Reports & Resources

Student Debt Today
Project on Student Debt | READ STORY
The Project on Student Debt has provided an online tool which simplifies data from their report "Student Debt and the Class of 2012." The average student debt of Montana State University graduates in 2012, for instance, was $27,320, while the average debt of University of Montana graduates was $29,126. Montana has the 18th highest average student debt among graduates in the U.S.

Changing Transportation Trends
U.S. Pirg | READ STORY
This report by U.S. Pirg examines shifts in U.S. transportation habits. Americans did the most per capita

President's Corner
We would like to invite MSU Extension faculty and staff to consider membership in the Montana Association of Community Development Professionals (MACDEP). MACDEP is the state affiliate of the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP) with the mission of encouraging excellence in community development educational programs, processes, research, and technical assistance through the exchange of ideas and methods, collaboration, and professional development of members to benefit communities; To learn more, please visit our website. The state membership is $10; please contact Mandie Reed, MACDEP Treasurer, with inquiries.

-Paul Lachapelle
MACDEP President
driving in 2004. The average U.S. miles per day is down 7.6% since then. Less people are commuting to work in their own private vehicles, more are working at home, fewer have more than one car, and more forgo owning a vehicle altogether.

Western Economy Atlas
Headwaters Economics | READ STORY
This interactive tool from Headwaters Economics presents information on the economic landscape of the westernmost eleven states of the U.S. Economic trends can be investigated at the state, regional, and county levels. Montana, for instance, has gained over 13,000 jobs in the health care/social assistance field—the most in any field—but the retail industry still provides the most jobs, over 70,000 total.

Upcoming Events

Community Development Extension Institute
February 26-28, 2014
Boise, ID
Sponsor: CDEI

2014 National Interagency Community Reinvestment Conference
March 30-April 2, 2014
Chicago, IL

International Association for Community Development
June 9-11, 2014
Glasgow, Scotland
Sponsor: International Association for Community Development

Grants, Awards & Jobs

Transportation for Veterans in Rural Areas
Deadline: February 3, 2014
Funder: Department of Veterans Affairs

Grants that Increase Employment Outcomes for People with Disabilities
Deadline: February 7, 2014
Funder: Kessler Foundation

Support for Social Justice Issues
Deadline: February 14, 2014
Funder: Public Welfare Foundation
One of Nation's Key Ecosystems Being Lost at Staggering Rate

NOAA | READ STORY

From 2004-2009 wetland area in the coastal watersheds of the U.S. dropped by over 360,000 acres according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in their report. That amounts to an annual loss of over 80,000 acres, a 25 percent-increase since the agencies’ previous reporting period.

US Navy Predicts Summer Ice Free Arctic by 2016

Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Science | READ STORY

An ongoing US Department of Energy-backed research project led by a US Navy scientist predicts that the Arctic could lose its summer sea ice cover as early as 2016 - 84 years ahead of conventional model projections. The project, based out of the US Naval Postgraduate School's Department of Oceanography, uses complex modelling techniques that make its projections more accurate than others. A paper by principal investigator Professor Wieslaw Maslowski in the Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences sets out some of the findings.
NOAA: Expect 'Widespread, Sustained Changes' in the Arctic

NOAA | READ STORY
Three decades of a consistent warming trend have made a greener Arctic the new normal, and "widespread, sustained changes" are set to come to region, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a recent assessment.

Humanity Wholly Unprepared for Abrupt Climate Impacts, Warns Report

National Academy of Sciences | READ STORY
A new report released by scientists in the National Academy of Sciences says the sudden impacts of climate change this century and beyond are inevitable but warn that far too little has been done to prepare for them stating, 'the pace of change is orders of magnitude higher than what species have experienced in the last tens of millions of years.'