Accelerating Common Economies (ACE)

Accelerate your work to build a new, place-based economy that is focused on business development and grows locally rooted, intergenerational wealth.

Bring three individuals from your community to spend a week with The Industrial Commons, our dedicated team and expert faculty members from across the country exploring economic and infrastructure development, community and network development and business and cooperative development. 

Think summer camp for community business development!

This learning experience is designed for community based groups, economic development organizations or businesses that care about and are committed to the health and future of your local economy and community (however you define it). Groups should be past the idea stage and actively doing work to further a strong economy in your place. Groups will operate within a cohort model to access tools, resources and frameworks to take their work to the next level and deepen their impact.

Sessions based on an Ecosystem Framework:
- Triple-Bottom-Line business planning
- Organizational development, structures & culture
- Building networks and local partnerships
- Youth programing
- Cooperative development
- Values & Metrics and Evaluation

Format and Schedule:
A week of tours & case studies mixed with curriculum & training. There will be a polar ice plunge (J/K). It will be an opportunity to fine-tune your team’s vision, planning, and roles for acceleration. Participatory activities will provide actionable feedback on strategies and barriers. You will receive roadmaps, tools, and mentorship to support growth and development, with classroom time, group conversations, and 1:1 coaching. There will be some ax throwing (maybe not kidding). The week is fun filled, participatory, challenging & activity driven.

Come prepared to work, to value participation and kindness, and to share openly.

After the weeklong, in-person experience, the cohort will have four virtual gatherings over the next year for collective problem solving and brainstorming. Our framework measures success based on business revenue, assets, # of quality jobs created, # of co-op members, # of community partners, # of youth engaged annually (under 25) and 1-2 unique metrics specific to your place or sector of focus. Participating groups will be asked to report on these measurements for three years.

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*TIC defines quality jobs primarily based on this Job Quality Hierarchy, developed by Steven L. Dawson