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Area communities recognized for entrepreneurial efforts

By [Ryan Beene](#)

This year's Entrepreneurial Cities Index recognized the cities for using such assets as location, current business network and state funding programs to create business incubators, business parks and develop downtowns, according to Tim Davis, director of UM-Dearborn's **Center for Innovation Research**, which conducted the study.

The study's findings will be presented at a luncheon ceremony Tuesday at UM-Dearborn.

Speakers will include Davis; Kim Schatzel, dean of **UM-Dearborn's** College of Business; UM-Dearborn Provost Kate Davy; and Richard Blouse, CEO of the **Detroit Regional Chamber**, the event's keynote speaker.

About 150 municipal officials, business leaders and academics are expected to attend the event, Davis said.

Southeast Michigan municipalities recognized in the index include:

- Sterling Heights. It was selected for its role in creating the **Macomb-Oakland University Incubator**, which is focused on fostering defense, homeland security and advanced manufacturing firms.

The city paved the way for the incubator to be established by winning a SmartZone designation from the state in the fall of 2008 and state funding for the incubator.

Since its launch, the incubator has attracted tenants like **Navistar Defense L.L.C.**, **Rave Computer Association L.L.C.** and about seven startups.

- Wixom. It was selected for helping to bring an expected \$1.3 billion in investment over the next five years from two alternative-energy firms to redevelop the city's former **Ford Motor Co.** plant into an alternative-energy park with Texas-based **Xtreme Power Inc.** and California-based **Clairvoyant Energy** as the park's main tenants.

- Rochester Hills. It has seen 16 new companies come to the city this year, according to Mayor Bryan Barnett. The study noted Rochester Hills' creation of a three-year strategic plan to retain businesses, develop small businesses and attract new business to the city.

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Rochester Hills also is working with Oakland University to expand its **OU Inc. SmartZone Business Incubator**.

A written report will not be released until near the end of the year, Davis said.

Marquette and Midland also were highlighted by the study.

The study also recognized Auburn Hills, Southfield, Troy and Dundee for their ongoing, long-term efforts and success in fostering business and entrepreneurship, Davis said.