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Governor's Northern Economic Development Summit **"Sharing Success & Learning Together"**

December 1, 2015 – Heartwood Conference Center, Trego

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with Wisconsin's leadership team in community and economic development! How can Northern Wisconsin build on success and maximize its assets in collaboration with state government resources to fuel economic development for today & tomorrow?

Highlights will include:

- Visits from Governor Walker and Lt. Governor Kleefisch
- Conversation with your choice of a Cabinet Secretary
- Break-out sessions on workforce tools, access to capital, broadband expansion & recreational trail development
- Cabinet Secretary panels focused on exchanging ideas about success, as well as new programs & tools

Register today at northwoodssummit.com

NEW THIS YEAR! **Cabinet on the Road** **December 2nd!**

Cabinet Secretaries will travel throughout the northwest to learn directly from you what works and what we can collaboratively do better.

Workforce News

New JobCenterofWisconsin.com offer enhanced tools

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) announced the launch of the first phase of a new, mobile-friendly employment tool available to employers and job seekers at no cost, 24 hours a day on Wisconsin's online public labor exchange, JobCenterofWisconsin.com.

Logon to target in-demand careers and drive hiring results: www.JobCenterofWisconsin.com/

DWD awarded \$5 million Federal Grant to Enhance Apprenticeship

DWD has been awarded a \$5 million grant by the U.S. Department of Labor to enhance the agency's already leading-edge apprenticeship program. Funds will be invested in the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Growth and Enhancement Strategies (WAGE\$) project. WAGE\$ will register new apprenticeships in 12 high-growth occupations in the Advanced Manufacturing, HealthCare, and IT industries, and expand upon other existing programs. For more information about DWD's Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, visit: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/>.

ConnectWI – Recognizing Transparency in Local Government

Three Wisconsin villages and four cities have been selected as the first municipalities recognized by ConnectWI—a new statewide local government website transparency program from the Wisconsin Women's Council, in partnership with the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and the Wisconsin Broadcaster's Association. Connect WI was established to shine a spotlight and promote promising practices in website transparency from local governments across Wisconsin.

Of the seven honored municipalities, six are from the northern half of the state. Give a shout-out to Appleton, Eau Claire, River Falls, Waupaca, Kronenwetter and Weston! For information on how your municipality can enhance on-line transparency, visit the [program website](#).

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Agriculture Enterprise Areas

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is now accepting petitions for Agricultural Enterprise Areas to be designated in 2016. Although the petition deadline is not until April 29, 2016, petitions typically require months to prepare. Agricultural enterprise areas, or AEAs, are blocks of land that are primarily in agricultural use for farming and for businesses that serve the farming sector. They are created when at least five landowners and their local governments petition for an AEA designation and the department approves the petition.

Petition materials, including detailed instructions and petition forms, are available online at datcp.wi.gov by searching for "petition materials." Completed petitions are due April 29, 2016. Petitions must be completed jointly by local landowners and local government officials. Prospective petitioners should notify the department of their intent to apply, so they can receive announcements of workshops or webinars to help them prepare their petitions.

For more information, farmers and local government officials should call Coreen Fallat at 608-224-4625 or email DATCPWorkingLands@wisconsin.gov.

Local Chambers – Spread the News: Funds Available to Assist Wisconsin Exporters

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has awarded the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation a

\$712,000 grant to help Wisconsin companies achieve their export goals.

Wisconsin companies can use the funds to implement export programs developed in ExporTech™, an export acceleration program funded by WEDC and administered by the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the UW-Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center. ExporTech helps Wisconsin companies expand their global market reach through guided development of an international growth plan.

Separately, any Wisconsin company can tap STEP Grant funds to attend an upcoming trade venture organized by WEDC or the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Projection.

For more information about WEDC export assistance, visit: <http://inwisconsin.com/export/>.

Broadband News

State Broadband Director Named

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has announced Angie Dickison as the new State Broadband Director. Angie brings extensive statewide and local broadband planning experiences to the State Broadband Office, which works with stakeholders to build partnerships with providers and consumers to enhance broadband access across not only the North, but the entire state. Read more about Angie and the State Broadband Office [here](#).

WiscNet Workgroup: Extending Internet to Our Communities

November 18 and 19 – Eau Claire

WiscNet is gathering leaders throughout Wisconsin's schools, libraries, hospitals, and municipalities to explore and share strategies to extend Internet access throughout their communities. We invite you to join this free event, which is open to anybody that would like to attend. More information, including registration, is available at www.wiscnet.net

Consumer Protection Resources

Are you looking for ways to protect yourself and your family members from scams and identity theft? The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) website, datcp.wi.gov, is the place to start. Access a number of free services and publications from DATCP's Bureau of Consumer Protection including an online complaint form; fact sheets on consumer topics; the Landlord-Tenant Guide; and the Senior Guide, a 55-page booklet that covers the A-Z of consumer issues. DATCP also manages the state's Do Not Call Registry and staffs the Consumer Protection Hotline (800-422-7128) to address your consumer questions.

Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Survey

Thank you to those who completed the WTCS survey in late September. Results will be shared [here](#) in mid-November.

About the Northern Office

The Northern Office serves as a connection point between communities in Northern Wisconsin and the resources of state government. If you are looking for information, have a suggestion, or need assistance with problem resolution with a state agency, please contact me. I travel throughout the 40 county region north of U.S. Highway 10 and can be available, with 3 to 4 weeks notice, to attend your meetings and events. Keep in touch!