

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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MSU EDA University Center for Regional and Economic Innovation (REI) Announces Project Awards for 2023

The MSU EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) was created in 2011 by the Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development and funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA). Its goal is to work with Michigan's most economically distressed communities that face deeply rooted and social and economic inequality, turning them into economically vibrant places that encourage high-growth entrepreneurial development and create well-paid, sustainable new-economy jobs.



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REI would like to announce the awards for three Co-Learning Plan (CLP) projects, seven Student-Led, Faculty-Guided projects, and two Innovation Fellowships for 2023. The Center advances innovation and economic development through Co-Learning Plans in which multiple parties collaborate to generate innovative economic development tools, models, strategies, policies, and practices. The findings and recommendations that will result from these Co-Learning Plans will serve as a source for current and practical information for local and state economic development practitioners and policymakers as they consider important decisions that affect development efforts for Michigan communities and regions.

Congratulations to MSU Co-Learning Plan authors, Dr. Louise Jezierski and Dr. Sejuti Das Gupta, on *Making Ends Meet: Women's Work, the Care Sector and Regional Informal Economies: Detroit*. This CLP examines how women workers and employers navigate the informal care and personal service sectors of the Detroit metropolitan region, focusing on immigrant and adjacent neighborhoods. Hazel Park Planning Commissioner, Dr. John Parcell's CLP, *Leveraging the Planning Process to Create a Model of Engagement for Communities in Need*, will focus on leveraging the planning process to improve regional efforts in high percentage Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) communities. The third Co-Learning Plan awardee, MSU professor Dr. Mark Wilson and team, will research *Opportunity or Betrayal?: The Promise and Perils of Electric Mobility*. This project will examine the social implications of EVs for ALICE residents of Michigan, both at the state level and in urban/rural areas of concentration.

Innovation Fellow, co-founder and Executive Director of Detroit Community Wealth Fund, Margo Dalal will address, *Benefits of Worker-Owned Cooperative Business Development for Low-Income Residents in Michigan*; and Innovation Fellow, Robert Carson, Regional Director of Community Development with Networks Northwest, will address, *Collaborative Partnership Models: A Case for Increased Capacity and Efficiency*. This fellowship seeks to gain information and data concerning collaborative service partnerships between regional planning entities and local units of government.

MSU professor Dr. Dirk Colbry, Chris Miller, Board Chair of the National Coalition for Community Capital (NC3), and MSU students will secure and analyze data to set a baseline of community impact by projects funded by community capital raises. During this same time, MSU professor Dr. Zenia Kotval will lead six technical assistance projects across the state. These projects will create a sidewalk inventory for safer routes; build community engagement to guide action strategies, a comprehensive neighborhood redevelopment strategy, and survey of land use characteristics; a recreation director position feasibility study, recreational asset development; a development and finance plan for a key corridor in Lansing; a district improvement plan, development options for district businesses on Main Street, and a vacant parcel reuse plan. Students will also work on community requirement guidelines for potential projects, development policies review, and a consolidation plan.

Congratulations to all awardees! To learn more about these projects and authors, please visit, <https://reicenter.org/projects/current-projects>

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