Employee Ownership: A Business Retention Strategy

Over the next two decades, an estimated 70% of privately-held businesses will change hands, many as a result of retiring baby boomers. Who will take over these businesses and will they remain in their communities? Conversion to employee ownership is gaining traction as an effective method for retaining businesses, jobs, and wealth in local communities.

Employee Ownership: A Business Retention Strategy will provide economic development professionals with the tools and practical knowledge necessary to use employee ownership as a business retention strategy in their communities. Participants will hear from individuals who work for employee owned companies and from business developers experienced in planning and executing conversions to employee ownership.

Key Topics
- Employee ownership basics: worker cooperatives and employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs)
- Benefits of conversion to employee ownership for retiring owners, employees, and the community
- Nuts and bolts of the conversion process
- How to talk with local business owners about succession planning

Who should attend?
- Economic development professionals who work for local, regional, or state government
- Small Business Development Centers
- Chambers of Commerce
- Local and regional policymakers
- Community and economic development organizations

Program presented by:

Center for Cooperatives
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

UW Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Employee Ownership: A Business Retention Strategy

Agenda
Registration: 9 a.m.
Program: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Optional Tour: 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Registration
$75 per participant, includes light breakfast, lunch, and onsite parking (6 hours) at the Fluno Center

Register online:
http://bit.do/ownership or www.uwcc.wisc.edu

Meeting Location
Fluno Center
601 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53715
(877) 773-5866

For more information:
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Optional Tour:
Isthmus Engineering and Manufacturing

Join us for a tour of Isthmus Engineering and Manufacturing (IEM), a worker-owned cooperative that specializes in custom automation solutions and equipment. IEM has thrived even as manufacturing in Wisconsin has contracted. Since 1980, IEM has provided thousands of innovative solutions for process automation in medical, consumer, industrial, and automotive markets. IEM leadership will take you on a tour of their production floor and explain the company’s unique organizational structure and team management system. There is no cost to attend this event.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
4035 Owl Creek Drive
Madison, WI 53718