



# The EDACENTER

at the University of Minnesota Crookston

The EDA Chronicle-November 2013

www.edacenter.org

Volume 3, Issue 11

## Events of Interest:

November 30

- **REMINDER-IDEA Competition** Applications are due. Entry fee is \$150 with a special student rate of \$75. Please go to <http://ideacompetition.org/enter.html> to enter.

December 5

- **How to Use Labor Market Information.** This event will be held from 1-4PM at the Duluth Workforce Center. There is no fee, but space is limited. Email [DEED.Training@state.mn.us](mailto:DEED.Training@state.mn.us) to register.

December 11

- **MTO's BRICs & Beyond: Opportunities in Emerging Markets.** From 8-9:30AM at Fredikson & Byron's Law Offices in Minneapolis. Fee is \$25 if you pre-register and \$35 at the door. To register, go to <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1339284>.

December 17

- **International Trade and Foreign Exchange Forum** hosted by Mid Minnesota Commercial Banking Group. Event will be held at US Bank-Downtown St. Cloud from 8:45-10:30AM. Registration is free but must RSVP by December 12. For more information please go to <http://mn.gov/deed/events/biz-events/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Deventid%3D108025703>. Email Eric Reisinger at [eric.reisinger@usbank.com](mailto:eric.reisinger@usbank.com) to register.

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## EDA Center Accepting Requests for Proposals

This Request for Assistance (RFA) is designed to solicit requests from community, county and regional economic development agencies seeking direct technical assistance to support their economic development activities. This RFA will be the mechanism by which the EDA Center will identify its annual technical assistance projects.

All project requests will be assessed by EDA Center staff and advisory council for staff costs and time commitments.

### Eligible Applicants:

Public, tribal-supported and nonprofit economic development agencies supporting rural areas.

### Types of Assistance:

The EDA Center does not specifically define the types of assistance that rural economic development agencies may seek. Accordingly, the EDA Center will accept and review all requests for assistance from eligible applicants. The driving consideration in evaluating RFAs are potential regional impact and availability of university expertise. Typically, the EDA Center has found success finding expertise in assisting economic development in organizations in the following ways:

- Market Research
- Technology Studies
- Workforce Development Studies & Support
- Economic Impact Analysis
- Student-supported Projects and Internships

- Product Development Assistance
- Strategic Planning Services
- Statistical Studies
- Technology Deployment Planning
- Support of Entrepreneurial Program Development

### Project Timelines:

Due to constraints of EDA funding, project time lines should be less than 12 months in duration.

### Costs of Assistance:

The EDA Center does not have require matching resources it delivers technical assistance to, however we generally limit average project costs to less than \$20,000. In addition, the EDA Center takes a partnership approach with the organizations it serves rather than an outside consultant. This means that technical assistance projects include clear mutual responsibilities between the EDA Center and the economic development agency.

### EDA Center Priorities:

The EDA Center will assess technical assistance requests based on the following criteria:

1. Location is in an economically-distressed area.
2. Impact on job creation, recruitment or retention.
3. Impact on the effectiveness of the economic development agency.
4. Project duration of less than 12 months.

5. Overall project costs.

### How to Apply:

The application process to request assistance from the EDA Center is simple and streamlined. Simply complete the RFA application along with a cover letter. Applications can be downloaded and submitted via email or completed and submitted online. The PDF can be downloaded at <http://www.edacenter.org/>

[downloads/EDA\\_RFA\\_Form.pdf](#). The online application can be found at [http://www.edacenter.org/technicalAssistance\\_request.php](http://www.edacenter.org/technicalAssistance_request.php).

### Application Deadlines:

There are no set deadlines for submitting technical assistance requests. Each application will be evaluated and responded to in a timely manner.

### Have Questions?:

Contact Brent D. Hales, Ph.D., EDA Center Director at (w) 612-626-8256; (c) 601-467-1280 or email at [bdhales@umn.edu](mailto:bdhales@umn.edu).

You may also contact Kevin Cooper, EDA Center Associate Director at 218-281-8187 or email at [coope474@crk.umn.edu](mailto:coope474@crk.umn.edu).

## The EDA Center's "Regional Round-up"

*Every month The EDA Center will collect information from the different regions in Greater Minnesota in an effort to highlight various projects and events across the state. If you have any projects or events you would like for us to highlight in future newsletters, please submit them to [walke810@umn.edu](mailto:walke810@umn.edu) prior to the 15th of every month.*



Picture courtesy of Jordan Zeller

### East Central Regional Development Commission

*By Bob Voss, Executive Director, ECRDC*

Pine Technical College in Pine City is making significant progress on the construction of the new Pine Tech Entrepreneurship Center & Technology Business Incubator. This project is the recipient of a US

Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration (EDA) Infrastructure Grant and Supplemental Infrastructure Grant totaling \$1,798,200.00. Construction is scheduled to be completed by year's end with a ribbon cutting and grand opening in the early months of 2014.

### Region Nine

*Submitted by Nicole Griensewic, Executive Director, RNDC*

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken along with Representative Tim Walz and Faribault County Development Director Linsey Warmka announced a \$993,050 U.S. Economic Development Administration grant was awarded to develop the City of Blue Earth's North Industrial Park. The industrial park is intended to take advantage of busy intersections surrounding Interstate 90 and Highway 169. The project is expected to cost \$3.7 million. This grant will cover half of the costs for essential roadways, water, and sewer infrastructure. According to Warmka, the City of Blue Earth will come up with the rest of the expenses through bonding.

Information about this project came

from 2 sources submitted by Nicole Griensewic: original Sept. 27th press release from Sen. Franken's office ([http://www.franken.senate.gov/?p=press\\_release&id=2569](http://www.franken.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=2569)), and the Fairmont Sentinel (<http://www.fairmontsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/526417/Blue-Earth-wins--1-million-grant.html>).

*By Byron Jost, Planning Director, RNDC*

On November 1st local economic development professionals and state and regional program area representatives met at the Work Force Center in Mankato to discuss common interests as the first ever South Central Minnesota Business Development Network. The Network is sponsored by MN DEED and the Region Nine Development Commission. The group met for two hours and discussed projects in their communities or business development loan programs offered by MN DEED, Rural Development, Region Nine Development Commission, SMIF and others. This group is an off-shoot of similar sessions that have been held for many years in Owatonna. The group plans to continue to meet on the first Friday of each month.

## DEED Report: 2012-2013 Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment

After seasonal adjustments, unemployment in October rose to 7.3 percent in the U.S. and dropped to 4.8 percent in Minnesota. Unemployment claims in October increased 6093 to 20,872 when compared to September. Over the year unemployment claims dropped 8.2 percent when compared to October 2012.

Minnesota employers added 9,900 jobs in October. Education/Health Services (5,200), Manufacturing, (3,900), Construction (1,200), Trade/

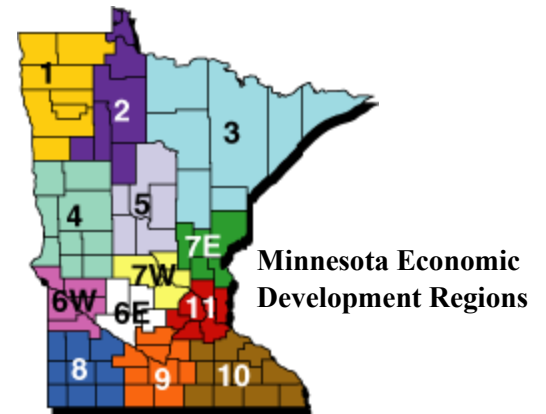
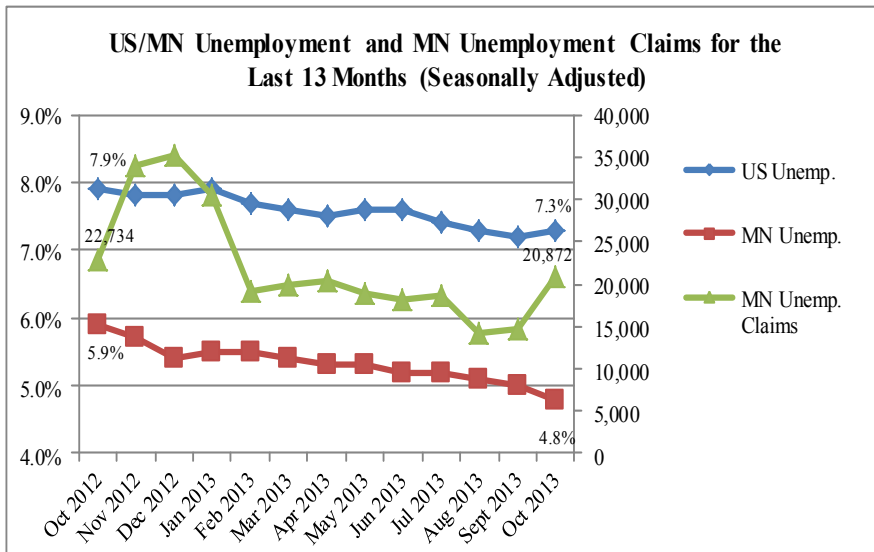
Transportation/Utilities (800), Leisure/Hospitality (600), Mining/Logging (100), and Information (100) all posted job gains. Four sectors posted job losses in October. These sectors include: Other Services(-800), Professional/Business Services (-600), Government (-400), and Financial Activities (-200).

Minnesota gained 50,000 additional jobs over the past year. For a growth rate of 1.8 percent. Minnesota's 1.8 percent growth is still above the U.S.

growth rate of 1.7 percent.

**Due to the temporary government shutdown in for 16 days in October, regional unemployment data were not available on DEED's website as of November 21, 2012. August is still the most recent data available by regions.**

Go to the DEED website; [www.positivelyminnesota.com](http://www.positivelyminnesota.com) to view more employment and wage statistics.



### 2012-2013 Minnesota Unemployment by Economic Development Region (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date	EDR1	EDR2	EDR3	EDR4	EDR5	EDR6E	EDR6W	EDR7E	EDR7W	EDR8	EDR9	EDR10	EDR11
Aug 2012	4.8%	7.1%	6.7%	4.4%	6.3%	5.8%	4.9%	6.6%	5.5%	4.5%	5.3%	5.3%	5.7%
Sept 2012	4.3%	6.5%	6.2%	4.1%	6.0%	5.3%	4.4%	6.2%	5.2%	4.2%	4.9%	4.8%	5.4%
Oct 2012	4.1%	6.7%	6.1%	4.1%	6.2%	5.3%	4.4%	6.2%	5.1%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	5.3%
Nov 2012	4.5%	7.1%	6.5%	4.1%	6.9%	5.4%	4.2%	6.5%	5.1%	3.9%	4.6%	4.5%	4.9%
Dec 2012	5.7%	8.1%	6.9%	5.2%	8.1%	6.1%	5.4%	7.9%	6%	4.2%	5.2%	4.9%	5%
Jan 2013	8.1%	10.1%	8.4%	6.7%	10.2%	7.9%	7.4%	10%	7.6%	5.8%	6.7%	6.2%	5.8%
Feb 2013	7.1%	9.2%	7.7%	6.1%	9.3%	7.3%	6.5%	9%	6.9%	5.4%	6.1%	5.8%	5.3%
Mar 2013	7.1%	9.2%	7.5%	6%	9%	7.1%	6.4%	9%	6.6%	5.2%	5.9%	5.5%	5.1%
Apr 2013	6.5%	8.7%	7.1%	5.3%	7.9%	6.1%	5.7%	8.1%	6%	4.7%	5.4%	5%	4.8%
May 2013	4.6%	7.1%	6.7%	4.1%	6.3%	5.1%	4.9%	6.4%	4.9%	4%	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%
Jun 2013	4.9%	7%	6.7%	4.3%	6.2%	5.3%	4.8%	6.3%	5.2%	4.2%	5%	4.9%	5.1%
Jul 2013	4.9%	6.8%	6.5%	4.1%	6%	5.1%	4.8%	6%	5%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	5%
Aug 2013	4.4%	6.2%	6%	3.7%	5.6%	4.6%	4.5%	5.5%	4.6%	3.8%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%

## DEED Announces Made in Minnesota Database

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, DEED announced a new online database intended to identify businesses who produce and manufacture goods in the state of Minnesota. The Made in Minnesota Directory contains nearly 600 manufacturers. “The Made in Minnesota Directory is an efficient online database designed to help Minnesota businesses tap the local supply chain for their manufacturing

needs,” said Commissioner Sieben. “The directory will highlight the many manufactured products and goods made in Minnesota and strengthen Minnesota’s economy by encouraging local supply chains.”

The directory contains the names, addresses, year of establishment, corporate contact information, number of employees, products produced, and

products they are interested in purchasing. The database can be accessed by going to <http://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/made-minnesota.jsp>. Companies can be sorted by name, product, or county. If you want your company listed, just go to the directory website and you can add your company to the database at no charge.

## Minnesota Management & Budget Office Releases October Economic Update

The October Economic Update shows \$2 million less than projected in the February Forecast in the first quarter of fiscal year 2014. Income tax receipts for the first quarter were at \$2.155 billion (\$27 million more than projected) and sales tax receipts were at \$1.133 billion (\$46 million more than projected) during the months of July, August, and September. Other revenues and corporate tax receipts were down for the first quarter. Corporate tax receipts were at \$342 million (down \$11 million from projections) and other revenues were at \$457 million (down \$64 million from projections) for the months of July, August, and September.

While the first quarter of fiscal year 14 started \$2 million short of projections, fiscal year 13 closed with \$489 million more in general fund revenues than projected in the February Economic Forecast. This \$489 million positive variance and changes in spending allowed \$636 million in K-12 education and property tax shifts to be repaid.

Global Insight is less optimistic in this update when compared to the February Forecast. The October estimate for 2013 is 1.5 percent which is down from the 1.9 percent forecast in February. Also, they have reduced the 2014 and 2015 projections. Real GDP growth in 2014 is expected to be 2.5

percent (down from 2.8%) and real GDP growth in 2015 is expected to be 3.2 percent (down from 3.3%). These current projections were calculated in the middle of the federal shutdown, which lasted for 16 days. New projections will be released in the upcoming November Economic Forecast. The November Economic Forecast will be released sometime in December.

*For the full October Economic Update please go to <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/doc/fu/13/update-oct.pdf>.*

## Request for Proposals-Resilient Communities Project 2014-2015

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is now accepting proposals from cities and counties to be the community partner in 2014-2015. "RCP is a year-long partnership between the University of Minnesota and one local community in Minnesota. Through the partnership, students and faculty from across the University collaborate with the partner community to address its self-defined sustainability-related

needs through course-based projects. The collaboration results in on-the-ground impact and momentum for a community working toward a more sustainable and livable future." Cities, counties, and communities along transportation corridors, around regional centers, or within watersheds are eligible to apply. Preference is given to communities within a 2 hour drive of Minneapolis to minimize trav-

el and time costs. Communities located further than 2 hours may be considered if additional funds are contributed to aid in travel costs. Applications are due to RCP no later than 4:30 PM on February 14, 2014. The RCP will notify the community selected sometime in March 2014. *For more information and to apply please go to <http://rcp.umn.edu/home/communities/apply-to-rcp/>.*



## Fifteen Businesses and Organizations Receive MHTA Tekne Awards

The Minnesota High-Tech Association (MHTA) announced the winners of 15 Tekne Awards on November 6th, 2013 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. MHTA presented Tekne awards to the following businesses and organizations:

- **Advanced Manufacturing – 3M**
- **Agricultural Technology – The Toro Company**
- **Computer Hardware and Electronic Devices – Honeywell**
- **EdTech – myON-a business unit of Capstone**
- **Healthcare Delivery (Established Company) – HealthPartners**
- **Healthcare Delivery (Small and Growing Company) – Corventis, Inc.**
- **Impact on Industry (Established Company) – Ecolab**
- **Impact on Industry (Small and Growing Company) – BankCard Services Worldwide BankCard**
- **Innovative Collaboration of the Year – Boston Scientific and University of Minnesota**
- **Mobile Technologies – XRS Corporation**
- **Safety and Security – MPC**
- **Software (Established Company) – Navitaire**
- **Software (Small and Growing Company) – UpNet Technologies**
- **Start-Up – CogCubed**
- **STEM Education and Digital Learning – University of St. Thomas – School of Engineering**

The MHTA has included detailed information about the various products/projects that separated these businesses and organizations from the other finalists at

<http://www.mhta.org/fifteen-minnesota-high-tech-innovators-honored-at-2013-tekne-awards/>. You may watch the awards ceremony at <http://mhta.qwikcast.tv/2013-tekne>.

In addition to the 15 award winners, two new members of the Minnesota Science and Technology Hall of Fame were also inducted: Dr. Ernst R. G. Eckert, who was a member of the University of Minnesota's Department of Mechanical Engineering, and John Rollwagen, who (along with his partner Samuel Cray) helped develop Cray Research into a Fortune 500 Company.



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*The EDA Center at the University of Minnesota Crookston is one of more than 40 university centers nationwide, supported by the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.*

*We conduct applied research, provide direct technical assistance and deliver educational programs development agencies that support the economy of economically-distressed rural communities throughout Minnesota.*

*EDA Center Staff:*

*Brent Hales-EDA Center Director*

*Kevin Cooper-EDA Center Associate Director*

*Eddie Walker-Research Analyst/Editor*



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