



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 29, 2010

**CONTACT:**

Chris Moultrup  
MidMichigan Innovation Center  
(989) 839-2336 / Moultrup@mmic.us

**MidMichigan Innovation Center Networking Lunch Event Open to All**  
*Hear the Midland Solar Applications Story*

**Mid-Michigan** (July 29, 2010) – Join an eclectic group at MidMichigan Innovation Center of Wednesday, August 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to hear from three seasoned business leaders-turned-entrepreneurs, **Steve Ellebracht, John Bartos, and Ted Skinner**. Together they started Midland Solar Applications, and built Midland County’s first residential grid connected and the first industry-sized solar arrays. Tickets, which include lunch and the program, are \$15 per person and can be purchased online at [www.mmic.us](http://www.mmic.us) or by calling MidMichigan Innovation Center at (989) 839-2336. Pre-registration is appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome.

With diverse backgrounds – *Skinner a retired Dow Corning executive, Bartos an entrepreneur as founder of Three Rivers, and Ellebracht a retired Dow solar champion* – the three came together when they independently joined the BlueWater Angels, a group of individuals interested in investing in entrepreneurial ideas and start-ups in the region and when they served together on several area charity boards and committees. Their backgrounds, knowledge, skills and connections seemed like a natural fit as the three explored common interests and began to conceive of their own entrepreneurial venture as another way to contribute to the community and experience first-hand, the ups and downs of starting a business. Midland Solar Applications is a relatively new start-up, and they have already built Midland County’s first solar array, and are selling power back to Consumer’s Energy. With an interesting story and many lessons learned, Ellebracht, Bartos and Skinner will share what their insights, answer questions and hypothesize on the future of solar in the Great Lakes Bay region.

The event is open to the public and is especially suited for participation from others involved and interested in the solar industry, for those interested in starting related businesses, or for people interested in growth and development in this region.

Tickets include lunch and the program for \$15 per person. Pre-register online at [www.mmic.us](http://www.mmic.us) or call the MidMichigan Innovation Center at (989) 839-2333.

# # #

**About MidMichigan Innovation Center**

The *MidMichigan Innovation Center* is a private, non-profit organization created to provide entrepreneurs and start-up companies a supportive and collaborative environment. MMIC connects you with critical resources, valuable services, flexible facilities, and entrepreneurial training and education that will help you develop your business venture. As an MMIC partner, you will receive the support needed to ensure your company’s success.