

**News Release**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Regional Downtown Summit Set for August 16

KALKASKA, MI – US-131 community leaders, businesses, non-profits, residents, and other stakeholders are invited to the Regional Downtown Summit on August 16 in Kalkaska, to learn about redevelopment approaches, community programs, and action steps in forming downtown revitalization efforts. The summit is being hosted by the Explore 131 North Committee and will include a facilitated working session at which community team members will develop a short-term action plan for their downtown. The keynote presentation will be made by Rob Bacigalupi, AICP, Principal of Mission North, LLC. The summit will be held Thursday, August 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the All Seasons Hotel & Resort, 760 S. Cedar St, Kalkaska.

Explore 131 North is a grassroots project spearheaded by local government and community leaders along the US-131 corridor, including Cadillac, Manton, Fife Lake, Kalkaska, Mancelona, Boyne Valley, Walloon Lake, and Petoskey. This initiative arose out of the US-131 Economic Development Strategy, a collaborative economic development approach that builds upon local and regional strengths to address important economic needs. Networks Northwest, a ten-county community development organization, is helping to facilitate this process.

Bring your community team! We encourage teams of five (or more) from each community. Teams will have time at the summit to apply and share various tools, strategies and actions for their downtowns.

The event is free, but please RSVP by August 10 to John Sych, Networks Northwest, at 231-929-5083 or [john.sych@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:john.sych@networksnorthwest.org).

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at [dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: [networksnorthwest.org/media](http://networksnorthwest.org/media)

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our website, [networksnorthwest.org](http://networksnorthwest.org). Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.