

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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MSU EDA University Center for Regional and Economic Innovation (REI) Announces Project Awards for 2024

Lansing, MI - The MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation, with counsel from the REI Consultative Panelist, is excited to announce awardees of three Co-Learning Plan (CLP) projects, eight Student-Led, Faculty-Guided projects, and one Innovation Fellowship for 2024.

Co-Learning Plans focus on spurring economic growth and development in economically challenged communities. Since its establishment in 2011, with support from the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA), REI has been instrumental in co-creating innovative economic development tools, models, policies, and practices for economically distressed communities in Michigan. The insights and recommendations emerging from these CLPs will provide relevant and actionable information for local and state economic development professionals and decision-makers.



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Analysis & Mapping of Michigan Licensed Appraisers 1980-2022, CLP awardee, David Palmer states that, even though state licensed appraisers play a critical role in Michigan's residential real estate market, there appears to be very little known about those individuals who are licensed. Acknowledging decades of consistent appraisal valuation challenges in the City of Detroit for residential homes, and a long history of racial discrimination in housing, this CLP will use public data to detail what is publicly known about licensed appraisers in Michigan in the period from 1980 to 2022.

Led by Adil Mohammed and Phyllis Sykes, The International Center of Greater Flint (ICGF) CLP proposes to develop a community grassroots outreach process to create a strategic vision and implementation plan for a Global Flint Initiative (GFI). GFI is an economic and community revitalization strategy that focuses on attracting and retaining international talent by becoming a welcoming community.

A Regional Model for Small Business Prosperity, will be authored by Robert Carson and Zachary Vega. This CLP explores the effectiveness of Michigan Works! program services in supporting small business development in Northwest Lower Michigan. This study will provide a comprehensive review of the program's small business development services and their impact in statistically underserved communities through descriptive statistical analyses and stakeholder interviews.

Randy A. Yagiela, Development Director of Lenawee Now, has been awarded REI's 2024 Innovation Fellowship. The Align Center for Workforce Development aims to offer financial empowerment and training programs in a shared space for various organizations, but also fosters a collaborative culture focused on unified client pathways and employer-centric workforce certification. The project's goals are to create a unified resource center that addresses the gap in workforce training and local career development, especially for nontraditional clients overlooked by existing resources like MI Works.

Congratulations to all 2024 awardees! To learn more about these projects, authors, and additional opportunities, please visit, <https://reicenter.org/projects/current-projects> For questions, please contact Jenan Jondy, REI Coordinator, at jondyjen@msu.edu.

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