Join other like-minded community leaders to learn exciting concepts and resources, share best practices and fresh ideas, and empower ourselves and others to grow our local communities at the annual Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference.

With breakout sessions embedded in shops and venues throughout the downtown, the conference offers the unique opportunity to learn about and experience an entrepreneurial community.

We encourage you to invite your colleagues, coworkers, community leaders, entrepreneurs and stakeholders. Whether you work in economic development, arts and culture, government, philanthropy, the nonprofit sector or education, you have an important part to play in supporting local businesses and entrepreneurial development in our communities.

Bookmark the MSU Extension CEC Website for more detailed information: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/cec

“Great time! Really enjoyed the way the conference allowed for people to engage with each other beyond the traditional conference set up. It was fun, real, and meaningful.”

Conference Attendee


Registration Fee: $85/person includes opening and closing lunch, Wednesday evening networking reception and dinner plus all the conference materials.

Accommodations: There are several area hotels/motels, B&B’s and cabins in the area. For a complete list and room rates contact the Keweenaw Peninsula Chamber of Commerce @ www.keweenaw.org or 906-482-5240.

Register here: http://events.anr.msu.edu/CEC2015/
What to expect:
The conference begins in Houghton at “Dee Stadium” - the birthplace of professional hockey and ends in Hancock at the Finnish American Heritage Center. In between, enjoy 26 interesting sessions held in unique locations throughout the community and downtown; all within walking distance. Wednesday evening will be a fun networking reception/dinner aboard The Isle Royale Queen which will cruise along the channel between Houghton and Hancock. Plus, there are plenty of opportunities to network with others, learn best practices, and share your success stories. Truly “Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities”.

Keynote Speakers:
Wednesday Kickoff Session

Dick Gray, Co-Owner: Keweenaw Brewing Company

Keweenaw Brewing Company is the hops-induced vision of Dick Gray and Paul Boissevain. Dick, a Michigan Tech graduate was looking for a way to return to the Copper Country. Paul, meanwhile, was introduced to – and seduced by – the crystal clear waters of nearby Lake Superior, the beauty of the surrounding area, and the small-town charm of Houghton, Michigan. The two men, whose passion for beer runs as deep as Superior, are the driving force behind Keweenaw Brewing Company.

Thursday Closing Session

George “Stormy” Kromer was indeed a real person, born in 1876. George and his wife, Ida, created the first Kromer Cap in 1903 in Wisconsin. In 2001, after nearly 100 years in business, word got out that production was about to cease on the legendary Stormy Kromer cap. Bob Jacquet (owner of Jacquart Fabric Products in Ironwood, Michigan) heard the news, made a call to Milwaukee, and one month later, opened Stormy Kromer Mercantile in its new home in Ironwood. The company has expanded its line of merchandise to include everything to wear and carry for both men and women. While they continue to come up with new designs and ideas, Stormy Kromer will always be hand-crafted in America.

Bob Jacquet, CEO: Jacquart Fabric Products & Stormy Kromer Mercantile

Breakout Sessions:
View full breakout session descriptions online:
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/cec/sessions_houghton

1. The Entrepreneurial Mindset
2. Leveraging Cultural Heritage - International Connections
3. Entrepreneurship Opp. through Natural Resource Enterprises
4. Put on a Start-up Weekend in Your Community
5. Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Communities
6. The Business Cycle Doesn’t Have To End In Death
7. Why Not Youth Councils of Commerce?!?
8. The Price of Doing Business: Small Business Finances
9. Adventure Tourism: Balancing Econ & Eco for UP Communities
10. Placemaking and Successes from Marquette
11. U.P. Food Exchange/Economic Success
12. Generate Sturgis-Success Stories from an eTeam.
13. Young Adult Migration Patterns: Factors that Attract and Repel
14. Creating an Entrepreneurial Community
15. Creating the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs
16. Developing Community Youth Entrepreneurship Programs
17. The Value of Young Professionals for Community Success
18. Technology on Wheels - Mobile CNC Training Lab
19. Michigan Tech Mind Trekkers
20. Turning Corn into Cash
21. Sense of Place-The Importance of Knowing your Story
22. Wood Energy Districts and Cool Solutions
23. Is Your Community Ready for Development?
24. Geotourism in the Keweenaw
25. Benchmark: Is your community E Ready?
BONUS SESSION. Thursday Morning - 60 Ideas in 60 Minutes

Register here:
http://events.anr.msu.edu/CEC2015/

A special thanks to these local and state-wide organizations.

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