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Schools Get \$15 Million for Broadband

Interested in broadband for your local school district? In December Governor Walker announced the availability of \$15 million for **Technology for Educational Achievement (TEACH)** Information Technology Infrastructure grants to assist districts to acquire equipment and services to build a modern technology system. The Department of Administration is now accepting applications from eligible school districts. Grant applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on February 2nd. For more information, visit the **TEACH** website.

Recreational Boating Grants

Eligible applicants for this DNR funding opportunity include counties, towns, cities, villages, tribes, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations. Past projects have included ramps and service docks to gain access to water, acquisition of aquatic weed equipment, navigation aids, and dredging of waterway channels. Applications are accepted at any time. The next round is due February 1st. More details at dnr.wi.gov/aid/rbf.html.

Mark Your Calendar

Governor's Conference On Tourism Approaching!

March 11-13th

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Tourism, March 11-13th at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center in Appleton. More information is available at industry.travelwisconsin.com.

Wisconsin Rural Summit

April 18-19, Baraboo

Rural communities in northern, central & southern Wisconsin have a lot in common! Don't miss out on the opportunity to discover ideas that you can take back to your community. This annual two-day learning, sharing, and networking opportunity is sponsored by Wisconsin Rural Partners. Check the webpage <https://wirural.org/programs/ruralsummit/> for the Summit announcement, agenda and registration information.

Stay in the Know

Gear Up for Internship Season with WisConnect

Looking to increase your skilled talent pipeline? An internship program is a fantastic way to begin that process. The majority of college students begin searching for internships after the new year, so now is the perfect time to visit InternshipWisconsin.com and register with WisConnect. Your source for Wisconsin internships, WisConnect is a free resource that offers tips and resources to help your business launch an internship program, market your company to student talent, and search for college students who are looking for internship opportunities.

Get the Scoop on Commercial Building Codes

Join the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services for an "Ask the Code Official" webinar on Wednesday, January 17 from 11:00 AM to noon. This webinar will relate to commercial building and answer questions on building code updates. Email questions in advance to DSPSAskTheCodeOfficial@wisconsin.gov.

To register for the webinar, [click here](#).

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College & Career Readiness Guide

The Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions has created a [College & Career Readiness Guide](#) to help Wisconsin's K-12 students chart a course that will lead them to productive and rewarding careers as adults. DFI will distribute copies of the guide through its outreach to K-12 schools, the Governor's Council on Financial Literacy, and other financial literacy stakeholder groups. Copies may be printed or downloaded from DFI's [Look Forward website](#). For more information, contact DFI at LookForwardwi@wisconsin.gov.

Northwoods Freight Railroad Market Study

Studying Rail Service in Northern Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation along with SRF Consulting Group, is conducting the Northwoods Freight Rail Market Study. The study serves as an update to the [2013 Northwoods Freight Rail Market Study](#). This project will investigate the need for rail service in northern Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan. This is being accomplished through outreach with Northwoods Rail Transit Commission (NRTC) members, local economic development officials, business owners, rail users, and the operating railroads.

A survey of businesses in NRTC counties that currently use rail or have the potential to ship by rail concluded in December. Survey results and the final study will be available in March 2018.

Chambers & EDC's – Please Share

WisConomy.com Offers New Tools to Analyze Economic and Labor Data

Online economic and labor market information tools are available now at WisConomy.com. Operated by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, this website offers easy-to-use tools to help businesses and individuals research local, regional, and state economic and labor market data to make informed employment decisions. Users can learn about hot jobs and the local job market, examine wages and long-term employment projections by industry, find licensed occupations, create reports and visualizations, and more.

Wisconsin's Economy Today Video Series Shines Spotlight on Best Economy in 18 Years

Wisconsin is starting to fully realize its competitive advantages. Our tax burden is the lowest it has been in 50 years, and the state's unemployment rate is at 3.2%. Wages are rising, home prices are up, and companies are expanding or relocating here. John Koskinen, Wisconsin Department of Revenue's (DOR) Chief Economist, has spent his career tracking economic data and notes that what we are seeing is unprecedented in many ways. To share this news, DOR has launched the video series [Wisconsin's Economy Today](#).

To invite John to speak to your group, contact DOR's Patty Mayers at 608-266-2300 or DORCommunications@wisconsin.gov.

WEDC Idle Sites & Certified Sites Programs

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation is offering two programs for counties, municipalities, and other entities seeking ways to spur economic development. The [Idle Sites Redevelopment Program](#) offers Wisconsin communities grants of up to \$500,000 for implementation of redevelopment plans for large industrial or commercial sites that have been idle, abandoned, or underutilized for at least five years. For more information, visit inwisconsin.com/idlesites.

The [Certified In Wisconsin®](#) Program designates industrial parcels of 20 acres or more as "ready for industrial development." Certified Site designation indicates that a wide range of concerns have been considered and provides potential tenants with the information needed to make quick decisions about whether that site is right for their development needs. For more, visit certified.inwisconsin.com or contact Coleman Peiffer at coleman.peiffer@wedc.org.

Trade Venture to Canada Set for March

Northern Wisconsin companies seeking to grow their business by exporting are invited to take part in a Global Trade Venture to Canada from March 1-23 hosted by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. Participants will be scheduled for customized one-on-one meetings with prospective partners in the market that suit the company's business needs. More details at wedc.org/blog/global-trade-venture-canada-2018.

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 us. We 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!