



EDA Update

Volume 1; Issue 2

Nominations for EDA's 2008 Excellence Awards Now Open

EDA's 2008 Economic Development Award nominations are now open. These awards recognize exemplary economic development accomplishments in your communities. Nomination information, such as categories, eligibility and selection criteria, etc., is available at:

<http://www.eda.gov/PDF/EDAawardsbrochure2008.pdf>

EDA is accepting nominations through April 16, 2008.

For more information on EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2008, please contact Barbara Earman in EDA's Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Division at 202-482-4521 or at awards@eda.doc.gov.

EDA Broadcast Series returns in April

EDA's broadcast series will focus on "Connecting Regional Economies with the Worldwide Marketplace." The show will air on April 9, 2008.

Panelists will discuss how U.S. economic regions can capitalize on the expanding opportunities offered by international markets and will discuss regional strategies for growing exports, with a special focus on how businesses can take advantage of Free Trade Agreements and attract foreign capital investment.

To learn how economic developers can respond to the changing dynamics of the economy, check EDA.gov for updates.

EDA Federal Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunities focused on regional curriculum implementation and economic development research

EDA has published notification of the agency's regional curriculum implementation and economic development research funding opportunities. The regional curriculum implementation opportunity seeks the nationwide dissemination of a learning curriculum based on regionalism through workshops and other communication methods. EDA's research opportunities seek academic research to advance understanding of the following three economic development topics:

- **Regional Innovation Systems** – Throughout the United States, some regions excel at finding and implementing innovative techniques to drive growth, while others are less successful. EDA seeks to identify the reasons for these divergent levels of success, including the role of key demographic, socioeconomic, environmental, technological, and institutional factors in explaining the performance of cities and their associated regions.
- **Urban Economic Development Policy** - EDA is interested in research proposals to explore the impact of the regional economic perspective on distressed urban areas that have been unable to leverage growing metropolitan economies.
- **Global Economic Development Strategy** – Local U.S. economies face an ongoing challenge with the globalization of markets. EDA seeks rigorous research that would ultimately assist in crafting improved versions of the primary planning tool used by EDA recipients, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), to include the worldwide marketplace.

These opportunities are posted on EDA's Website at www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Lawsreg.xml or search for EDA's current funding opportunities on the Grants.gov Website at www.grants.gov.

EDA Investment Takes Flight: The Duluth Aviation Business Incubator

While Duluth, Minnesota is well known as a major industrial shipping port on the western shore of Lake Superior, it was the city's international airport that drew attention from the U.S. Economic Development Administration as a regional asset for tapping into global markets. In 2001, EDA's Chicago Regional Office invested nearly \$3.5 million with the City of Duluth to build the Duluth Aviation Business Incubator within the airport. The City of Duluth matched that investment with over \$2.3 million to ensure growth in its local aviation market and increase employment opportunities.

Since its creation, the incubator has been leased and managed by the Cirrus Design Corporation, which produces the best selling general aviation aircraft in world. Founded in 1984, Cirrus is at the center of an aviation cluster that has spurred employment growth in and around Duluth and as far away as Grand Forks, North Dakota, where Cirrus also has fabrication facility.

With both the majority of its manufacturing and all of its assembly done in Duluth, Cirrus Design has become the city's largest manufacturer and a dominant firm in its industry, now employing more than 950 people. In 2007, Cirrus exported 82 aircraft – an almost 30-fold increase since their first exports – continuing its upward trend in the market and advancing the aviation cluster in the Duluth region.

Cirrus recognizes that success in the 21st century global marketplace requires a highly skilled workforce. To attract and retain highly skilled workers, Cirrus Design relies in part on its above average salaries and highly competitive benefits packages. Community leaders within Duluth also have kept pace with the growing

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APA's Economic Development Toolbox Part One: *First Steps*

Welcome to the first installment of the APA Economic Development Toolbox. Each month, we will highlight strategies and methods that serve as a practical guide for community leaders planning for economic development. March's update focuses on First Steps of the standard planning process - the identification of goals (values, principles, a vision) and actions (strategies, policies, investments, initiatives) that increase the odds of achieving maximum success in an affordable and cost-effective way.

To learn more, visit the APA [Website](#)

EDA's Greater South Economic Development Conference

EDA's 2008 Regional Conference *Sustaining American Prosperity into the 21st Century* will be held April 16 – 18, 2008, in New Orleans.

The conference will focus on innovative ways to sustain and improve economic growth in the American South in the face of globalization, technological shifts and geopolitical uncertainty. Visit www.edaneworleans2008.com for more information and to register for this event.

Coming Soon!

April 13-15, 2008

IEDC's Federal Economic Development Forum, Alexandria, VA [\[Website\]](#)

April 16-18, 2008

Greater South Economic Development Conference, New Orleans [\[Website\]](#)

April 16-17, 2008

IEDC: Technology-Led Economic Development (IEDC Professional Development Class) Alexandria, VA [\[Website\]](#)

April 24-25, 2008

IEDC: Managing Economic Development Organizations, Baltimore [\[Website\]](#)

April 27 - May 1, 2008

APA's 100th National Planning Conference, Las Vegas [\[Website\]](#)

May 5-7, 2008

National Brownfields Conference, Detroit, (APA co-sponsor) [\[Website\]](#)

May 5-6, 2008

IEDC: Real Estate Development and Reuse, Billings, MT [\[Website\]](#)

May 12-14, 2008

demand for high quality of life amenities. Employees of Cirrus and other local companies enjoy high caliber schools, three nearby universities, and first-rate medical facilities, which help make Duluth a great place to live and grow.

The EDA-supported Duluth Aviation Business Incubator continues to help Cirrus' succeed as a growing exporter of world-class airplanes that feature state-of-the-art materials, avionics, and designs. Moreover, the incubator is part of a long-term strategy for the region that will help the Duluth region succeed in the 21st century marketplace.

For more information on Cirrus Design, visit www.cirrusdesign.com



American Planning Association

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Beyond Innovation: Transforming Our Regional Economies Through Partnerships, Cleveland

May 22, 2008

2008 National Summit on American Competitiveness [\[Website\]](#)

ETA's Workforce Innovations 2008s

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration's flagship conference, **Workforce Innovations 2008: Success Decoded**, will be held July 15 – 17, in New Orleans. Meet and network with thousands of leaders from workforce development, economic development, business, education, community-based organizations, and philanthropy.

Visit WorkforceInnovations.org for further information and to register.

NTIA TV Converter Box Coupon Program

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is working to educate Americans about the TV Converter Box Coupon Program. NTIA would like to keep you updated with official information, events and materials designed to help you get the word out to your constituents about the upcoming digital TV transition and TV Converter Box Coupon Program. If you are interested in information about this program, please email DTV2009@ketchum.com with the word yes to subscribe.

NTIA, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is playing an active role in the transition to digital television. NTIA administers and is the official source for information about the TV Converter Box Coupon Program. If it has not already, we hope your organization will join the nationwide network of nonprofits, government agencies and corporations dedicated to getting the word out about the Coupon Program and the historic transition from analog to digital television on February 17, 2009.