



March 6, 2009

MISSOURI COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlights of the Stimulus Bill for Community Development Practitioners



The National Development Council (NDC) is working through the nearly 1,000 pages of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), otherwise known as the stimulus bill, to become familiar with and to understand the provisions of the bill. There are a number of items in the bill that deal with programs that are directly related to economic and community development. Read highlights compiled by the NDC to find out how the stimulus bill

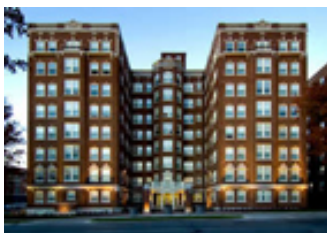
may affect your community. [Read more...](#)

Certificate Program Will Educate Local Leaders on Economic Development Issues

St. Louis University (SLU), St. Louis County, and an advisory group from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) are developing a development course/certificate program to educate mayors, city council members, city staff and other local leaders about economic development issues. The curriculum will include planning and zoning, green development, deal structuring, marketing and real estate development. SLU and ULI will issue a certificate in economic development after completing the course. [Read more...](#)



Kansas City Apartment Complex Receives Preserve Missouri Award



The East Armour Apartments in Kansas City, which have been renovated by Eagle Point Partners of Maine, recently received the Preserve Missouri Award from the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation. Cory Fellows, Eagle Point director of development, praised the historic tax credit offered by the state of Missouri for its vital role in the \$57 million project. The buildings have added 303 affordable apartments to the midtown area and are fully

leased. (Photo courtesy of *Kansas City Star*). [Read more...](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15 - 17, 2009
[IEDC Federal Economic Development Forum](#)

March 17, 2009
["The Intersection of Animal and Human Health Opportunities for Collaboration Between Canada and the Kansas City Region"](#)

March 18, 2009
Session 3 - "So how do I get paid?"
["The Basics of International Trade" Seminar Series](#)

April 8, 2009 - Session 4

March 19, 2009
[Trade Finance Seminar](#)

St. Joe Council Approves \$2.25M for Chiefs Training Camp

The city council of St. Joseph has given approval for \$2.25 million in funding for a new Kansas City Chiefs training camp at Missouri Western State University. In addition to \$10 million from the Missouri Development Finance Board, \$2.25 million from Buchanan County, and \$1.2 million from the Missouri Western State University Max Experience Student Fee program, the city's funding signifies the final piece of public financing for the project. Missouri Western is now trying to raise between \$750,000 and \$1 million in private funding for construction of the facility. [Read more...](#)



March 31 - April 1, 2009

["Basic Training in the 4-Point Main Street Approach to Revitalization"](#)

March 31 - April 2, 2009

[2009 Heartland Conference](#)
"Preparing the Workforce for the Changing Midwest Economy"

April 1 - 2, 2009

[Missouri's Climate Change Dialogue and the Utility & Energy Conference](#)

April 19 - 22, 2009

[International Conference on Business Incubation - "Building on Best Practices"](#)

April 19 - 23, 2009

[Heartland Economic Development Course](#)
Adams Pointe Conference Center - Blue Springs, Missouri

April 21 - 22, 2009

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

April 22 - 23, 2009

[Energy Summit](#)

April 22 - 24, 2009

[Exploring Innovation: A Conference on Community Development](#)

April 23, 2009

[How To Develop an Export Management and Compliance Program](#)

April 30 - May 1, 2009

[Entrepreneurial and Small Business Strategies](#)

FOCUS ON MISSOURI

MOBIO Applauds Formation of Missouri's Legislative Biotech Caucus

The Missouri General Assembly Biotechnology Caucus will help Cultivate Homegrown Health, Education, Agribusiness and Economic Innovations



A bipartisan group of 29 Missouri state legislators has announced its intention to form a state biotechnology caucus. Led by Kansas City Reps. Ryan Silvey (R-38) and Mike Talboy (D-37), caucus members will use this forum to continue to explore the state's deep biotech base of assets and consider market factors that affect Missouri's bioscience sector and, more broadly, the state's ability to leverage its scientific research base in support of global

health, agriculture, environmental, commercialization and economic development initiatives. [Read more...](#)

Northwest Students to Develop Coupon Delivery Software for Alyoop Inc.

Northwest Missouri State University has signed an agreement with representatives from Alyoop Inc., a St. Louis-based start-up company seeking to provide shoppers with coupons selected to match customer-generated shopping lists and delivered via the Internet. Alyoop's James E. McKee III described the concept, which is patent-pending, as the first new service in the area of manufacturers' coupon distribution since the invention of newspapers. [Read more...](#)



Missouri Arts Council Announces Regional Poetry Out Loud Champions

The Missouri Arts Council has announced the winners of the regional Poetry Out Loud champions. Starting at the classroom level, high school students learn about poetry and prepare for their performances. Winners from each class advance to the school-wide competition. School champions advance to the regional and then state levels. [Read more...](#)



Missouri Technology Corporation Awards Grants for Angel Investment Groups

The Missouri Technology Corporation, housed within the Missouri Department of Economic Development, has awarded grants to four Missouri angel investment groups to enhance the availability of angel investments to startup companies in Columbia, Lee's Summit,

Springfield, and St. Louis. Each angel investment group will receive a \$30,000 one-year grant to fund operational expenses such as staff, as well as professional services for the review of potential investments, member training, and development. The grants have an optional one-year renewal. [Read more...](#)



PAST ISSUES

[Missouri Focus
February 27, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus
February 20, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus
February 13, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus
February 6, 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](#)

[MERIC](#)

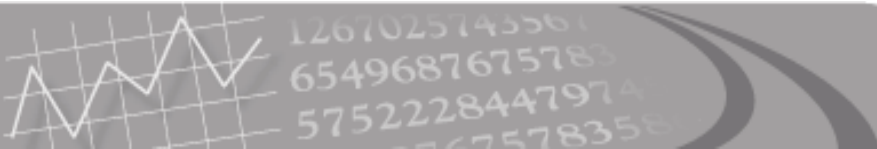
[Division of Tourism](#)

[Missouri Development
Finance Board](#)

[Missouri Community
Betterment](#)

[Missouri Community
Service Commission](#)

MERIC
MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH
AND INQUIRY CENTER
TRENDSIGHTS



Missouri Target Industry Competency Model - Information Technology



Access to skilled workers is one of the foremost criteria that companies and site selectors consider when locating and expanding business in Missouri. The objective of designing a Competency Model is to develop a dynamic, industry-driven framework for workers that will help them meet the demands of the globally competitive economy. This is particularly useful in a rapidly changing field such as Information Technology (IT), where accurate knowledge of the current and future skill requirements can

enable timely direction of resources, development and revision of industry-relevant curriculum and efficient development of career information and job profiles. [Read more...](#)

Home Loan Situation

Missouri has seen home values decline recently. The downturn, however, has been more modest than in other parts of the country. The latest report shows Missouri's percent change from the 4th quarter of 2007 to the 4th quarter of 2008 was -3.55 percent. This compares to a U.S. decline of -8.27 percent.

[Read more...](#)



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Department of Economic Development Awards \$746,904 in Youth Opportunities Tax Credits to Four Missouri Service Organizations

The Missouri Department of Economic Development has announced that four Missouri organizations that offer various services to Missouri children have been approved for a total of \$746,904 in Youth Opportunities Program tax credits. [Read more...](#)

City of Newburg Awarded \$50,000 CDBG for Water System Improvement Project

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced that the city of Newburg has been approved for a \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The grant will be utilized to help fund the costs for the completion of the engineering plans and specs for a proposed water system improvement project. [Read more...](#)

DED Awards Pike County \$138,280 Community Development Block Grant for Flood-related Levee Repairs

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced that Pike County has been approved for a \$138,280 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The grant is on behalf of the Kissinger Levee District and will be utilized to match funding from the U. S. Army Corps of

Missouri Receives Grant to Train Laid off Auto Workers

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) received word on February 27 that the state will be receiving almost \$2.2 million to assist workers impacted by automotive industry layoffs in the last eight months of 2008. DED's Division of Workforce Development will receive the award and provide dislocated worker reemployment services through the state's [Missouri Career Centers](#).

These services will be provided to 574 automotive industry supply workers and will include skills assessment, counseling, case management and job search assistance. The funds come from a U.S. Department of Labor National Emergency Grant, awarded on the basis of specific natural or economic crises faced by a state. [Read more...](#)

State Workforce Plan Posted for Review

On March 2, DWD posted for public comment the draft of the State of Missouri's Strategic Plan for the Workforce Investment Act and the Wagner-Peyser Act. The document is a five-year overview of planned workforce system operations and service delivery, required of each state by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Due to the many challenging economic and employment issues

Gov. Nixon, Kansas City Southern Announce 129 jobs to be Created through Quality Jobs, Other Incentive Programs

Gov. Jay Nixon and railway company Kansas City Southern (KCS) announced last week that the company will bring 129 new jobs to downtown Kansas City. The Governor and KCS officials made the announcement from the company's new Customer Solutions Center and Network Operations Center, which feature state-of-the-market technology to monitor and dispatch rail traffic and serve KCS customers across the nation. [Read more...](#)

Advantage Capital Finances Environmental Operations, Inc.

Advantage Capital Partners, a leading venture capital and small business finance firm, has announced that it has provided \$5.85 million in financing to Environmental Operations, Inc. (EOI), the St. Louis region's largest environmental services firm. In a financing partnership with Southwest Bank, Advantage Capital provided funding in connection with the Missouri New Markets Development program and the federal New Markets Tax Credit program. [Read more...](#)

[\(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Main Street Connection](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Economic Development at Mizzou](#)

[University of Missouri Extension](#)

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

[Missouri Small Business Development Centers \(SBDC\)](#)

[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](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of](#)

Engineers for flood-related levee repairs.

[Read more...](#)

currently facing the nation, DOL is allowing the states to make specific revisions that are only required by the Act for year five of the plan, running from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The draft plan is posted on DWD's [website](#) from March 2, 2009 through March 20, 2009. Anyone wishing to make comments is requested to respond electronically to DWD Planner [Sue Sieg](#) during this time frame.

Anthem, HealthLink Consolidate Facilities, Expand St. Louis Downtown Headquarters

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Missouri and HealthLink insurance providers have announced plans to keep their regional headquarters across from Union Station and expand its size with 300 employees from their Creve Coeur office. As part of the consolidation, the headquarters facility, which employs about 800 workers, will be upgraded. [Read more...](#)

Kerry Group Announces New Technology Division

The Kerry Group in St. Louis has announced a reorganization to improve service focus, capabilities and efficiency for its national and global client programs. The firm has formally established its new technology division, Kerry Group Interactive (KGI), to provide custom software solutions and web-based program management efficiencies across diverse technology platforms to successfully implement business strategies, distance learning and consumer activation programs. [Read more...](#)

[Commerce and Industry](#)



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**Questions or Comments?
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or email:
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Export Seminars Offered at Missouri State:**Topic I – Export Documentation & Shipping, March 12**

Too often, when a U.S. economy and its personnel first engage in international trade, they expect that the laws, liabilities and responsibilities that apply to domestic transactions will apply to international transactions as well. That can be a costly mistake. Learn about “Export Documentation & Shipping” at a seminar offered by the Small Business & Technology Development

Center at Missouri State University, March 12.

[Read more...](#)

Topic II - Export Letters of Credit & Drafts, April 16

Banks report that most presentations of documents against letters of credit are incorrect, resulting in unnecessary delays in collecting money and generating extra bank fees. You can protect the assets of your company and complete an international sales transaction more successfully by learning how to avoid these errors on documents and what to do when discrepancies occur. “Export Letters of Credit & Drafts” is being offered by the Small Business & Technology Development Center at Missouri State University, April 16.



[Read more...](#)

Trade Finance Seminar - March 19

The International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City will host a Trade Finance Seminar, March 19, at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City. Learn how to create cash flow during the credit crunch from the experts - Barry Bint from the ExIm Bank Regional Office and Leslie Bergland from

the Trade Acceptance Group. [Read more...](#)

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