



Flint Township Honored for Fostering Economic Growth

Flint Township was among the 66 communities from 29 Counties recognized by the University of Michigan eCities program honoring local efforts to foster entrepreneurial growth and economic development, MTA assists in the eCities project, which is an annual research study that examines community-level factors that influence entrepreneurship, economic development and job growth.

The 2015 Five-Star Honored Communities include Cascade Charter Township (Kent Co.), Delta Charter Township (Eaton Co.), Kochville Township (Saginaw Co.), Northville Charter Township (Wayne Co.), Pittsfield Charter Township (Washtenaw Co.), and Plymouth Charter Township (Wayne Co.).

The 2015 Four-Star Honored Communities include Alpine Township (Kent Co.), Comstock Charter Township (Kalamazoo Co.), **Flint Charter Township (Genesee Co.)**, Garfield Charter Township (Grand Traverse Co.), Meridian Charter Township (Ingham Co.), Saginaw Charter Township (Saginaw Co.), and Thomas Township (Saginaw Co.).

The 2015 eCities-recognized communities are home to 20 percent of Michigan's residents, and 20 percent of Michigan entrepreneurs_ who earn nearly \$1.8 billion in self-employed income. More than 80 percent of the eCities communities engage in place making efforts, and have spent more than \$2.3 million on economic development efforts.

The communities that participate in the project receive benchmarking reports showing their performance at creating inciting business environments and encouraging entrepreneurial growth. The project aims to learn and share the "best practices" to attract entrepreneurial development and create business growth. Understanding the best practices and utilizing these concepts across Michigan can have positive impact on the state's economic future.