Wisconsin’s approach to economic development stresses partnership at various levels, including business associations, public and private educational institutions, state and local government, regional marketing groups and independent, non-profit organizations such as the Wisconsin Technology Council and its programs. These slides show how some of these groups work together to serve Wisconsin.
Wisconsin is made up of 72 counties, with the most populous counties clustered in southeast and south-central Wisconsin, the Fox River Valley, central Wisconsin, the Chippewa Valley in the northwest and in Mississippi River communities near the Minnesota border. Many programs affiliated with the Wisconsin Department of Commerce are delivered by county or among multiple counties.
The Wisconsin Technical College System is among the nation’s best, producing employment-ready graduates who bring the latest technical skills and an outstanding work ethic to their jobs. This map shows Wisconsin’s 16 technical college districts, which are home to a combined 47 campuses that routinely work with private businesses to meet their workforce needs.
The University of Wisconsin System includes 13 four-year and 13 two-year campuses that produce high-quality graduates, world-class research and economic benefits for their regions. This map shows the location of the 13 four-year campuses, which are near some of the state’s largest cities. A rule of thumb: Campus start-ups usually land within 50 miles of “home.”
Wisconsin has 21 private colleges and universities, many of which offer programs tied to business growth and assistance, research and development and entrepreneurship. Those campuses are highlighted on this map.
Wisconsin’s regions have different strengths and offer distinct opportunities for companies to grow. This map shows seven regional economic development organizations, most of which have been created in the past five years to work locally while keeping statewide growth goals in mind.
The Wisconsin Technology Council is one of several statewide groups that offer specific services to entrepreneurs, investors and others engaged in the high-growth economy. The map shows locations of the Tech Council’s Wisconsin Innovation Network chapters.
In January 2005, when the Wisconsin Angel Network was created under the umbrella of the Tech Council, there were only five active angel networks or funds in Wisconsin. Today, there are 23. This map shows where those early stage investment groups are located.
This map shows how Wisconsin’s economic development efforts pull together. The preceding slides are NOT inclusive of every effort in the state, but they depict how a mix of representative groups and institutions are collaborating to build a more prosperous Wisconsin.