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UM-Dearborn’s iLabs’ eCities research recognizes the City of Wixom for its Positive Entrepreneurial Climate

WIXOM, November 14, 2013 – For the sixth time in seven years, Wixom has been recognized for its work to fostering entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the annual eCities study conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn’s Center for Innovation Research. Wixom was honored as a five star community along with 51 other communities across the state.

According to City Manager Tony Nowicki, “This recognition by the University of Michigan for our work that has continued and expanded entrepreneurial growth and economic development is much appreciated. Successful businesses are the foundation of strong and stable communities, and our staff is committed to creating a community climate that enables businesses to develop, grow and prosper. In Wixom, we understand what causes communities to thrive and to be “nice places to live and work”. We know that it takes collaboration and a common vision that requires friendliness and a willingness to help our businesses and residents be successful. We realize that it requires continuing City leadership and a mindfulness of the importance of our efforts and their effects on the lives of our residents and businesses. Our successes and this recognition demonstrate that the future of our community is bright and that we can all be optimistic despite recent economic turmoil”.

Incorporated in 1958, the City of Wixom has a long history of innovative operating policies and practices that have delivered municipal governmental programs in a cost effective and efficient manner. This coupled with an employee culture rooted in service and dedication to the community has resulted in one of the regions lowest tax rates, lowest combined water and sewer rates, a sustainable business environment and quality neighborhoods.

The eCities research surveyed 102 communities from 37 counties in Michigan that are home to 36 percent of Michigan residents and 40 percent of its college graduates. These communities count nearly one-third of the state’s entrepreneurs with over \$3.2 billion in self-employed income as residents. These communities also had more than \$1.8 billion in 2012 commercial construction and account for more than 48 percent of Michigan’s commercial property.

“This annual project makes the university part of the local leader’s toolkit for economic development. We are tackling a statewide concern and analyzing the parts that local leaders can directly impact,” said Tim Davis, director, iLabs. “Participating communities can identify best practices and methods they can implement to aid in job growth, economic diversification and development of entrepreneurs.”

The annual eCities research project, which began in 2007, uses data supplied by the participants, as well as other public records to assemble a six-factor, 32-item index of entrepreneurial activity, looking at such factors as clustering, incentives, growth, policies, community and education. The study focuses on entrepreneurship because of its importance to expansion and diversification of Michigan’s regional economies and the impact small businesses have on job creation. To date, 182 communities across Michigan have participated in the study.