



State of the University Center Program

UC Cohort Webinar - UEDA

September 28, 2023

Who We Are

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EDA Regions & Competition Cycle

- *FY23: Austin and Denver Regional Offices*
- BREAK
- FY26: Chicago and Philadelphia Regional Offices
- Fy27: Atlanta and Seattle Regional Offices





EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER PROGRAM

Six HBCUs have EDA University Centers designations as part of EDA's efforts to ensure equity and diversity in economic development. Learn more about the programs at these UCs via the links below.

State	University Center	Regional Office
South Carolina	Claflin University	Atlanta
Florida	Florida A&M University	Atlanta
North Carolina	Fayetteville State University	Atlanta
Tennessee	Meharry Medical College	Atlanta
Louisiana	Southern University and A&M College	Austin
Maryland	University of Maryland at College Park and Morgan State University	Philadelphia

EDA Website Map



Now have **73** UCs covering **46** states and territories!

**6 UCs
are
HBCUs!**
*and more are
HSIs/MSIs

UCs In the News

SUCCESS STORIES

EDA University Center at Michigan State Bridges Gap Between Academia and Economic Development Practitioners

U.S. Economic Development Administration
 U.S. Dept. of Commerce
 2023-05-03

The EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) at Michigan State University – one of 60 EDA University Centers across the country – connects economic development practitioners in Michigan's underserved communities to much-needed resources and technical support.

Hosted within the MSU Center for Community & Economic Development, REI's work extends beyond the Ivory Tower. REI partners with local communities – from urban centers to rural areas – to learn about their challenges and business ideas.

REI's Innovation Fellows program is one way that REI connects academic assets to Main Street. The [see more](#)

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Most relevant

[Douglas Lynott](#) (he/him) • 1d
 Director, Economic Development Programs



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WPR



City Review CC BY 2.0

Wisconsin 'prime working age' labor force participation among best in the nation

State's aging population a major factor pushing workforce participation rate down, researcher says

By Joe Schatz
 Published Friday, May 5, 2023, 6:18am



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Economic Development Lab helps biomedical researcher from Puerto Rico pursue entrepreneurial vision



Parvita Paul

April 05, 2018

Blog, Economic Development Lab

economic development, Economic Development Lab, Enterprise Innovation Institute, Georgia Tech, Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico

Visit [follow](#): Georgia Tech offer helps Hurricane Maria-affected entrepreneurs and researchers from Puerto Rico tap into Technology Square's innovation ecosystem



Melissa Noveck (left), project manager at Georgia Tech's Economic Development Lab, stands with Jimmy Ali Pineda, a biomedical researcher at the Universidad de Puerto Rico. Ali Pineda, who spent a week on Tech's campus to further her research, recounted her experience in a recent radio interview with Georgia Public Broadcasting. (Photo: Parvita C. Paul)

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University Center for Economic Development awarded grant from Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation

The grant is one of eight awarded throughout the state to academic organizations and students

Business & Entrepreneurship | April 10, 2023
 Amelia Kraskouskas



KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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Technology Development Institute at K-State creates custom machine for Kansas entrepreneur

Wednesday, May 17, 2023



The Technology Development Institute at K-State designed and created a custom piece of automation equipment to increase production volumes for Merrick East, left, a Wichita-based entrepreneur. | Download this photo.

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Website
 Technology Development Institute

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U.S. Economic Development Administration
 A bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce

Successful 3rd Annual UC Week!

EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER WEEK 2023

EDA HAS 70 UNIVERSITY CENTERS COVERING 46 STATES AND PUERTO RICO.

EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER PROGRAM

E·D·A
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Grow Your Business With Us

The CBBIC provides business advice and hands-on workshops to entrepreneurs to support the creation of successful and sustainable Coastal Bend businesses.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[cbbic.com/uc.edu](#)
361-825-3535

Denise W. Ross @DeniceRoss46 · 58m

Are you into place-based approaches? We represent some powerful civil infrastructure economic development. Interactive map: eda.gov/funding/program...

EDA @US.EDA · 5h

Today, we kick off University Center Week 2023 to spotlight how our 70 #EDAUnivCenters are harnessing academic resources to support regional economic development strategies across the United States. To learn more, visit bit.ly/30wrtVJ

Show this thread

EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER WEEK 2023

EDA HAS 70 UNIVERSITY CENTERS COVERING 46 STATES AND PUERTO RICO.

UNM Rainforest Innovations

634 followers

1h ·

NM Rainforest EDA University Center Activity for April-December 2022: [#EDAUnivCenters](https://lnkd.in/g/NX_PNPG) U.S. Economic Development Administration

RAINFOREST

EDA

UNM INNOVATION ACADEMY

Rainforest Innovations

EDA NM Rainforest University Center

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT

Presented by Michael Hay

UC Program Highlights

- Technical assistance program that enables institutions of higher education to establish and operate programs focused on leveraging university assets to foster regional economic development
- Total UC Program allocation for FY23 was \$8.4 million (\$2.4 million for the first year of awards under this competition)
- Annual awards for UCs selected in past years range from \$80,000 to \$200,000 each; roughly 8-10 awards have been made per participating region
- ***Announced FY23 awards today!***
 - [EDA Awards 23 University Centers in Austin and Denver Regions](#)

UC Program Stats

- Over the last few years (FY18 – FY23), we've gone from having **64** UCs across the country to having **73**!
- As of the FY23 competition, we have:
 - **3** Native American-Serving Non-tribal Institutions (NASNTI) designated as UCs
 - **6** HBCUs designated as UCs
 - **8** HSIs designated as UCs

UC Cohort Project

- **Grant Type:** RNTA-funded grant
- **Grantee:** Virginia Tech w/University Economic Development Association (UEDA)
- **Period of Performance:** July 2021 – June 2024
- **Project Overview:**
 - Connect UCs to a broader ecosystem;
 - Increase EDA's understanding of key challenges and opportunities facing UC program directors and the communities they serve, especially in their efforts to advance equity and resilience;
 - Elevate successful approaches to advancing equity and resilience in the context of the UC program;
 - Organize and disseminate content featuring successful approaches by UCs; and
 - Promote the use of these approaches and tools by UCs and other partners within UEDA's affiliated economic development networks

NEW RESOURCE!!!

National Technical Assistance & Capacity Building Resources

- Digital/Geographic Tools
- Best Practices/Toolkits
- Technical Assistance/Training





National Technical Assistance & Capacity Building Resources

EDA makes investments to support regional economic development. Check out some of EDA's national technical assistance and capacity building resources that are helping regions to capitalize on this historic opportunity to build inclusive, competitive regional economies that work for all.

DIGITAL/ GEOGRAPHIC TOOLS

Look through these tools as you are gathering data on distress, industry clusters, and other assets in your region. Data and information from these tools can inform an EDA application or an upcoming CEDS update.

NERDE	The National Economic Resilience Data Explorer (NERDE) consolidates a wide range of publicly available data about local and regional economic conditions. The searchable information is displayed at the Economic Development District (EDD) and county levels in two separate dashboard tools.	
	LEARN MORE: www.anl.gov/dis/national-economic-resilience-data-explorer-nerde	
EDCI	The Economic Development Capacity Index (EDCI) uses publicly available data to assess critical elements that contribute to a county's overall economic development capacity.	
	LEARN MORE: www.anl.gov/dis/economic-development-capacity-index	

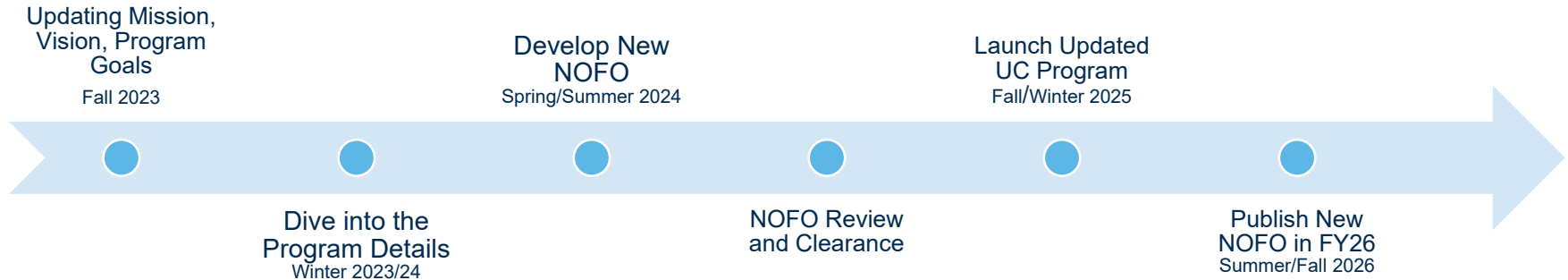


Program Updates & Opportunities

- Pursuing more opportunities for UCs to collaborate and share resources
- Increasing program support at both the national and regional levels
- Growing partnership with UEDA
- Reviewing *Customer Discovery* report from VT/UEDA through the UC Cohort project
- Continuing to make improvements to the UC profiles on EDA's website to boost visibility and understanding
- Enhancing social media presence, working closely with EDA's Public Affairs Division

Where We're Heading

- UC Working Group (EDA staff) meeting regularly as we re-envision an improved University Center Program based on feedback and experience over the last few years



Reminders

- All EDA/DOC financial systems are down until 10/25 – you can submit pay requests after that date
- When posting about the work of your UC, tag EDA and add #edaunivcenters to your posts! (consider following that hashtag to stay informed)
- 10/19 – Economic Resilience Webinar - Argonne National Labs
[Register Here!](#)





Questions?

Geographic & Demographic Typology



Lessons Learned



- ***Program Design Needs:***

- The need for early budget and scope amendments
- The need for progress reports to include measurable outcomes
- The need to develop and support metrics for program
- The need for better disbursement of UCs across different states
- The need for increased representation and involvement from community colleges, HBCUs, MSIs, and HSIs
- The need for clearer expectations so that both new and existing UCs understand how they can think strategically about better leveraging UC funding in order to achieve greater scale, sustainability, and impact metrics

- ***Portfolio Management Needs:***

- The lack of regional capacity to help recruit new UCs and grow current portfolio
- A disparity across the regions in terms of experience, project management, and overall engagement
- The need for HQ guidance on process, program, and project implementation (plus physical resources and tools) would help improve project outcomes, portfolio impact, and overall communication (e.g., success stories)



Lessons Learned

- An interest in internally led community of practice
- A desire to share deliverables among UCs
- An interest in strengthening relationships with EDDs
- The need to build and maintain relationships with other organizations who can support the portfolio



Most Engaged UCs by Region

- **53** University Centers engaged in more than one UC cohort activity

- Most engaged University Centers (five or more engagements)
 - University of Montana
 - University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
 - University of Tennessee
 - Virginia Tech
 - University of Minnesota
 - Florida A&M
 - University of Arizona
 - University of Maryland College Park and Morgan State
 - University of Oregon