

UM-Dearborn's iLabs' eCities research recognizes the Charter Township of Grand Blanc for supporting business in their community

Grand Blanc Township, December 14, 2018 – Grand Blanc Township has been recognized for its successes and efforts in contributing to Michigan's entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the annual eCities study conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. Grand Blanc Township was honored as a four community along with 180 other communities across the state.

“We are very happy to be recognized by UM-Dearborn iLabs for our efforts in cultivating economic development and entrepreneurship in our community, and look forward to announcing even bigger efforts in 2019 to foster continued growth to meet our resident's needs.” Scott Bennett, Township Supervisor.

Grand Blanc Township has become the economic driver for Genesee County, and continues to offer available development land, a governing body that encourages economic investment, and residential opportunities to meet everyone's needs. You can find more information at <http://www.twp.grand-blanc.mi.us/>

The eCities study analyzed publicly available data from 277 communities from 54 counties in Michigan. Researchers focused on the five-year changes in property values, community assets, and tax rates, which can demonstrate the growth, investments and cost of doing business within the community. For example, over the five-year period of 2013-2017, these communities increased their capital assets by an average of 2 percent per year by investments such as street and building improvements, technology, and emergency vehicles and equipment.

“While accounting for only about 15 percent of the cities and townships in Michigan, the 277 communities analyzed are home to 70 percent of the population and 85 percent of the state's commercial property,” said Tim Davis, director, iLabs. “By analyzing these high-performing communities, our goal is to showcase what cities and townships are doing to spur growth and how we can continue to support their efforts in developing business and encouraging entrepreneurs.”

Grand Blanc Township was acknowledged Thursday, Nov. 29, during the [Executive Speaker Series panel discussion](#), which discussed Michigan's economic growth, including key areas such as capital, infrastructure, industry, and the ecosystem. The panel, moderated by Dr. Brian Patrick Green, Czarnecki Collegiate Professor, UM-Dearborn College of Business, featured

William Adams, Senior International Economist, PNC Financial Services Group; Maureen Miller Brosnan, Executive Director, Michigan Venture Capital Association; Kristina Kolbas, SVP Enterprise Services, Quicken Loans; and Jeff Marston, V.P. of Business Services, Comcast Business, Heartland Region. The event was hosted by WWJ Newsradio 950's Murray Feldman of the Feldman Report.

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About University of Michigan-Dearborn

Founded in 1959 with a gift of just over 200 acres of land and \$6.5 million from the Ford Motor Company, University of Michigan-Dearborn is a metropolitan university serving southeastern Michigan, committed to excellence rooted in strong academics, innovative research and programming and civic engagement. The university has 9,100 students pursuing more than 100 bachelor's, master's, doctoral and professional degrees in liberal arts and sciences, engineering, business, education and health programs. A top-ranked university with faculty devoted to teaching and students committed to achievement, UM-Dearborn is shaped by its history of partnering with local leaders and communities, and is committed to finding solutions for the challenges that face the region.

LINKS:

eCities homepage:

<http://www.umdilabs.com/ecities>

Executive Speaker Series panel discussion details and registration:

<https://umdearborn.edu/cob/business-community/executive-speaker-series>

List of all four-star communities:

http://umdilabs.com/sites/default/files/2018%204.Star_.Communities.pdf

List of all five-star communities:

http://umdilabs.com/sites/default/files/5.Star_.Communities.pdf

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