



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release  
**November 2, 2016**

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### **CITY RECOGNIZED AS FIVE-STAR ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY**

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 21 other communities across the state.

"The City of Marquette is honored to receive this Five-Star recognition," said Marquette Mayor Dave Campana. "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 76 communities from 25 counties in Michigan that are home to more than 22 percent of Michigan residents and 28 percent with at least a bachelor's degree. These communities count for nearly one-fifth of the state's entrepreneurs who earned more than \$1.9 billion self-employed income in total. About 60 percent of these communities have a local business database, more than a quarter provide business improvement grants and more than 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 have commercial constructions worth over \$875 million, having issued over 2000 construction permits. They have more than \$29 billion in combined real and personal properties. They have more than \$21 million in additions to assets in the past year and with about 10% of the employed population being self-employed.

Ann Arbor Charter Township	Cascade Charter Township	City of Dexter
City of Ann Arbor	City of Coldwater	City of Madison Heights
City of Farmington	City of Grandville	City of Mount Pleasant
City of Marquette	City of Midland	City of Romulus*
City of Novi	City of Oak Park	City of Wixom
City of Sault Ste. Marie*	City of Sturgis	Pittsfield Township
Delta Charter Township	Kochville Township	
Plymouth Township	Charter Township of Meridian	

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

Four-star communities have seen over \$342 million in commercial construction which account for close to 50% of the total construction value and 16% of the construction permits. Additionally, they have additions to their assets worth more than \$30 million. 68% of their population is over 25 years of age and 47% have attended some college.

Bath Charter Township	Charter Township of West	Village of Quincy
City of Dearborn	Bloomfield	City of Adrian
City of Livonia	City of Farmington Hills*	City of Grand Blanc*
City of Norton Shores	City of Mason	City of Mount Clemens
City of Swartz Creek	City of Plymouth	City of Portage
City of Ypsilanti	City of Tecumseh*	City of Trenton
Northville Charter Township	Comstock Charter Township	Flint Charter Township
Village of Oxford	Saginaw Charter Township	Thomas Township

The communities will be honored Wednesday, Nov. 2, at UM-Dearborn. Support for eCities is provided in part by the DTE Energy Foundation, Comcast, Plante Moran 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, more than 200 communities across Michigan have participated in the study.