

Economic Development

Community and Economic Development Preparedness Team

Current Initiatives

Current initiatives of the Community and Economic Development Preparedness (CEDP) team include development and presentation of the popular "Building Communities" Educational Series. More than ___ sites across the state - with approximately ___ people – participate in this community development series each year.

The 2006-2007 series was entitled "Chasing the Money or Funding a Vision?" and was designed to guide communities towards funding their top priority community development projects. Speakers from various state and federal funding agencies included:

- ▶ Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- ▶ Business Improvement Districts
- ▶ USDA Rural Development
- ▶ Department of Agricultural Trade and Consumer Protection
- ▶ Department of Workforce Development
- ▶ Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Another major initiative of the CEDP team is the development, maintenance and evaluation of the Community and Economic Development Tool Box. The tool box is an on-line resource designed to help community leaders work through the "building blocks" of community development readiness.

This resource also packages together 32 popular and effective community development tools that can be used by community leaders throughout the community development process. Each of the 32 tools include a short, one-page narrative explaining the use of the tool along with the contact information of educators who have experience applying the tool in their own communities.

The tool box has been shared with a broad audience, including:

- ▶ National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals National Conference
- ▶ Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference
- ▶ Community Resource Development Symposium
- ▶ UW-Extension's "Building Communities" Wis-Line Series
- ▶ North Central Regional Center for Rural Development "Foundations of Practice" Conference

The team has also submitted the Community and Economic Development Tool Box for potential inclusion in the International Municipal Economic Development Tool Kit.

Currently underway is the development of a Zoomerang survey that will be distributed to all CNRED educators to help evaluate the use and effectiveness of the tool box.

Upcoming Events

The 2007-2008 "Building Communities" Educational Series begins in September. Programs, dates and speakers for this year's educational series are:

Community Development: The Foundation for a Better Place - September 14, 2007

UW-Madison/Extension Professor Gary Green

Community Capacity Building: Engaging and Empowering Them All - October 12, 2007

UW-Madison/Extension Associate Professor Randy Stoecker

Community Preparedness: Building on Assets - November 9, 2007

UW-Extension Professor Andy Lewis and Associate Professor Will Andresen

Understanding the Community and How It's Changing: Demographics and More - December 14, 2007

UW-Extension Professor Bill Pinkovitz and GIS Specialist Matt Kures

Clusters and Regions: They Both Matter - January 11, 2008

UW-Extension GIS Specialist Matt Kures and Center Fellow Terry Ludeman

Attraction Strategies: Recruiting the Right Thing - February 8, 2008

UW-Superior/Extension Associate Professor Jerry Hembd and Center Fellow John Ramer

Supporting Existing Businesses: The Case for Downtown Business Development - March 14, 2008

UW-Extension Community Business Development Specialist Bill Ryan and JD Milburn of the Wisconsin Main Street Program

Entrepreneurship: It's Good for Business, Government and the Civic Sector - April 11, 2008

UW-Extension Professor Greg Wise

Sustainable Development: Is It Going Mainstream? - May 9, 2008

UW-Superior/Extension Associate Professor Jerry Hembd

The Art and Science of Putting It All Together - June 13, 2008

UW-Extension Emeritus Professor Alan Anderson

Resources

Building Communities Education Series - http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/communities/Building_Community.cfm

Community and Economic Development Tool Box - <http://www2.uwsuper.edu/cedpt/index.htm>

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