EDA Center at the University of Minnesota

Bruce Schwartau

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Extension Center for Community Vitality

Lee Groeschl / Michelle Christopherson

University of Minnesota - UM EDA Center

Organizational Chart

EDA Funding



UMN Crookston

Grant Management
Veden Center for

Rural Economic Development

Extension

Directorship (current)
Community Economics
programming





at the University of Minnesota



2016-2021 Program Focus

- Advancing high growth entrepreneurship
- Business expansion including small- and mediumsized and ethnically diverse enterprises
- Developing and recruiting a high-skilled regional workforce





Economic Contribution of American Health Care Spending in NW Minnesota



Key questions:

- Quantify amount of contribution
- Explore occupational opportunities
- Quantify substance abuse counseling and educational opportunities
- Potential for supply chain development in health care industry





- In the 7-county NW MN area, Am. Indian health care spending supported 2,450 jobs.
- Medicare, Medcaid, and Indian Health Services spent an estimated \$180 million. \$85 million in labor income.
- 4 of to 10 home health care & mental health providers are Indian owned.
- 4 potential supply chains emerged.





Inaugural Conference

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities in Minnesota

Sept. 5-6, 2019 | Waseca, Minnesota





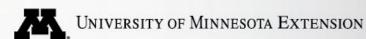
Amanda Brinkman

Host of Deluxe's hit HULU series,

Small Business Revolution – Main Street



Tom Smude Co-Owner, Smude Enterprises LLC



Join us. Register now at z.umn.edu/cec_conference



You
10.29.19
Were
Made
for
This!

Forging Our Entrepreneur Ecosystem

MNwest Entrepreneur Summit



The MNwest Entrepreneur Summit

is convened by





Collaborating for Regional Vitality



Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV)

The Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) program is all about finding and igniting existing entrepreneurs in communities. By adopting a "grow your own" approach to entrepreneur development, the REV model helps community grow from within.



Business Expansion

- Locally-Sourcing Food Enterprises: Research,
 Outreach & Education (Request by Region 5 RDC)
- Economic Impacts Study on Closing of Coal-Generated Power Plant (Request by Arrowhead RDC)
- Dairy Plant Closures in Rochester, MN (local EDA)
- Potential Economic Impact of Hemp Processing
- Exploring Foreign Direct Investments in non-metro Minnesota (Request by local EDA and MN Trade Office)



Business Expansion

- Understanding & Enhancing the Main Street and Agriculture Connection (Requested by Rethos)
- Dollar Store Impacts (Requested by Multiple RDCs)
- Impacts of Main Street Business Successions (Requested by multiple RDCs)
- Increasing Opportunities in Promise Zones
- Consulting/Feasibility Projects



Developing a High-Skilled Regional Workforce

- "Launch Minnesota" program is a statewide effort to accelerate the growth of startups.
- Recently received request from a RDC about assisting in worker housing evaluations.



Overview of Current Initiatives

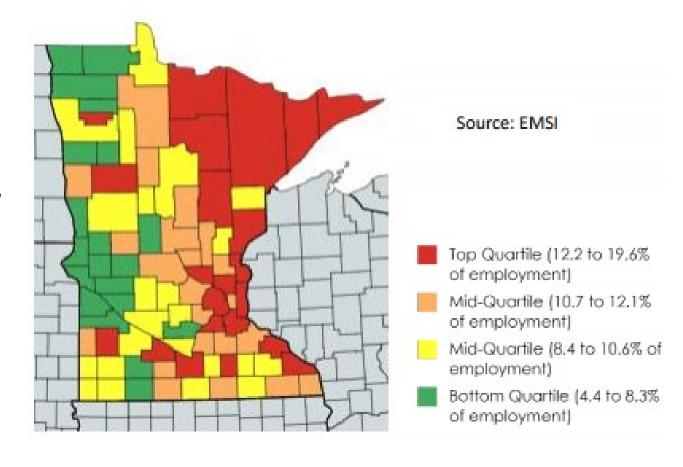
USDA Rural Business Development Grant (MN)

- Submitted for provide Technical Assistance Grants in NW MN
- 2) Provide Entrepreneurial Service Support
- 3) Provide More Internship/Experiential Learning Opportunities for UM/UMC Students (GOLD PASS)
- 4) Summer of EngageMNt (COVID-19 response)



COVID-19

- Hospitality
- Travel arrange.
- Employment services
- Transportation
- Mining





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Well-attended webinars

- Supporting minority-owned businesses
- How a small town bank is helping
- Minnesota's economic outlook
- Reaching out to businesses in a sensitive time
- Supporting Main Street retail
- Retaining businesses: Thief River Falls
- COVID-19: How are economists thinking about this?
- Economic Fallout: What do unemployment numbers mean?





Development Stage

- Online Communities of Prosperity in Food Supply Chains & Travel/Tourism and Business Retention
- Additional training for local EDA members
- Additional initiatives on community resiliency
- Special programming for minority business owners and employees



Thank you

For more info:

- o z.umn.edu/outreach-engagement
- edacenter.umn.edu
- z.umn.edu/CommunityHousing
- z.umn.edu/cec conference
- o z.umn.edu/CommunityVitality