

UM BIZ | QUARTERLY UPDATES

Fall 2015

Economic Development, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Updates

The University of Montana serves Montana businesses from start-ups to established businesses seeking opportunities both within Montana and outside our borders. [The Montana World Trade Center](#), [Blackstone Launchpad](#), [Montana Technology Enterprise Center \(MonTEC\)](#), and the [Procurement Technical Assistance Center \(PTAC\)](#) are powerful partners for your business. Here are some of our accomplishments over the last quarter.

[Blackstone LaunchPad](#)

- Wisetail Works awarded Montana Code School with a \$100,000 grant to boost in-state tech training. Montana Code School (MCS), a community driven initiative with which Blackstone LaunchPad Director Paul Gladen and Manager Jennifer Stephens have worked during the planning and launch phases, has 11 students in their first cohort completing a 12-week long program. MCS is currently recruiting for two new opportunities: a bootcamp November 21 & 22 this year and the next cohort beginning February 8th, 2016.

[Montana Enterprise Center \(MonTEC\)](#)

- Sunburst Sensors, a team of chemists and engineers led by CEO James Beck, was the winner of the \$2M Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE, a global competition to incentivize breakthroughs in pH sensor technology to accurately and affordably measure the acidification of our oceans. Sunburst Sensors is a Missoula, Montana-based small business focused on the development of chemical sensors for marine and freshwater applications.
- The Audience Awards is addressing the disparity of women in film through three major methods, The Doc Challenge, Women on Film Short Film Competition, and the Makers. The Doc Challenge is a timed filmmaking competition that gives participants the opportunity to put together a movie in a short timeframe, have that film premiere at a large film festival, win cash, and possibly receive television distribution deals. For the past three years, the directors of the winning films have been women. The Women on Film Short Film Competition is an annual competition that highlights and celebrates female directors. The Makers is a reality show produced by a team of women.

[Montana World Trade Center \(MWTC\)](#)

- MWTC representatives have been busy traveling around the state, meeting with businesses and strategic partners. In addition to providing technical assistance, they are assessing international business opportunities for Montana companies as part of an EDA grant received in June. From Timeless Seeds in Ulm to GTUIT in Billings, Team MWTC is covering a broad swath of the state. Their last trip of the fall, November 16-19 will take them to Miles City, Glendive, Sidney, Fort Peck, and more. If your business is based in the north-eastern party of the state and you would like to schedule an appointment, please reach out to Luke@mwtc.org to do so.
- New this fall, MWTC Executive Director, Brigitta Miranda Freer is overseeing a practicum at the University Of Montana School Of Business, giving students the opportunity to combine classwork with hands on export research for Montana businesses. This semester students had the opportunity to prepare materials for various trade delegates participating in Governor Steve Bullock's trade mission to Taiwan and South Korea.
- Brigitta attended the World Trade Center Association's, Member Seminar in New York City where she met with other WTCs from around the globe, discussed opportunities for collaboration on trade missions and events like WTC Winnipeg's Centrallia global B2B meetup. Please reach out to Brigitta@mwtc.org if you are interested in attending this event.

[Procurement Technology Assistance Center \(PTAC\)](#)

- During the past quarter the PTAC assisted 63 unique clients for a total of 175 counseling sessions. PTAC enrolled 31 new clients during this period.
- Patty assisted seven clients self-certify as woman-owned small businesses through the SBA's small business program.
- Patty assisted 56 clients with the System for Award Management (SAM) which is required for vendors to bid on federal contracts.
- Missoula PTAC client, Abatement Contractors of Montana, LLC was one of four vendors awarded The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah & Wyoming) Multiple Award Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Task Order Contract for Construction Services. This is a base year plus four option years agreement valued at \$25,000,000. Abatement Contractors of Montana, LLC is a, woman owned, 8(a) certified company specializing in environmental remediation and construction. They have worked with PTAC since 2009.

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