

FOCUS

Missouri

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May 28, 2010

MISSOURI COMMUNITY NEWS

Lee's Summit Honored with 2010 Great American Main Street Award®



The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently announced that Downtown Lee's Summit is a winner of the 2010 Great American Main Street Awards® (GAMSA). Recognized for achieving smart growth in a community that has grown by more

than 65,000 in 25 years, and for smartly managing streetscape construction that revamped the downtown, Lee's Summit was honored at the Main Street Awards Ceremony during the National Main Streets Conference in Oklahoma City. [Read more...](#)

Devine Named MEDC Economic Developer of the Year

The Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC) has named Jim Devine, CEO of the Lee's Summit Economic Development Council, as the 2010 Professional Economic Developer of the Year in Missouri. MEDC president John Mehner said, "This award is very special to MEDC, and Jim's many successes and achievements make him a worthy recipient...his decision-making skills speak to successful projects he has been involved with throughout his career." (Photo credit:



Kansas City Business Journal) [Read more...](#)

Mizzou Center Opens Blue Springs Location



The University of Missouri (MU) has announced the opening of a scaled-back version of the Mizzou Center in Blue Springs. Al Black has been named

director of the facility, which is expected to be a research, continuing education and community outreach facility that will build a closer connection between MU research and Kansas City-area industry leaders. Black said that the center will "fundamentally change the landscape of the University of Missouri in the Kansas City region," create job opportunities, build student and alumni connections and help the university's development work. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON MISSOURI

Gov. Nixon Announces Missouri is Top State in Putting Federal Wastewater Improvement Funds to Work



Gov. Jay Nixon has announced that Missouri ranks first among all states in utilizing special federal funds for construction of wastewater infrastructure improvement projects. Working with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which administered the program, communities across the state have put out for bid, awarded, and begun construction on projects utilizing more than

\$103 million in federal funds and employing hundreds of Missouri workers. [Read more...](#)

COMMUNITY

WORKFORCE

BUSINESS

GLOBAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Missouri Partnership Marketing Events

[Schedule of Missouri Partnership Marketing Events](#)

[Partnership Marketing Events](#)

June 1 - 2, 2010

[Missouri Women's Business Conference: "In Good Company"](#)

June 2 - 3, 2010

["Organizing a Downtown Revitalization Program"](#)

June 2 - 4, 2010

[Biotech-China 2010](#)

June 6 - 8, 2010

[IEDC 2010 Conference: How You Build It: Creating Cutting Edge Developments](#)
Oklahoma City, OK

June 8 - 10, 2010

[Midwest Energy and Climate Policy Conference](#)

June 15 - 17, 2010

[2010 NASCO Conference](#)

June 22 - 23, 2010

[AES Compliance Seminar: Complying with the Foreign Trade Regulations](#)

July 24 - 28, 2010

[CDS/IACD International Conference](#)

Missouri Environmental Conference at the Lake – July 29 - 30

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry is partnering with the Missouri Bar Association and REGFORM to host Missouri's premier environmental conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort, July 29-30. The event will be attended by more than 300 environmental professionals, regulators, engineers, consultants, business people and local government administrators. Early bird registration deadline is June 30 – conference registration fee will increase by \$50 on July 1. [Register now...](#)



July 25 - 29, 2010

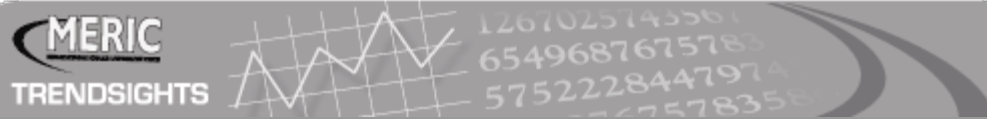
[2010 Summers @ Mizzou, Build-a-Business Camp](#)

July 29 - 30, 2010

[Missouri Environmental Conference](#)

September 15 - 17, 2010

[2010 Missouri Governor's Conference on Economic Development](#)



Survey Results Find Positive Missouri Business Outlook



Amidst the uncertain economic climate, the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) administered a survey to nearly 1,000 business owners, both large and small from across the state, to gather their opinions about a variety of economic, workforce, disaster recovery, and business development issues. The majority of businesses (65%) planned to maintain their current employment levels over the next 12

months. However, the share of those planning to increase employment more than doubled those expecting to downsize (24% vs. 11%), a strong indicator that economic recovery in Missouri is underway. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Exports Improve in the 1st Quarter

Missouri's exports for the 1st quarter of 2010 totaled \$2.9 billion according to WISERTrade data. This represents a nearly 30 percent increase over the \$2.2 billion for the same time period in 2009. Substantial gains occurred in the transportation equipment and chemicals sectors. A 60 percent increase in on-road vehicle exports and a 54 percent gain in airplane & space exports resulted in an additional \$241 million in the transportation equipment sector. A 30 percent gain in organic chemicals and a 54 percent increase in miscellaneous chemicals added \$123 million more to the chemicals sector this quarter. [Read more...](#)



PAST ISSUES

[Missouri Focus May 21, 2010](#)

[Missouri Focus May 14, 2010](#)

[Missouri Focus May 7, 2010](#)

[Missouri Focus April 30, 2010](#)

DED PRESS RELEASES

QUICK LINKS

- State of Missouri
- Dept. of Economic Development
- Associated Industries of Missouri (AIM)
- International Economic Development Council (IEDC)
- MERIC
- Missouri Arts Council
- Missouri Business Development Program
- Missouri Business Portal
- Missouri CareerSource.com
- Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Missouri Community Betterment
- Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC)
- Missouri Development Finance Board
- Missouri Division of Tourism
- Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC)
- Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center
- Missouri General Assembly
- Missouri LocationOne



Kingdom House Receives Tax Credits to Help At-Risk Youth

Kingdom House community center in St. Louis has received \$195,897 in state tax credits through the Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) to help at-risk youth with job training, placement and counseling. Kingdom House will use the tax credits to help fund various programs for 650 youth at its social service center, serving residents of the Near Southside of St.



DWD Teams Up to Promote Life Sciences Careers

DWD is partnering with the [Missouri Biotechnology Association](#) (MOBIO) in the "Discover Your Talent" initiative to increase awareness among high school students of life sciences employers in Missouri and the training/job skills needed for careers in these industries. MOBIO is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to development and growth of the Missouri



Gov. Nixon Leads Groundbreaking on Pioneer Soybean Facility in New Madrid

Gov. Jay Nixon led the groundbreaking last week for DuPont business Pioneer Hi-Bred's new \$55 million parent and commercial soybean seed production facility in New Madrid County. The facility will employ approximately 50 new workers at an average salary of \$47,000 per year once fully operational, with the

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

Lamar Reviews DREAM Progress, Survey Results

Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) community Lamar recently held its second yearly review of the progress being made under the DREAM Initiative. Results and recommendations from focus groups and surveys were discussed. Planners are now conducting surveys of people who live outside the city and will look at building conditions, facades, infrastructure, zoning codes, streetscapes and other areas to draft a strategic plan to be implemented by the city. [Read more...](#)

Health Care Foundation of Kansas City Makes \$3.25M in Grant Awards

The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City has announced 27 Healthy Lifestyles grants totaling over \$3.25 million. The focus of the grants is to address some of the leading causes of preventable death - including physical inactivity, poor nutrition and tobacco use. [Read more...](#)

ARCHS Named 2010 Health Advocacy Organization of the Year

The St. Louis American Foundation has named ARCHS the 2010 Health Advocacy Organization of the Year. ARCHS CEO William Kimbrough said, "The only way to become a healthier region in one generation is to create healthier lifestyle choices in all of our neighborhoods." ARCHS focuses on preventative healthcare through a network of over 400 community partners. " [Read more...](#)

biotechnology and biomedical industry. Life sciences industries represent the sectors that are projecting the highest growth in job openings and career tracks, and are among those targeted by DED and the Governor's economic development initiatives. In April, DED Director David Kerr served as the keynote speaker at MOBIO's first send-off dinner in St. Louis prior to the BIO 2010 International Convention in Chicago. Earlier this month, Gov. Nixon led the 200-person Missouri delegation for the second year in a row to the BIO International Convention. [See photo...](#)

DWD, DESE Take Popular Career Planning Website To All Job-Seekers

For several years, the [MissouriConnections](#) website has been used by Missouri students to plan their careers and education paths at no cost. On July 1, the online education and career planning resource will be made available to adult job seekers, thanks to a new contract and the support of the Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The new agreement specifically expands use of the system to adults seeking services at Missouri Career Centers. "Missouri's workforce system is happy to join with DESE in making Missouri Connections available to all job seekers," said DWD Director Julie Gibson. "This innovative online resource will make a powerful complement to [MissouriCareerSource](#) in helping Missourians develop the skills for productive careers of the future." [Read more...](#)

opportunity to add additional workers during peak production schedules. The facility is expected to open by fall 2011. [Read more...](#)

Jack Henry makes Largest Acquisition with \$300M iPay Deal

Jack Henry & Associates Inc. of Monett is making its largest deal ever with the \$300 million acquisition of Kentucky-based iPay Technologies LLC. The purchase will broaden Jack Henry's customer base and expand its presence in the electronic bill payment arena, said Jack Prim, CEO of Jack Henry. [Read more...](#)

Panera Bread Opens Nonprofit Store in Suburban St. Louis

National bakery and restaurant chain Panera Bread Co. is asking customers at a new restaurant in suburban St. Louis to "pay what they want." The new nonprofit store has the same menu as its other 1,400 locations, but the prices are a little different - there aren't any. Customers are asked to donate what they want for a meal, whether it's the full suggested price, a penny or \$100. [Read more...](#)

"Health Care Post-Op: What Missouri Businesses Need to Know"

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry is hosting three regional seminars on "Health Care Post-Op: What Missouri businesses need to know." Understand important choices for your business - tax implications, HR reporting, benefit options, insurance plan requirements, potential costs/savings, exchanges, subsidy eligibility, implementation timeline and much more! The seminars will take place in three

Missouri Main Street Connection

Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission

Missouri Partnership

Missouri Procurement and Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC)

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

Missouri Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board

Missouri Technology Corporation

Missouri Women Owned Business Network

Missouri Women's Council

Missouri Workforce Investment Board

Mizzou - Economic Development

MoFAST

MOSourceLink

MU - University of Missouri Extension



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Questions or Comments? Please contact:

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or email:
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convenient locations St. Louis on June 2, Kansas City on June 3, and Springfield on June 4. [Read more...](#)

GLOBAL NEWS

U.S. Exports Rise 16.7% in First Quarter; on Track to Meet President's Goal of Doubling Exports over the Next Five Years

New Opportunities Emerge for U.S. Businesses in Asia



U.S. exports of goods and services increased by 16.7 percent during the first quarter of 2010, putting the country on track to meet President Obama's goal of doubling exports and supporting 2 million American jobs over the next five years. "This is a great progress report, but what it really says is that there are significant opportunities globally for both large and small U.S. businesses.

Our goal is to create more opportunities in more countries so U.S. businesses can reach more customers, and in doing so create more jobs," said Fred P. Hochberg, Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank). [Read more...](#)

General Petraeus to Speak at IRC Awards Banquet

The [International Relations Council](#) (IRC) is pleased to announce that General David H. Petraeus, Commander of the United States Central Command, will speak and receive the Distinguished Service Award for International Statesmanship at IRC's annual Awards Banquet on August 17 at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City. For more details, contact the [International Relations Council](#) at (816) 221-4204. [Read more...](#)



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