

# FOCUS


## Missouri

Show Me  Information

April 24, 2009

### MISSOURI COMMUNITY NEWS

#### **BusinessWeek Names Columbia as Missouri's "Best Small City for Startups"**

 According to research conducted for *BusinessWeek* by GIS Planning, Columbia has been named as the "Best Small City for Startups" in Missouri. Examining cities with populations between 20,000 and 200,000, the analysis weighed 11 factors to gauge an area's entrepreneurial climate. [Read more...](#)

#### **Care to Learn Fund Expands to Nixa, Increases Matching Level**

Springfield-based Care to Learn Fund made two important announcements last week while celebrating its one-year anniversary. The fund's partners will now match donations four-to-one for up to \$50,000 donations, rather than the three-to-one structure used during the first year. Also announced was the creation of the Care to Learn Fund-Nixa, which will provide health, hygiene and hunger assistance for students in the Nixa R-2 School District. [Read more...](#)



#### **Eleven New Businesses for St. Patrick Incubator**

 The St. Patrick Center has announced that 11 new small businesses are now operating in its business incubator, BEGIN New Venture Center, at the agency's downtown St. Louis Partnership Center. The BEGIN New Venture Center opened last fall as the nation's only small business incubator focused on the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. [Read more...](#)

#### **Make Plans Now to Attend MEDC Spring Conference!**

The 2009 MEDC Spring Conference, "Opportunities in Tough Times," is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 3, at the Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark. The conference agenda will be mailed out soon, but you are encouraged to make your hotel reservations today. Contact the Lodge at (888) 265-5500 (ask for MEDC Group block) or go on-line to: [Reservations](#) and reference this attendee code: 0800746. To receive special pricing for rooms, you must make your hotel reservation by May 3.



COMMUNITY

WORKFORCE

BUSINESS

GLOBAL NEWS

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 29, 2009**

[Export Documentation & Shipping Seminar](#)

**April 30, 2009**

[Export Seminars at Missouri State University](#)

(Scroll down to International Trade)

**April 30 - May 1, 2009**

[Entrepreneurial and Small Business Strategies](#)

**May 1 - 31, 2009**

[Outstanding Missouri Women Traveling History Exhibit](#)

Brookfield YMCA

**May 12, 2009**

[Wind Industry Supply Chain Workshop](#)

Kansas City

**May 18, 2009**

[Missouri Film Commission Meeting](#)

## FOCUS ON MISSOURI

### Gov. Nixon, Vice President Biden Announce Missouri Next-Generation Jobs Team



Across Missouri, high school and college students are getting ready for summer. But under a program announced last week by Vice President Joe Biden and Gov. Jay Nixon, thousands of young Missourians will spend summer learning the skills they'll need for the careers of tomorrow, not sitting on the couch at home. Vice President Biden and Gov. Nixon visited the Mathews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club in St. Louis to meet with a group of local students about their educational and career plans and launch the [Missouri](#)

[Next-Generation Jobs Team](#), a summer employment program that will prepare young Missourians to compete for and excel in the high-tech, high-paying careers of the 21st century. [Read more...](#)

### DED Seeks Nominations for Governor's Minority Business Award

An outstanding minority business will be presented the 2009 Governor's Minority Business Award at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development, to be held September 9 - 11 in St. Louis. This award is presented to a Missouri minority business that has been in operation in the state for at least 3 years; has demonstrated business development through significant growth and effective use of business start-up assistance; has demonstrated improvements of internal processes for the business; and has shown innovative use of new and existing marketing methods. Deadline for submissions is May 20. [Read more...](#)



### DED Seeks Nominations for Director's Small Business Award



The Missouri Department of Economic Development is seeking nominations for the 2009 Director's Small Business Award, to be presented at the Governor's

Conference on Economic Development in St. Louis, September 9-11. This award is presented to a small business (defined for this award as 25 or fewer employees and under \$10 million annual sales) that has experienced significant growth; shown effective use of business start-up, business development and/or management assistance; demonstrated improvements of internal processes for their business; and shown innovative use of new and existing marketing methods. Nominations must be submitted by May 20. [Read more...](#)

### Missouri Film Commission to Meet

The Missouri Film Commission will meet on Monday, May 18, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Governor Office Building, Room 460, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City. Portions of the meeting may be closed pursuant to Section 610.021 RSMo. If you would like a copy of the agenda, please contact [Marcy Mealy](#) at (573) 526-3606. [Read more...](#)



May 19, 2009

### [Missouri Women's Council Board Meeting](#)

Truman Building  
Room 680  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

May 19, 2009

### [Friends of the Missouri Women's Council Board Meeting](#)

Truman Building  
Room 680  
3:30 p.m.

May 20, 2009

### [NAP Workshop](#)

June 2 - 5, 2009

### [C2ER 49th Annual Conference - "Energizing Entrepreneurship: Monitoring Progress, Making Change"](#)

June 3 - 5, 2009

### [MEDC Spring Conference](#) Lodge of Four Seasons, Lake Ozark

June 23 - 25, 2009

### [2009 Joint CBRN Conference and Exhibition](#) (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear)

July 9, 2009

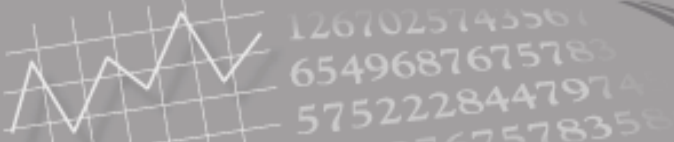
### [Innovation Conference: "Innovation in Turbulent Times"](#)

July 16, 2009

### [NAP Workshop](#)

July 26 - 29, 2009

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



### 2008 County Population Estimates Released



Recently released population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau show that St. Louis County is Missouri's largest with an estimated population in 2008 of 991,830, making up 16.8 percent of the state's total population. Jackson County is Missouri's second largest with an estimated population of 668,417. St. Louis County ranked as the 42nd most populous county in the U.S., while

Jackson County ranked 89th. [Read more...](#)

### St. Joseph: Northwest Missouri LED Hotspot

Local Employment Dynamics (LED) generates and analyzes local labor market information which includes employment, industry, residence, and commuting data.

LED can be used to identify hotspots that generate economic activity in a region. The St. Joseph WIA Region is an economic and employment hot spot, accounting for 33.5 percent of total employment in the region. [Read more...](#)



### DED awards \$256,639 in Enhanced Enterprise Zone Tax Credits to Doniphan Business

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced approval of state tax credits for a Doniphan business under the Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) program to assist in the creation of 60 new jobs and new investment of \$6 million in the Doniphan area.

[Read more...](#)

### DWD Publicizes Governor's Summer Youth Program

DWD communications staff, outreach team and others have been busy getting the word out about Governor Nixon's [Next-Generation Jobs Team](#)

summer youth program. On April 20, following the [announcement](#) from Vice President Joe Biden and Governor Nixon, DWD distributed Next-Generation Jobs Team [brochures, posters](#)

and [postcards](#) to local Workforce investment Boards to complement local outreach efforts. DWD also provided special materials for garnering interest among businesses and business associations, and has begun an outreach

### Wind Capital Plans Missouri's Largest Wind Farm

Last week, Vice President Joe Biden, along with Wind Capital's Tom Carnahan, announced plans for Missouri's largest wind energy project while visiting Jefferson City. Wind Capital will build the 150-megawatt Lost Creek Wind Farm in DeKalb County, which will cost approximately \$300 million and create more than 2,500 jobs. [Read more...](#)

**June 30, 2009**

[Missouri Women's Council Award of Distinction - deadline for nominees](#)

**September 9 - 11, 2009**  
[Governor's Conference on Economic Development](#)

### PAST ISSUES

[Missouri Focus April 17, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus April 10, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus April 3, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus March 27, 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](#)

[Missouri CareerSource.com](#)

[Missouri Workforce Investment Board](#)

## Partners for Progress Offers METS Forum at Lindenwood University

Partners for Progress of Greater St. Charles is hosting a free community discussion on advancing Math, Engineering, Technology & Science (METS) education in our schools will be held at Lindenwood University, Friday, May 1, in the Spellman Center Leadership Room. Join this forum to learn how to better prepare Missouri's workforce of the future. RSVP to [METS Forum](#)

[Registration](#) or call (636) 441-6880, ext. 221 by April 27 to register. [Read more...](#)

## Carthage Designated as Tree City USA

Carthage city officials and residents will celebrate the city's designation by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA by planting two maple trees near the local skating rink. This is the 10th year Carthage has received the Tree City USA designation. The Tree City USA Program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. [Read more...](#)

partnership with education agencies to promote the program to Missouri youth through high school and college counselors and placement offices. Local media have already begun to feature [stories](#) about the new program, which will create some 6,000 jobs. Says DWD Director, Julie Gibson, "We are doing everything we can to make sure Missouri youth and businesses are aware of this valuable program to train our state's 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce."

## With Career Center's Help, Jobs Still Available

A recent *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* article reported that employers are still hiring in many sectors, despite the continuing recession. Citing a recent [Career Builder.com](#) study, the report offers encouraging news for job seekers. Nearly half the surveyed workers laid off in the past year are now employed again. The article features Michael Holmes, executive director of the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment/ St. Louis Career Center, who notes the hundreds of jobs posted by the area's workforce system and suggests that unemployed workers might consider careers in hospitality and customer service, two sectors that have demonstrated fairly steady hiring this year.

[Read more...](#)

## Incredible Pizza Moving Tulsa Offices to Springfield

Incredible Pizza Co. announced last week that it will move its operational offices to Springfield from Tulsa, Okla. in order to house its corporate staff at one location. CEO Rick Barsness cited the main reason for the move as a need for better communication while the company expands. The food-and-games company maintains its corporate headquarters in Springfield. [Read more...](#)

## Harris Corp. will add Jobs in St. Louis

Communications and information technology company, Harris Corp., has announced plans to add 15 jobs in St. Louis with the opening of its geospatial services production facility. The company will produce and test high-resolution imagery-derived geospatial data for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and other federal agencies in the area. [Read more...](#)

## Entrepreneurs Collaborate to Create a Midwest High-Tech Hub

Innovators from a Midwestern triangle, extending from Kansas City to Omaha, Neb., to Des Moines, Iowa, are joining together as they work to overcome disadvantages of geography that can come with running high-tech start-ups in the nation's midsection. Last fall, dozens of entrepreneurs,

[MERIC](#)

[Division of Tourism](#)

[Missouri Development Finance Board](#)

[Missouri Community Betterment](#)

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

[Missouri Main Street Connection](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Economic Development at Mizzou](#)

[University of Missouri Extension](#)

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

[Missouri Business Development Program](#)

[Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers \(SBTDC\)](#)

[Schedule of training seminars at MSU...](#)

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

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

## Obama to Visit St. Louis on His 100th Day in Office

The White House announced this week that President Barack Obama will mark a significant milestone - his 100th day in office - with a visit to the St. Louis area on April 29. Obama will hold a town hall meeting in suburban St. Louis, but the exact location has not yet been determined. The President will discuss his first 100 days in office and take questions about the administration's agenda.

[Read more...](#)

## New Southwest Missouri Site to Assist Community Job Seekers

On Tuesday April 21, the Workforce Investment Board of Southwest Missouri and staff from the Monett Career Center participated in an open house at a new facility in Cassville that will assist area job seekers, Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) Director Linda Martínez announced. The site is the latest addition to the system of SHARE Network Access Points, or "SNAPS." [Read more...](#)

technology specialists and social media leaders gathered in Kansas City for a "Highlight Midwest" event. Next month they will move the networking momentum with an event called "Big Omaha."

Kansas City area entrepreneur Dan Melton is teaming up with peers throughout the region on high-tech projects and business ventures, and he says that Highlight Midwest, Big Omaha and other gatherings in the future can be helpful in spurring more collaboration among technology experts throughout the region. [Read more...](#)

## GLOBAL NEWS

### DED Seeks Exporter of the Year Nominations



The Department of Economic Development (DED) is seeking nominations of Missouri companies for the "Exporter of the Year" award, to be recognized during the Governor's Conference on Economic Development, September 9-11, in St. Louis. Your organization is invited to nominate companies for consideration for this prestigious recognition. You will find an online nomination form that can be submitted electronically on the [MEDC Web site](#). More

than one company may be nominated by your local organization, however please submit each by separate form. If you have any difficulty submitting the form electronically, you may fax it to [Mark Wine](#) at (573) 526-1567, or mail it directly to Mark Wine, P.O. Box 118, Jefferson City, MO 65102. **Nominations are due today, April 24.**

### Show-Me BIOJapan: 2009 MO Trade Mission Recruitment Events

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED), in partnership with the Missouri Biotechnology Association, Platte County EDC, St. Louis RCGA and U.S. Commercial Service, will be hosting two recruitment events, May 1, in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas, to promote Missouri as a premier destination of the life sciences and biotech industry. These informational sessions will feature an overview of the Japanese biotech and life science industry, as well as information about programs to assist with exporting Missouri products. [Read more...](#)



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

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)



[SUBSCRIBE TO MISSOURI FOCUS](#)

**Questions or Comments?  
Please contact:**

[Jane Holtsman](#)  
**(573) 522-1593**

**or email:**  
[missourifocus@ded.mo.gov](mailto:missourifocus@ded.mo.gov)

## What You Need to Know to be Successful in China



Are you China ready? For more than a year, China has shown increasing interest in developing an air cargo hub in St. Louis. The new hub could become China's primary gateway into the Midwest, and, through dedicated cargo flights, connect St. Louis with China and local businesses to more Chinese consumers. Come learn "What You Need to Know to be Successful in China," May 6 in St.

Louis or May 7 in St. Charles. [Read more...](#)

## Briefing on Opportunities in Panama

Join Senior Commercial Officer in Panama, Nicholas Kuchova, for an overview of the business opportunities in Panama. The United States is Panama's most important trading partner, with about 30 percent of the import market. U. S. goods and services enjoy a reputation for high quality and are highly competitive. Panama boasts the highest per capita GDP in the region. This briefing, hosted by the U.S. Commercial Service and co-sponsored by Kansas City SmartPort, will be held May 15 at the Lenexa Conference Center in Lenexa, Kansas. [Read more...](#)



Missouri Department of Economic Development, Business & Community Services  
P.O. Box 118, Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Phone: (573) 751-4962 FAX: (573) 751-7384  
[www.missouridevelopment.org](http://www.missouridevelopment.org)