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## **MISSOURI RURAL ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION CENTER RECEIVED USDA RURALDEVELOPMENT GRANT FUNDS**

Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced the awarding of \$18,640 to Missouri Rural Enterprise and Innovation Center and presented a Certificate to Chairman Michael McManis and Executive Director Charlene Boyes in a ceremony April 13, 2010.

USDA Rural Development provided a Rural Business Enterprise Grant of \$18,640 to Missouri Rural Enterprise and Innovation Center to complete a feasibility study for Boston Chase Mediation Group. The study is to evaluate the utilization of the internet and video conferencing for the potential for expanding services and increase the client base for this small emerging business. Boston Chase Mediation Group is a small existing business providing mediation and dispute resolution for the businesses and citizens in the area with emphasis in family and professional issues.



Left to right: Cheryl Elliott, Area Specialist, USDA Rural Development; Rande S. Bryan Director, USDA Rural Development; Charlene Boyes, Executive Director, Missouri Rural Enterprise and Innovation Center; Janie Dunning, State Director, USDA Rural Development; Chandrika Collins, Boston Chase Mediation Group; Glenda Shafer, Area Technician, USDA Rural Development

“Missouri Rural Enterprise and Innovation Center is pleased to have the support of USDA Rural Development. It allows us to provide technical assistance to a small rural business using innovative methods to expand their client base,” said Executive Director Charlene Boyes.

“This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Obama’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” said Dunning. “Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

The funds are part of the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program, which provides grants to public bodies and non-profit entities to support the development of small and emerging business enterprises in rural areas and towns up to 50,000 in population.

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Cheryl Elliott, Area Specialist, 17623 Hwy 19, New London, MO 63459, or by email to [cheryl.elliott@mo.usda.gov](mailto:cheryl.elliott@mo.usda.gov) or by calling (573) 985-7211 extension 4.

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