



Pittsfield Charter Township

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UM-Dearborn's iLab's eCities research recognizes Pittsfield Charter Township for developing a positive entrepreneurial climate

Pittsfield Township (November 9, 2016) – Pittsfield Charter Township has been recognized for its work to foster entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the annual eCities study conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. Pittsfield Township was honored as a Five-Star Community along with 44 other 4 & 5 star communities across the state.

For the second consecutive year, Pittsfield Township has been chosen to be part of a select group of 22 communities in the State of Michigan awarded the Five-Star Communities designation by University of Michigan (Dearborn) e-Cities program. 5-star Best Practices communities are recognized for clearly identifying and implementing a vision to foster economic success, including articulating a placemaking strategy.

“Pittsfield Township's commitment, over the past eight years, to investing in local businesses along with its focus on providing outstanding quality of life that attracts diverse talent to meet the need of the private sector, began paying dividends a few years ago. As we stay true to this commitment, we continue to reap the benefits not only for our community but also through being recognized now as a leader in sustainable economic development in the region,” noted Pittsfield Township Supervisor Mandy Grewal.

The eCities initiative is part of University of Michigan Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. The program uniquely researches factors that contribute to economic success at the local level. In their multi-year study, the eCities initiative has grown to include over 200 communities from throughout the state.

In 2016, the eCities study surveyed 76 communities from 25 counties in Michigan that are home to more than 22 percent of Michigan residents and 28 percent with at least a bachelor's degree. These communities count for nearly one-fifth of the state's entrepreneurs who earned more than \$1.9 billion self-employed income in total. About 60 percent of these communities have a local business database, more than a quarter provide business improvement grants and more than 40 percent have full-time economic development employees.

“The eCities project highlights how local governments from across the state of Michigan are cultivating and supporting economic development. These communities show how local governments can work in distinct and strategic ways to energize public spaces, while investing in businesses and job development,” said Tim Davis, director, iLabs.



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