



November 14, 2017



UM-Dearborn's iLabs' eCities research recognizes Bay City and Charter Township of Bangor for developing a positive entrepreneurial climate



(BAY COUNTY, MI), November 14, 2017 - The City of Bay City and the Charter Township of Bangor have been recognized for 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. Both communities were honored as Four Star communities along with 182 other communities across the state.

"We're honored and pleased to see this recognition of our collective efforts to make Bay City a greater regional economic center within Michigan," said Steve King, the City's Community Development Director. "There's a tremendous amount of work to do at the City and with our partners in creating and facilitating economic development success, but

the positive feedback from the eCities study at the University of Michigan - Dearborn reinforces that we're building well for the future."

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, these communities increased their capital assets by an average of 2 percent per year by purchasing public safety equipment and improving sidewalks and other infrastructure.

"What an honor to be recognized, along with our neighboring community, Bangor Township, for our successes and efforts in entrepreneurial growth and economic development. Bay Future, Inc., Bay County's economic development organization, is an important partner to the City, promoting our area for potential development sites and retainage of our current businesses," said Dana L. Muscott, City Manager, City of Bay City.

The City of Bay City's economic development staff engage in a variety of efforts to create new economic development projects and add value to existing community businesses and wealth creators. The City actively partners with Bay Future, Inc., the county-wide economic development organization, to promote available strategic development sites and retain the community's largest employers. In addition, the City has incentivized several prominent commercial construction projects in the past 12 months to create or retain hundreds of jobs, all with projects expected to provide decades of lasting benefit to the community.

"Bangor Township, along with our compatriots, are ingratiated by this unique distinction. Bangor Township's board is very forward thinking and continues working hard toward becoming a hub for growth and innovation," said Glenn Rowley, Bangor Township Supervisor.

The Charter Township of Bangor along with their Downtown Development Authority have been proactively partnering with local organizations, such as Bay Future, Inc., in order to create a more robust and business friendly climate.

"Bangor DDA is pleased to be recognized for our continued commitment to develop economic opportunity not only in Bangor Township but on behalf of our entire community. We are proud of our ongoing cooperative relationship with the Township, the County, and business community," said Joseph Rivet, Bangor Township DDA Chair.

"While accounting for only about 15 percent of the cities and townships in Michigan, the 277 communities analyzed are home to nearly 70 percent of the population and 85 percent of the state's commercial property," iLabs Director Tim Davis said. "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."

The City of Bay City and the Charter Township of Bangor will be recognized Tuesday, Nov. 14, during the eCities Panel Discussion, which will discuss how talent, business policy and access to capital have impacted community growth in Michigan. The panel, moderated by DBusiness Magazine and DBusiness Daily News editor R.J. King, will feature Beth Ardisana, CEO, ASG Renaissance; Antonio Luck, managing director, Endeavor Detroit; Anthony Tomczak, chief procurement officer, DTE Energy; and Amelia Zamir, co-founder and principal of acquisitions, Method Development. The event is free,

but registration through the UM-Dearborn College of Business website (umdearborn.edu/cob) is required.

The annual eCities research project, which began in 2007, previously used data supplied by the participants. This year's shift to reviewing publicly available data was implemented to simplify the process for communities.

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LINKS:

List of all four-star communities:

<http://www.umdilabs.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/eCities/4-star%20communities.pdf>

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