

January 22, 2010

MISSOURI COMMUNITY NEWS

DED Offers January Webinar: Missouri Quality Jobs, January 28



The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has scheduled its next webinar for January 28, from 9-11 a.m. Ronda Anderson will give a detailed program overview, including: who can qualify, how to qualify, and limits and calculations of the program. Recent legislative changes will also be discussed. [Register here](#) for the free webinar. [Submit suggestions](#) for future webinar topics.

Good Samaritan Boys Ranch Receives Housing Grant

The Good Samaritan Boys Ranch of Brighton has received a \$162,500 grant to assist with the consolidation of its Footsteps Transitional Living Program in Springfield. The Missouri Housing Trust Fund grant, along with tax credits from the Missouri Department of Economic Development, will be used for construction of a 20-bed group home and 20-apartment complex, for young men from 16 to 21 who are transitioning from the foster care system. [Read more...](#)



Moberly's Emphasis on Retention Pays Off



The Moberly Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) Corey Mehaffy learned very quickly to focus his attention on existing local businesses. During his first week as president of the EDC nearly a year ago, a major layoff was announced, cutting 200 jobs from the local economy. Mehaffy engaged local partners to assist the dislocated workers and work with the company. Mehaffy says, "We do formal visits with all of our large employers in the area, usually three times a year, sometimes more," he says. "We sit down with them and ask how they're doing, if there's anything that we can do for them, if they're having any issues. We talk about training opportunities and work force trends." [Read more...](#)

Nixa Public Schools, Missouri State Form Teaching Partnership

The Nixa Public School system and Missouri State University have created a partnership to allow Nixa teachers to teach undergraduate education classes at the university, while MSU students who have completed at least 60 hours of college credit can offer substitute services for Nixa classrooms. The agreement gives MSU students teaching experience and provides a steady stream of substitute teachers for the Nixa school district. [Read more...](#)



Amtrak Ridership Increases in December

Passengers riding the Amtrak route between Kansas City and St. Louis increased 16 percent in December compared with figures from the previous year. The increase was the third-highest in

UPCOMING EVENTS

Missouri Partnership Marketing Events

[Schedule of Missouri Partnership Marketing Events](#)

January 20 - March 31, 2010

[Making Exporting Easier Webinar Series](#)

January 26 - 27, 2010

[Complying with U.S. Export Controls](#)

January 27, 2010

[CDBG Application Training Workshop](#)

Jefferson City

January 28, 2010

[2010 Transportation Conference](#)

Jefferson City

January 28, 2010

[DED Webinar: Missouri Quality Jobs](#)

January 31 - February 2, 2010

[IEDC Leadership Summit](#)

February 8 - 9, 2010

[MEDC Winter Conference](#)

February 14 - 19, 2010



December among the 27 state-supported or short-distance routes Amtrak operates. National ridership increased 5 percent. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON MISSOURI

DED Releases December 2009 State Jobs Report



Missouri's unemployment rate increased slightly in December, according to data released by the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED). Missouri's unemployment rate rose to 9.6 percent, up two-tenths of a percentage point from the revised November figure (November's rate was revised down from 9.5 to 9.4 percent) on a seasonally-adjusted basis. The state's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 2,600

jobs. [Read more...](#)

DED Announces Latest Small Business Loan Program Recipients

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced the award of \$25,000 low-interest loans to four small businesses as part of Gov. Jay Nixon's Missouri Small Business Loan Program. [Read more...](#)

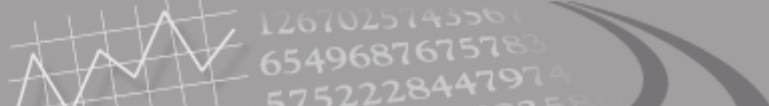


Gov. Nixon, Treasurer Zweifel Kick Off Program to Jumpstart Housing Market, Create Construction Jobs



Gov. Jay Nixon and State Treasurer Clint Zweifel joined skilled craftsmen in St. Louis and Kansas City last week to kick off the Home Ownership Purchase Enhancement (HOPE) Program, a \$15 million initiative designed to jumpstart the state's housing-construction industry.

Under the HOPE program, the Missouri Housing Development Commission will provide incentives of up to \$1,750 to encourage Missourians to purchase homes. The incentive will equal the cost of the homebuyer's first year's property taxes, up to \$1,250. [Read more...](#)



Kansas City and St. Louis Rank High In Small Business Study



Kansas City and St. Louis are becoming more attractive cities to start a business, according to a Portfolio.com/bizjournals study. Kansas City ranks 38th, up from 65th in 2009, and St. Louis ranks 57th in the small-business vitality rankings, up from 76th in 2009. The list ranks the nation's 100 largest metro areas based on a six-part formula that analyzes each metro's number of small businesses per 1,000

residents, the one-year change in that concentration, one-year growth rates for small businesses and private-sector employment, and five-year rates for population and employment. [Read more...](#)

LMI Institute Upcoming Training Courses

The Labor Market Information (LMI) Training Institute is a comprehensive national training program whose mission is to provide training to LMI professionals and users across the United States, and to foster communication within the field. The Institute has upcoming training sessions on Understanding Labor Market Economies, covering topics such as regional data resources, basic analysis



[India Solar Energy Trade Mission II](#)

March 4, 2010

[Southeast Missouri Export Seminar Series](#)
Poplar Bluff, MO

March 8 - 13, 2010

[Medical Trade Mission to India](#)

March 18 - 19, 2010

[Economic Development and Strategic Planning](#)
Springfield

March 24 - 25, 2010

[InvestMidwest](#)

April 8, 2010

[Southeast Missouri Export Seminar Series](#)
Portageville, MO

April 18 - 22, 2010

[Heartland Basic E.D. Course](#)
Blue Springs

April 19 - 21, 2010

[4th Annual Maastricht Institute of Entrepreneurship](#)

April 21 - 23, 2010

[Missouri Association for Workforce Development \(MAWD\) Conference](#)

July 25 - 29, 2010

[2010 Summers @ Mizzou, Build-a-Business Camp](#)

[PAST ISSUES](#)

[Missouri Focus](#)
January 15, 2010

[Missouri Focus](#)
January 8, 2009

[Missouri Focus](#)
December 18, 2009

methods, and presenting workforce data to policymakers. [Read more...](#)



Village of Jane Awarded \$500,000 CDBG for Water Systems Improvement Project

The village of Jane has been approved for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) that will be utilized for a wastewater system improvement project. [Read more...](#)

DED Awards \$247,285 in Enhanced Enterprise Zone Tax Credits to Trenton Business

ConAgra in DREAM community Trenton has been approved for \$247,285 in Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) program tax credits over a five-year period by the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) for the creation of 10 new jobs and \$9 million in new investment at 1401 Harris Avenue, Trenton. [Read more...](#)

Department of Economic Development Grants Enhanced Enterprise Zone Designation to Chariton County

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced approval of Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) designation for Chariton County. This designation will allow county officials to continue to move forward with economic development efforts. [Read more...](#)

Department of Economic Development Awards



Gov. Nixon Lauds "Heroes" Who Hire Vets

In the State of the State address on Jan 20, Gov. Nixon announced his "Show-Me Heroes" initiative to showcase businesses that pledge to hire Missouri veterans. A Show-Me Heroes Web site will display participating business names and connect employers with veterans looking for a job and vice versa. DED's Division of Workforce Development will administer the program, providing ongoing guidance and support from dedicated veterans outreach staff from the state's Missouri Career Centers. Contact program coordinator [Lt. Col. Alan Rohlfing](#) for more information. "I want every employer in this state...with a job opening, to sign this pledge and show that Missouri hires its veterans," Gov. Nixon stated.

Workforce Leader Charts Top Growth Industries for Southwest Missouri

Business and financial services, transportation and logistics, and biomedical and biotechnical life sciences are the fastest growing industry clusters for southwest Missouri, the area's chief workforce leader reported recently. Jasen Jones, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board of Southwest Missouri, outlined the top ten industries projected to shape the 12-county Joplin-area regional economy in 2010, citing



Children's Brace Company Finds Success with SBTDC Assistance

Snyder Brace Inc. in Columbia is the only brace business in Mid-Missouri that creates orthotic braces specifically for children. The company was a new start-up last June, but has seen success in its niche market with assistance from the University of Missouri Extension's Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC). SBTDC specialists serve clients throughout the state, providing counseling at no charge to new and existing businesses. The centers also offer workshops in different areas for a small fee. [Read more...](#)

St. Louis County and Edward Jones Announce Business Plan Competition

St. Louis County Economic Council (SLCEC), in partnership with Edward Jones, announces its 2010 St. Louis Regional Business Plan Competition to promote entrepreneurship and the development of startup and early-stage companies in the St. Louis region. This is the first time an economic development agency in the State of Missouri has partnered with a national company to support small businesses. SLCEC will award the three winning companies with prize money of \$50,000 for first place, \$30,000 second and \$20,000 third place. [Read more...](#)

[Missouri Focus](#)
December 11, 2009

[DED PRESS RELEASES](#)

[QUICK LINKS](#)

[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri Business Portal](#)

[Missouri Women's Council](#)

[Missouri Women Owned Business Network](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[MissouriCareerSource.com](#)

[MOSourceLink](#)

[Missouri Workforce Investment Board](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Division of Tourism](#)

[Missouri Development Finance Board](#)

[Missouri Community Betterment](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Partnership](#)

[Missouri Main Street Connection](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Economic Development at Mizzou](#)

[University of Missouri Extension](#)

Youth Opportunities Tax Credits to St. Louis Service Organization

Discovering Options, St. Louis, has been approved for \$36,768 in Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) tax credits by the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED). Donations received as part of this YOP project will enable Discovering Options to offer its Strengthening Families program to at-risk youth and their families in St. Louis. [Read more...](#)

powerful research tools used in the industry cluster analysis. Information technology, defense and visitor industries are three other examples of the ten sectors projected to add over 5,500 combined jobs to the region over the next year. Contact [Jasen Jones](#) for more information. [Read more...](#)

BounceBack St. Louis Pioneers in E-learning Program

Members of a St. Louis regional partnership among IT businesses and job seekers were among the first in Missouri to sign up for Microsoft's *Elevate America* program that was established by Gov. Nixon to provide over 24,000 Missourians no cost e-learning and certification vouchers. "When talented people lose their jobs in today's turbulent marketplace, the St. Louis region risks losing the skills, abilities, and creativity that are vital to economic recovery and growth," says the agency's Web site. The *Elevate America* program ends in Missouri on Jan 31, 2010. [Read more...](#)

Danforth Center Research Awarded \$44M Stimulus Funding

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded \$44 million in federal Recovery Act funding for advanced research efforts at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. Scientists at the center are studying how to convert algae into renewable energy to help support a clean sustainable transportation industry. Better Family Life, of St. Louis, and Alternative Solutions, of Springfield, also received funding that totals \$5.6 million. [Read more...](#)

General Assembly to Honor 19 Missouri Entrepreneurs

Owners and managers of 19 outstanding Missouri small businesses will be honored by members of the Missouri General Assembly at a business showcase in Jefferson City, Jan. 27. The event, sponsored by the Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers (MO SBTDC) and the Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC), will highlight the achievements of some of the top performing clients of the two programs. [Read more...](#)

[Missouri Procurement and Technical Assistance Centers \(MO PTAC\)](#)

[Missouri Business Development Program](#)

[Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers \(SBTDC\) {SBTDC training seminars at MSU}](#)

[MoFAST](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council \(MEDC\)](#)

[International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\)](#)

[Associated Industries of Missouri \(AIM\)](#)

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)



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Questions or Comments?
Please contact:

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or email:

GLOBAL NEWS

Novus Opens Plant in Singapore



St. Charles-based Novus International Inc. has opened a new blending plant in Singapore for animal feed supplements. The plant will also serve as a distribution hub for the company's Asia Pacific clients. Novus has 230 employees in St. Charles and more than 350 employees worldwide. [Read more...](#)

Insituform Wins \$11M Australian Contract

A division of Chesterfield-based Insituform Technologies Inc. has been awarded a contract worth \$10.9 million for work on Australian mining pipelines. United Pipeline Systems will perform



the work beginning in April, with the area in Western Australia becoming one of the world's largest mines and the first of its kind. The magnetite produced at the mine will be used to manufacture steel and uses less carbon dioxide than other materials, resulting in a more environmentally friendly process. [Read more...](#)

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