



EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

University of Michigan-Flint's EDA University Center for Community and Economic Development is housed in the Office of Outreach. The EDA University Center's mission is to coordinate, inform, and contribute to economic development efforts that cultivate innovation and advance high-growth entrepreneurship needed to build and sustain a diversified economy throughout the 7-county I-69 Thumb Region (Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola counties).

UNIVERSITY

- » University of Michigan-Flint

Center Staff

- » Paula Nas
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Center Location

- » Office of Outreach

Founded

- » 2016

Focus Areas

- » Community Development
- » Economic Development
- » Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Partners

- » Communities
- » County / Municipal Leaders
- » Economic Development Organizations
- » Entrepreneurs
- » Nonprofit organizations
- » Small businesses
- » University Faculty and Students

Activities

- » Applied Research
- » Entrepreneurship Support
- » GIS Mapping
- » Information Dissemination
- » Technical Assistance
- » Workshops and Trainings

Contact Information

- » umflint.edu/cced

Focus Areas



- » Economic research and GIS data visualization to support the work of municipalities, businesses, and economic development partners
- » Regional data dashboard
- » I-69 Thumb Region GIS Mapping Platform
- » Annual 7-county business climate survey; wage and benefits survey; surveys for municipalities
- » Data collection, data analysis, and visualization for community partners



- » Dedicated fund to support faculty/student teams in applied research projects
- » Technical assistance for local partners around public engagement, communication, and project management
- » Community input sessions
- » Dissemination of information, best practices, and local resources, to help strengthen local communities in the region
- » Project development and implementation with nonprofits and grassroots organizations



- » One-on-one counseling and mentoring by UM-Flint faculty, business owners, and other experts
- » Workshops, seminars, and business bootcamps
- » Satellite office in downtown Flint, as well as services in neighborhood and K-12 locations through [IN] on the Road business bootcamp
- » MI START SMART - an interactive website that connects businesses and non-profits with service providers and funding throughout the 7-county region
- » Collaborative work with partner academic institutions and with UM-Flint faculty and students
- » Interdisciplinary initiatives to encourage entrepreneurial mindset



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HIGHLIGHTS

MI START SMART

MI START SMART

Start your business journey with us.



IDEA



STARTUP



BUSINESS

A website that helps entrepreneurs in the region navigate the entrepreneur service provider ecosystem. Site users can navigate resources by their business stage, service need, and location. This project is a partnership with GLS Region V and the I-69 Thumb Region. www.mistartsmart.com

Applied Research - Pop-up Retail



UM-Flint faculty research is supported in partnership with the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. One of the funded projects explores mobile pop-up retail as a tool for creating economic activity. This research looks at Michigan's Prosperity Region 6 as a whole to determine ideal sites for pop-up retail development opportunities through GIS mapping. A step-by-step guidebook was created for entrepreneurs and municipalities to implement pop-up retail in their communities.

Indicators and Interactive Mapping



UM-Flint student research assistants review and collect economic indicator data, studies, and reports for Michigan's Prosperity Region 6. All data are placed in online interactive maps for use by our economic development partners in the categories of economic, demographic, talent, and quality of life indicators.