



CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

See you in downtown Lapeer! May 29-30

Join other like-minded communities at the 2025 Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) state-wide conference in Lapeer, Michigan! CEC is a one-of-a-kind conference designed to share ideas from entrepreneurial communities, learn about helpful resources, and empower each other to support local entrepreneurs. Participants will learn best practices from MI organizations and communities as to what works best for them!

A signature element of this unique event is that all breakout sessions are embedded within downtown community buildings and storefronts. Attendees will have the opportunity to network and fully experience downtown Lapeer. There is plenty of time to walk, talk, and patronize local businesses between sessions.

The conference runs from noon Thursday, May 29 to noon Friday, May 30. The registration fee includes lunch and a networking event on Thursday, DDA dollars for use downtown on Friday, opening and closing keynote panels, and 20+ breakout sessions. Each attendee will be able to attend five sessions.

- Early registration: \$125 (through March 31)
- Normal registration: \$150 (ends May 26)
- At the door: \$175

Register today!



CONTACT:

Parker Jones
jonesp28@msu.edu
(231) 922-4620

Diane Longanbach
longbach@msu.edu
(517) 526-7895

Thank You Sponsors!



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2025 SESSIONS

- Downtown Partnerships - Working together to strengthen Downtowns in Lapeer County
- Empowering A Community: The Impact of Nonprofit Outdoor Events on Bicycle Shop and Trails
- Building Prosperity Together: Partnerships for Philanthropy and Economic Development
- Innovative Approaches to Building Capacity in Rural Michigan
- The Magic of Identifying and Understanding Your Community Assets
- The Summer Intern → Engaged Resident Pipeline: How to Nurture Your Next Wave of Talent
- Building an Ecosystem for Success and Sustainability of Early Stage Businesses
- How to Transform Your Downtown with Public Art
- How to Support Growth of Local Farms and Small Businesses in Your Area
- Bridging Skills Gaps: Workforce Strategies for Thriving Entrepreneurial Communities
- Finding Your People in 2025!
- "How Rural Neighbors Succeed: Case Studies from Northwest Michigan"
- Harnessing Rural Potential: Curating Future Leaders in Our Communities
- Placemaking on the Move: A Walking Exploration of Lapeer
- Empowering Young Entrepreneurs
- Partnerships and Collaborations Make Summer Youth E Camps Successful
- Regulation Options for Short Term Rentals (STRs)
- Michigan TCTAC: Advancing Community Success
- A Downtown Walking Tour: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Cultivating Food Entrepreneurs: a Focus on SE Michigan
- Relationship Matter
- Discover Lapeers Best
- Unlocking Your Own Inner Superhero (And the Hero in Those Around You!)

Stay for the weekend?

Check out accommodations and things to do in the Lapeer area...



Keynote Speakers:

- **Connecting Communities** Wes Smith, Emily Caswell, Pete Clinton
- **Lapeer Rocks and So Can You!** Jim Alt, Josh Atwood, Rodney Church, Samantha Warren, Ben Cummings



All sessions are held inside local downtown businesses!

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