Working with University-Based EDA Centers: Observations & Experiences

A Panel Discussion by Regional Stakeholders

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Our Panel Today

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Questions They Will Address

• Have you worked with the EDA University Center in your state? If YES, in what way and what have been your experiences? If NO, why not?

• What do you see as opportunities and challenges working with the EDA Center in your state or those in the Great Lakes Region?

• Other insights you want to offer regarding working with the university-based EDA Centers
The Great Lakes Regional Training Initiative represents an important effort by six University-based Centers in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin to work together to respond to the training and technical assistance needs of regional stakeholders across the six states.
The Purdue EDA University Center

**Opportunity 1**: Develop/Expand Cutting-Edge Online Data Tools

**Opportunity 2**: Engage Key Target Groups in Using and Refining RDM Tools

**Opportunity 3**: Produce Regional Economic Profiles and Other Informational Resources

**Opportunity 4**: Implement Programs that Build on Regional Opportunities

**Opportunity 5**: Strengthen Regional Collaboration and Innovation Networks
Regional Decision Maker: Key Highlights

https://pcrd.purdue.edu/
What is Regional Decision Maker (RDM)?

RDM is a powerful suite of mapping websites and tools that enables regional developers to make informed decisions quickly and efficiently.

Complex regional planning is made simple with Regional Decision Maker.
Data Resources Included in the RDM

- Industry & Occupation Clusters
- Transportation
- Land Use & Biodiversity
- Economy
- Food Systems
- Demography
Important RDM concepts

We use Industry and Occupation Cluster analysis to quickly highlight the dynamics of a region’s economy.

Industry Clusters are groups of businesses that share similar technologies, infrastructure, labor markets, and services. Examples of Industry Clusters include: Machinery Manufacturing, Business & Finance, and Transportation & Logistics.

Occupation Clusters are groups of occupations that share similar knowledge and skill requirements. Examples of Occupation Clusters include: Skilled Production Workers, Personal Service Occupations, and Information Technology.

Location Quotient (LQ) is a measure of cluster concentration and strength. A higher LQ value indicates a region with a more concentrated amount of Industry or Occupation Cluster employment.
Scenario: You are part of a regional planning committee that wants to identify and support strong industries within your area. You need to quickly generate an Industry Cluster report.

Using Regional Decision Maker (RDM), you can create this report in less than a minute. You simply select the appropriate tool, draw your region onto the map, and the tool generates an exportable report.

This report contains data pertaining to each Industry Cluster in your region, including: the number of jobs, location quotient (LQ), number of establishments, and average wage.
RDM corridor analysis

Scenario: You are partnering with a nearby planning organization and wish to analyze the region between your corresponding districts. You need a tool that operates along a major roadway.

Regional Decision Maker (RDM) provides a variety of analytical tools to use on your corridor of interest. You simply select a corridor analysis tool, draw your roadway onto the map, and the tool generates a report for the corresponding region.

This unique method of analysis is extremely useful for coordinating planners, large planning regions, or corridor studies.
RDM chart comparison

Scenario: You have analyzed your region as a whole, but you would like to know how the region’s individual counties compare to one another in a specific industry. You need a tool that can identify outliers quickly.

Regional Decision Maker (RDM) contains chart tools for a variety of data categories. You simply select the subject you would like to compare (i.e. Industry Cluster employment), draw your region of interest onto the map, and a chart showing county values in the chosen field is created.

Comparing county data visually using charts is a quick and simple way to generate easily-understood visual aids for regional reports.
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