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**UM-Dearborn's iLabs' eCities research recognizes East Bay Charter Township
for supporting small business in their community.**

East Bay Township, February 1, 2023 – has been recognized for its contributions to Michigan's entrepreneurial growth and economic development. The annual eCities study, conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation, designated East Bay Charter Township as a five-star community along with 94 other communities across the state. Also honored is the City of Traverse City as a five-star community and the Charter Township of Garfield as a four-star community.

"East Bay Charter Township is pleased to invest in areas which make the community desirable for residents, visitors, and businesses, such as investments in recreational amenities, utility infrastructure, and quality emergency services." says Beth Friend, Township Supervisor.

The eCities study analyzed publicly available data from 277 communities from 54 counties in Michigan. Researchers focused on the five-year changes in property values, community assets, and tax rates, which can demonstrate the growth, investments, and cost of doing business within the community. For example, over the five-year period of 2017-2021, these communities increased their capital assets by an average of 3.4% per year by investments such as new libraries, new community centers, and infrastructure improvements. Further, these places are home to 86% of Michigan's real commercial property and have 64% of the state's total property value.

Although accounting for less than 20 percent of the state's cities and townships, the 277 communities analyzed are home to 71 percent of Michigan's population and 86 percent of the state's commercial property. "Each year, the eCities project aims to highlight the successes and continued commitment of cities and townships to grow business and support entrepreneurship within their communities," said Kari Kowalski, iLabs project manager.

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About the University of Michigan-Dearborn

Founded in 1959 with a gift of just over 200 acres of land and \$6.5 million from the Ford Motor Company, University of Michigan-Dearborn is a metropolitan university serving southeastern Michigan, committed to excellence rooted in strong academics, innovative research and programming and civic engagement. The university has 8,300 students pursuing more than 100 bachelor's, master's, doctoral and professional degrees in liberal arts and sciences, engineering, business, education, and health programs. A top-ranked university with faculty devoted to teaching and students committed to achievement, UM-Dearborn is shaped by its history of partnering with local leaders and communities, and is committed to finding solutions for the challenges that face the region.

LINKS:

eCities homepage:

<https://umdearborn.edu/cob/business-community/ilabs-center-innovation-research/entrepreneurship/ecities>

Five-Star Honored Communities

Ada Township	City of Grosse Pointe	Orion Township
City of Albion	City of Grosse Pointe Park	City of Owosso
Allendale Township	City of Grosse Pointe Woods	Pere Marquette Township
Alpine Township	Hamburg Township	City of Perry
Antwerp Township	Harrison Township	Plainfield Township
Armada Township	Hartland Township	City of Pontiac
Atlas Township	City of Hazel Park	City of Reading
Benton Township	Highland Township	City of Rochester
City of Birmingham	Holland Township	City of Rochester Hills
Blendon Township	City of Holland	City of Romulus
City of Brighton	Holly Township	City of Royal Oak
Byron Township	City of Houghton	Saugatuck Township
Caledonia Township	City of Hudsonville	Shelby Township
Cascade Township	Huron Township	Spring Lake Township
Chesaning Township	City of Lansing	City of St. Clair
Commerce Township	Lawrence Township	City of St. Johns
Davison Township	Leighton Township	City of St. Louis
City of Detroit	Macomb Township	City of Sterling Heights
DeWitt Township	Manchester Township	Superior Township
East Bay Township	City of Marshall	Texas Township
City of Farmington	City of Marysville	Thomas Township
City of Farmington Hills	City of Melvindale	Traverse City
Fenton Township	Milford Township	City of Troy
City of Ferndale	Mount Morris Township	Tyrone Township
Gaines Township	City of New Baltimore	City of Utica
Georgetown Township	City of Niles	Vassar Township
Grand Blanc Township	Northville Township	Washington Township
Grand Haven Township	City of Novi	Waterford Township
City of Grand Haven	City of Oak Park	City of Wixom
City of Grand Rapids	Oakland Township	City of Wyoming
Grand Rapids Township	Oceola Township	Ypsilanti Township
Green Oak Township		City of Zeeland