided in part by the DTE Energy Foundation, Miller Canfield, Oakland County Economic Development and Community Affairs 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, 199 communities across Michigan have participated in the study.

#####