

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## News Release

Thursday, September 12, 2013

### Contact:

J. D. Snyder, Project Director, MSU Center for Community and Economic Development  
517.353.9555  
[jd.snyder2020@gmail.com](mailto:jd.snyder2020@gmail.com)

## First Bi-National Blue Water Regional Collaboration Conference October 2, 2013, in Port Huron, MI

The first Bi-National Blue Water Regional Collaboration Conference will be held Wednesday, October 2, 2013, in Port Huron, sponsored by the St. Clair County Economic Development Alliance (SCCEDA), Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership, Canadian Consulate General, I-69 International Trade Corridor, MSU Center for Community and Economic Development, U.S. Economic Development Administration, and other Michigan and Ontario agencies and organizations.



### University Outreach and Engagement

#### Center for Community and Economic Development

1615 East Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48912-2822

517-353-9555  
Fax: 517-884-6489  
[ced.msu.edu](http://ced.msu.edu)

“Bi-National collaboration is an important tool for overcoming barriers to greater economic prosperity,” said J. D. Snyder, one of the conference organizers from the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development. “This Conference will provide a forum for local leaders and stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaboration in key economic areas.”

“The Blue Water Region of Michigan and Ontario can provide a model for cross-border cooperation,” said Dan Casey, CEO of the St. Clair County Economic Development Alliance. “Our conference represents a significant effort in developing collaborative partnerships across the international border.”

Roy Norton, the Canadian Consul General, will deliver the afternoon keynote titled Building U.S.-Canada Prosperity through Bi-National Regional Collaboration. Mr. Norton’s leadership was key to the successful collaboration between Canada and the U.S. in working out a deal in which Canada is covering Michigan’s costs of building the New International Trade Crossing at Detroit-Windsor.

Concurrent panels on Regional Logistics Solutions, Bi-National Agri-Food Production, Green Chemistry Innovations, and Strategic Approaches to Immigrant Attraction will describe innovative approaches to cross-border regional economic development.

The conference is designed to create dialogue about issues that impact trade, transportation, logistics, and innovative economic opportunities in the Blue Water region of Ontario and Michigan. Based on positive and open dialogue, collaborative initiatives across borders and across sectors can be developed to achieve greater regional economic prosperity.

The Bi-National Blue Water Regional Collaboration Conference will be held at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel, 500 Thomas Edison Parkway, Port Huron, MI on Wednesday, October 2 from 8:00am-5pm.

[\(Click here\)](#) to register.

\*\*\*\*\*

The mission of the Michigan State University Center for Community and Economic Development is to advance MSU's land-grant mission by creating, disseminating and applying knowledge to improve the quality of life in distressed communities.

Michigan State University has been advancing knowledge and transforming lives through innovative teaching, research and outreach for more than 150 years. MSU is known internationally as a major public university with global reach and extraordinary impact. Its 17 degree-granting colleges attract scholars worldwide who are interested in combining education with practical problem solving.