REI Webinar Introduction
By Rex LaMore

https://connect.msu.edu/p5239h86b2ra/

Rex LaMore: Hello, my name is Rex LaMore. I'm the Director of the Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development and a member of the Michigan State University Regional Economic Innovation team that is dedicated to helping develop and disseminate new ideas around economic development in our state.

REI is committed to creating an innovative economic development ecosystem that engages creative minds and the identification of new policies, models, and practices to help us become the best economic developers in the world. We are doing that through a process of responsive engagement and collaborative learning that will again help us be the best and brightest in economic development.

Let me say a little bit about what we mean when we say co-learning. We are committed to a collaborative process of the co-creation, dissemination, and co-application of knowledge. Knowledge that is valued by our partners, is based on informed experimentation, and is responsive to community uniqueness.

Our annual cycle involves a series of activities including the identification of innovative tools, models and policies; promising local practices; supporting technical assistance and feasibility studies in targeting communities; and facilitating the dissemination and networking representing in part by the webinar that you are participating in today.

This work will culminate in our Annual Summit where we will highlight the previous year's activities and also serve as a point where we will kick off next year's process of identifying those innovative tools, models, and policies that will help us become the world's best economic developers.

We would like to thank our collaborating partners, including of course the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration and a number of supporting institutions here at Michigan State University. And finally I would like to thank you as partners in our REI network in joining us in this webinar. Thank you again for joining us today.