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# NEWS RELEASE

## **University of Central Missouri Receives \$576,246 from USDA Rural Development to Improve KMOS –TV Broadcast Coverage**

Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented a \$576,246 grant to Dr. Don Peterson, Director of Broadcasting Services for the University of Central Missouri (UCM).

The funds to UCM for the KMOS – TV broadcast improvements is one of only 13 nationwide. The funding is provided through the Public Television Digital Transition Grant Program which is administered by USDA's Rural Development Rural Utilities Service. The program provides equipment funding to public stations that serve substantial rural populations. The UCM grant was part of the \$6.2 million in Public Television Digital Transition Program Grants recently announced. A complete listing of all recipients can be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>

The funding to UCM will support digital transition efforts, which include improving HD production and transmission equipment for the KMOS –TV service area. It is estimated that 800,000 rural residents covering 20,000 square miles in 33 central Missouri counties will benefit when the project is fully implemented.

“We are very pleased to provide the financial assistance to the University of Central Missouri,” said Dunning. “We are confident the broadcast improvements to KMOS – TV will assist with high quality delivery of information through the public service television.”

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages more than 40 loan, grant and guarantee programs to thousands of individuals, families, businesses and communities. These funds were used to provide quality housing, good jobs, broadband service, improved health care, energy efficiency improvements, clean drinking water plus reliable modern essential community facilities and services.

Anyone seeking more information about any of the USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660)885-5567 ext 5.

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