

Dear Community Leader,

Thank you for your participation in UM-Dearborn's 2018 eCities program!

Each year, the eCities project collects and analyzes data across Michigan communities as it relates to entrepreneurship, economic development, and job growth. Specifically, the study examines five-year's worth of publicly available data relating to community growth and investment metrics that impact the business community. This information is available on the performance report and showcases your community's progress on a number of key values. Further, the data points are benchmarked against the State of Michigan, as well as the other 276 participating communities, allowing you to easily interpret your results. Award certificates are included for communities that showed the most success numerically over the last five years. Top performers are considered five-star communities, while the next best performers are four-star communities.

In addition, we invited each community to answer four best practice questions regarding local improvements, future development goals, and small business attraction. These responses enabled us to highlight success stories and strategies throughout Michigan. If your community participated in this portion of the project, a report card containing reviewer feedback about your entries is included.

Summary details of the project are available on the eCities website, [umdilabs.com/ecities](http://umdilabs.com/ecities).

We sincerely appreciate your contribution to the 2018 eCities project. We will send you an email in the summer as the 2019 project commences. We hope that you will join us next year in sharing your local successes and strategies so we can continue supporting development across Michigan. If you have any questions before then, feel free to send me an email.

Thank you for your involvement in this project.



Timothy Davis  
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