



July 31, 2009

- COMMUNITY
- WORKFORCE
- BUSINESS
- GLOBAL NEWS

### MISSOURI COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Missouri Main Street Connection Presents Missouri's Premier Revitalization Conference



The Missouri Main Street Connection will hold its annual conference in Branson, August 18-21. **Get Plugged in... Downtown** and get ready to be inspired. Make new connections and get new tools to keep your downtown vibrant and competitive in today's market. This conference will bring practical ideas and solutions for preservation-based revitalization that is relevant to rural, mid-sized and urban communities. Deadline for early registration has been extended to midnight, tonight! [Read more...](#)

#### NACA Brings "Save the Dream of Home Ownership" to St. Louis, July 31-August 3



The Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA) announces "Save the Dream Tour - St. Louis," a free, four-day event to provide solutions for at-risk homeowners and homebuyers, July 31-August 3, at Chaifetz Arena, Saint Louis University. St. Louis is part of NACA's "Save the Dream Tour" to help provide mortgage relief for thousands of people. "We offer unprecedented solutions for homeowners caught up in the current mortgage and economic crisis," said NACA CEO Bruce Marks. [Read more...](#)

#### St. Charles Library District Ranks 4th in Nation



The St. Charles City-County Library District has been ranked 4th in the nation for libraries serving populations of 250,000 to 500,000, according to Hennen's American Public Library Ratings (HAPLR). The local district is the only one in Missouri on HAPLR's Top 10 list for 2009. [Read more...](#)

### FOCUS ON MISSOURI

#### 2009 Governor's Conference Update



The 2009 Governor's Conference on Economic Development is scheduled for September 9-11, at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis Riverfront Hotel. **SPECIAL**

**NOTE:** The \$111 sleeping room rate at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis Riverfront Hotel has been extended to August 14. Make your reservations soon to take advantage of the reduced rate. Also, early registration for the Governor's Conference has been extended to August 14. Register today for the \$195 rate. The Pre-Conference Workshops, Breakout Sessions, and Keynote Speakers offered during the conference are now listed on the [2009 Governor's Conference](#) Web site. Check back often for updates and additions.

#### Missouri's Infrastructure for Learning Translates to Higher Yields for

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**June, July, August**  
[Outstanding Missouri Women Traveling History Exhibit](#) at [Arrow Rock State Historic Site](#)

**August 18 - 21, 2009**  
[Missouri Main Street Conference: Get Plugged In... Downtown](#)

**Missouri Partnership Events - Sept.-Nov. 2009**  
[Schedule of Missouri Partnership Marketing Events](#)

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

**Date Correction!**  
**September 17 - 18, 2009**  
["Economic Development Marketing and Attraction"](#)

**October 4 - 7, 2009**  
[IEDC Annual Conference: Renewable Communities - Leveraging Your Competitive Resources](#)

**October 4 - 7, 2009**  
[AFCOM Data Center World@ Conference](#)

## Business

Missouri's higher education community was recently featured in *Site Selection* magazine's Investment Profile. A weeklong series of interviews, facility visits and group conversations took place in May 2009, encompassing more than 70 individuals and 1,100 miles. The feature offers a complete course in how learning leads to growth – of people, of companies and, ultimately, of innovation. [Read more...](#)



## Missouri Climbs in Rank of Top States for Business



Missouri ranked No. 14 on CNBC's 2009 America's Top States for Business list released this week, up from its 2008 ranking of No. 24. This year, Missouri ranked fourth for the cost of doing business, fifth for cost of living and sixth for transportation and

infrastructure. The rankings are based on the cost of business, work force, quality of life, economy, transportation, technology and innovation, education, business friendliness, access to capital, and cost of living. [Read more...](#)

## MoDOT's Efficiency, Competition Saved Taxpayers \$135 Million Last Year

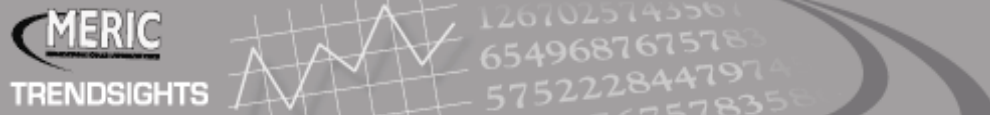
The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) experienced project cost savings last year that are being used to perform additional highway and bridge work at a time when revenues are on the decline. The cost savings can be attributed to MoDOT's "radical cost control" philosophy, as well as increased competition in the construction industry. For the fiscal year that ended June 30, MoDOT awarded 461 projects totaling \$1.3 billion, 9 percent under budget for a savings of more than \$135 million. The work included 103 recovery act projects and a design-build contract that included 554 bridges to be fixed under the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program. [Read more...](#)



## White House Auto Czar Visits Valley Park



Ed Montgomery, the White House point man for battered auto towns, and representatives from a half-dozen federal agencies came to Valley Park to meet with local officials and union reps. They asked what, if anything, they can do to help fill the hole that Chrysler and its suppliers left behind. [Read more...](#)



## Back-to-School and College Spending Forecasts



Plans have changed this year for back-to-school and college purchases. According to the National Retail Federation's back-to-school and college surveys by Bigresearch, most families are planning to purchase only what is necessary for back-to-school this year. Most are planning to look for sales before hitting the stores, with electronics and computers high on school supply lists, especially for the college bound. [Read more...](#)

## OSEDA Profiles Families Headed by Grandparents

Nearly 10 percent of Missouri families with children under age 18 are headed by grandparents. Of the almost 20,000 grandfamilies in the state, three-fourths include at least one parent of the children living there. Missouri grandparents heading households with children were less likely to be burdened with high housing costs and had higher levels of education attainment than the national average. [Read more...](#)



October 6 - 9, 2009

[BioJapan 2009 World Business Forum](#)

October 12 - 14, 2009

[CoreNet Global Fall Summit](#)

October 13 - 17, 2009

[Greater KC Chamber of Commerce Partnership Mission to Vancouver](#)

November 3 - 4, 2009

[China Overseas Investment Fair \(COIF\) 2009](#)  
[Trade Show Commitment Form](#)

## PAST ISSUES

[Missouri Focus July 24, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus July 17, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus July 10, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus July 2, 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](#)



**FOCUS ON  
COMMUNITY**

**Department of Economic Development grants Enhanced Enterprise Zone designation to city of Sugar Creek**

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

**Department of Economic Development Grants Enhanced Enterprise Zone Designation to Howard County**

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced approval of Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) designation for Howard County. "For Missouri's economy to get back on track, we must do everything we can to create good-paying jobs and encourage economic development," DED Director Linda Martínez said. [Read more...](#)

**Department of Economic Development Grants Enhanced Enterprise Zone Designation to City of Slater**

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced approval of Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) designation for the city of Slater and a portion of Saline County. Zone designation is based on certain demographic criteria, the potential to



**FOCUS ON  
WORKFORCE**

**Program to Provide More Job Training Through Community Colleges**

A new initiative announced by President Barack Obama on July 14 proposes to substantially boost the number of people who receive degrees from community colleges. The "American Graduation Initiative" will invest approximately \$12 billion over the next 10 years to "reform and strengthen" the community college system, aiming to produce an additional 5 million graduates by 2020. The president emphasized community colleges as a crucial component, noting that jobs requiring an associate degree or higher are projected to grow at double the rate of jobs requiring no college. [Read more...](#)

**Report: Skilled Workers Vital to Economic Recovery**

A recent edition of *Missouri Focus* announced the "State of St. Louis Workforce Report," which was presented this week at a gathering of area business leaders. The data-rich report contained some good news - namely that over 90 percent of St. Louis businesses plan to increase or maintain current employment levels for the following year - but it also indicated a potential hindrance to continued economic growth. Just under one-fourth of surveyed employers cited a lack of skilled workers and inadequate training programs as a factor inhibiting additional hiring.



**FOCUS ON  
BUSINESS**

**DED Awards Enhanced Enterprise Zone Tax Credits to Praxair, Inc. for Creation of New Jobs, \$3M in Investment**

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced approval of state tax credits for Praxair, Inc., of Kansas City under the Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) program to assist in the creation of new jobs and investment. [Read more...](#)

**SRC Holdings Enters Joint Venture with Fiat Subsidiary**

Springfield-based SRC Holdings Corp. is pursuing a full-scale remanufacturing operation with farm and construction equipment manufacturer CNH Global N.V. - a strategic alliance expected to culminate with a local production facility employing hundreds of area workers. [Read more...](#)

**KC Animal Health Investment Forum**

The KC Animal Health Corridor will host its first Animal Health Forum on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Forum gives budding animal health and nutrition companies an opportunity to present their vision and business plans to potential investors. Companies that have revenue projections of \$20 million within 5-7 years and are seeking \$500,000 to \$20 million in funding, submitted their proposals online. Nearly 40 early-stage companies from around the globe

[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](#)

[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 \(IEDC\)](#)

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

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

create sustainable jobs in a targeted industry and a demonstrated impact on local cluster development. [Read more...](#)

### **DED Awards \$3.2M in Brownfield Redevelopment Tax Credits to Independence Organization**

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced that an Independence organization has been approved for \$3.2 million in remediation tax credits through the Brownfield Redevelopment Program. [Read more...](#)

### **DED Awards \$201,425 in Brownfield Redevelopment Tax Credits to St. Louis Organization**

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has awarded a St. Louis organization \$201,425 in remediation tax credits through the Brownfield Redevelopment Program. The remediation tax credits will be used to facilitate the property into an urban strip commercial development. [Read more...](#)

Representatives from St. Louis-area education and workforce development systems advise job seekers to concentrate on growth industries, employer demand and collaborative approaches to learning new job skills. [Read more...](#)

### **Lebanon Business Partners With OTC for Job Training**

In preparation for consolidation of its operations in Lebanon, manufacturer Detroit Tool Metal Products Company has forged a partnership with Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) to train up to 250 employees. The training will include a robotic welding-specific course in advanced manufacturing. The company plans to hire an additional 225 people by the end of 2010. [Read more...](#)

submitted proposals. A selection committee is considering all proposals and will select 15 companies to make a 15-minute presentation to a panel of venture capital firms. [Read more...](#)

### **Recovery Act Changes to SBIC Program Mean Increased Funding Available For Small Businesses**

Effective July 10, small businesses that would otherwise have difficulty securing private equity or venture capital, may find funding easier to get due to changes made as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program. The SBIC program was created to stimulate the growth of America's small businesses by supplementing the long-term debt and private-equity capital available to them. [Read more...](#)

### **Bank of Missouri Chosen as Lender for Contractors Targeted Loan Plan**

The Bank of Missouri is offering short-term loans to allow disadvantaged and minority-owned contracting companies to better compete for highway and transportation projects. The U.S. Department of Transportation selected the bank to participate in its Short Term Lending Program, which is designed to help disadvantaged businesses get the capital needed to bid on and complete transportation-related contracts. [Read more...](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)



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**Questions or Comments?  
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**DED, Missouri Partnership to Exhibit at China Overseas Investment Fair 2009**

In collaboration with the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Missouri Partnership will be maintaining a Missouri pavilion at the first-ever China Overseas Investment Fair (COIF), November 3-4 at the China World Trade Center in Beijing. COIF 2009, a nationally sanctioned trade show event organized by China's economic planning agency, is aimed specifically at connecting expansion-minded Chinese companies with investment promotion and business attraction agencies representing various countries and states around the world. Interested communities are asked to use the [2009 Trade Show Commitment Form](#) and respond by Friday, August 8. [Read more...](#)

**KCS Railway Celebrates New Texas Link**

Kansas City Southern is celebrating a new rail segment in Texas that it hopes can open a new era in its cross-border freight traffic and pick up more intermodal loads. Years in the planning, a 90-mile, \$173.5 million link between the towns of Victoria and Rosenberg near Houston allows KCS to cut out a costly, 67-mile jog on tracks owned by Union Pacific Railroad. [Read more...](#)



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