



Hosted by



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**Lodging:** Obtain your room *before September 12<sup>th</sup>* at the beautiful [KwaTaqNuk](#) Resort by calling 406.883.3636. Prices range from \$79 to \$89 at this special conference rate. Location: 49708 U.S. Hwy 93, Polson, MT.

**Registration options:** MEDA Members Entire Conference \$90; Non-Members Entire Conference \$140; Wednesday/Thursday \$99; Friday \$25. After October 5<sup>th</sup> late registration begins with an increase of \$10.

[Register](#)

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

6:30pm – 8:00pm	<b>Networking Social</b> Get your networking started at KwaTaqNuk with appetizers and a cash bar in the Charlo Room or if weather permits, out on the patio.
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**Thursday, October 13, 2016**

8:00am Registration Opens	<b>Registration</b> outside the Michel/Victor/Alexander Ballroom Breakfast is on your own.
8:30am - 9:00am	<b>Welcome from Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Chairman Vernon Finley</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yamncut (pronounced Yah-mn-sūt') Drum Group</li> <li>• Keynote by Chairman Finley, Ph.D.</li> <li>• Welcome letters from other dignitaries <a href="#">and delegations.</a></li> </ul>

9:00am – 9:45am	<b>Economic Development and Native American Tribes – How it Works!</b> CSKT’s Planning Director, Janet Camel, describes how CSKT’s government interacts with businesses and workforce development partners, and plans for future generations. CEOs from two of CSKT’s enterprises—Brian Lipscomb of Energy Keepers, Inc. and Tom Acevedo of S&K Technologies—discuss multi-million-dollar business ventures. Discussion: how can MEDA partner better with Tribal entities?
9:45am – 10:15am	Break
10:15am – 11:00am	<b>Entrepreneur Assistance and Success Stories</b> – How the Lake County Community Development Corporation, Montana Indian Business Alliance, Department of Commerce and others provide training, access to capital and more. Businesses featured include: a solar technology provider, meth remediation contractor, roving farm equipment repairman, bed and breakfast operator, delicatessen owner/caterer, and more.
11:00am – 11:45am	<b>How do they do it? Government Contracting</b> Montana PTAC & NADC Panel: Find out more about Montana Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) offering personal, timely advice on contracting with the government. The majority of services are free and are available to businesses across Montana. Counseling and education are the key components to this program.
Noon – 1:30pm	<b>MEDA Annual Awards Luncheon</b> It is time to honor and recognize the best of the best with the 2016 MEDA Innovation Award and the 2016 Anthony J. Preite Economic Development Champaign Award.
1:30pm – 2:15pm	<b>Food Entrepreneurs: Montana Grown Food and Farmers-</b> A panel of Mission Valley food entrepreneurs and farmers tell their story on developing value added products that produced from locally grown agriculture.
2:15pm – 3:00pm	<b>Get Outside! Tribal Tourism on the Flathead Reservation (group picture to follow)</b> – Tom McDonald, CSKT Fish, Wildlife, Recreation & Conservation Division Manager, reviews the unique State/Tribal Recreation Permit process and provides hints for great places to hike after the conference. Marie Torosian, People’s Center Manager, describes cultural activities available for tourists at the Tribes’ museum in Pablo. Tribal member guides, Tim Ryan and Keya Birdsbill, present culturally-focused guided tour options for Western Montana.
3:00pm – 3:15pm	Break
3:15pm – 4:00pm	<b>MEDA and MIBA Legislative Priorities and Issues</b> – Rick Edwards, MEDA Legislative Committee Chair
4:00pm – 4:45pm	<b>Legislative Leadership</b> – Senate and House leadership give thoughts on fast approaching 2017 session. (Invited)
4:45pm – 5:30pm	Break
5:30pm – 6:00pm	<b>Networking Reception</b>
6:00pm – 7:30pm	<b>2016 Montana Gubernatorial Forum</b> Invited: Governor Bullock and Greg Gianforte. Each candidate separately has opening comments for five minutes, responds to three questions prepared in advance by MEDA; then Q & A.
Dinner on your own	Get out and enjoy dining in Polson.

**Friday, October 14, 2016**

8:00am – 9:00am ½ hour then switch....	<b>Breakfast Table Talks:</b> Each table has a leader on a specific topic such as BEAR, Apprentice/work based learning, Patents and Trade, MDOC Programs, USDA Programs, Montana Facility Finance Authority - Industrial Development Bonds with Adam Gill, MT Infrastructure Coalition, and more!
9:00am – 10:00am	<b>Professional Development Training: The Multi-Generational Workforce</b> Rick Edwards, Instructor, Montana Tech and NorthWestern Energy

10:00am – 10:15am	<b>Closing Keynote by Polson Mayor Heather Knutson</b>
10:15am – 10:25am	<b>Evaluations and Door Prizes</b>

Thanks to our 2016 Fall Conference Committee: Gypsy Ray, Co-Chair; Janet Camel, Co-Chair; Barbara Stiffarm, Chris Cerquone, Karyl Tobel, Kathie Bailey, Paul Tuss, Rick Edwards and Tracy McIntyre.

Our generous sponsors to date:

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