



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jan Bonnes, Rural Development at 573-875-5540 (extension #4)

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS \$43,194.00 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTED \$43,194.00 TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI IN A MOCK CHECK CEREMONY ON DECEMBER 3, 2007. THE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO COMPLETE A STUDY IN NORTHEAST MISSOURI RURAL COUNTIES. THE GOAL OF THIS PROJECT IS TO REVITALIZE RURAL MISSOURI BY CREATING COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND HELPING COMMUNITIES CREATE CONDITIONS IN WHICH ENTREPRENEURS CAN EMERGE, THRIVE AND GROW. THE TARGETED COUNTIES ARE CLARK, KNOX, LEWIS, SCHUYLER, SCOTLAND AND SHELBY.

THE \$43,194.00 GRANT WAS MADE THROUGH USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY GRANT. THIS PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO FINANCE IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

“RURAL BUSINESSES CREATE JOBS AND HELP OUR ECONOMY GROW. AS A LONG TIME ADVOCATE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESSES, I COMMEND THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AND THE USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT STAFF FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES IN RURAL MISSOURI,” SAID U.S. SENATOR KIT BOND.

“ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MISSOURI’S RURAL AREAS IS CRUCIAL TO BUILDING AND MAINTAINING THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO ALLOW THESE TOWNS TO GROW AND PROSPER. I HOPE THIS STUDY WILL BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS REAL PROGRESS IN PROMOTING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHEAST MISSOURI’S RURAL COUNTIES,” SAID U.S. SENATOR CLAIRE MCCASKILL.

“THIS IS AN EXCITING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL OF NORTHEAST MISSOURI.” HULSHOF SAID. “THE INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THIS STUDY WILL PROVIDE INVALUABLE INFORMATION TO PLANNERS AS THEY NMAP OUT THE AREA’S ECONOMY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. THIS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN ASSIST LOCAL COMMUNITIES AS THEY TRY TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH.”

“BY LOOKING STRATEGICALLY AS A REGION, THESE COMMUNITIES CAN BETTER CAPITALIZE ON THEIR ASSETS”, SAID SHARON GULICK, DIRECTOR OS COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR MU EXTENSION. “IDENTIFYING THE BROAD ARRAY OF ASSETS ACROSS THE REGION MEANS A BROADER ARRAY OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.”

“THIS KIND OF ASSISTANCE MIRRORS USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT’S MISSION AND PRESIDENT BUSH’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.”



Pictured from left to right: Charles Holland, University of MO Extension; Wendy Brumbaugh, University of MO Extension; Karisha Devlin, University of MO Extension; Gordon Ipson, NE Power; Sharon Gulick, University of MO Extension; Soneeta Grogan, University of MO Extension; (behind Soneeta) David Hill, University of MO Extension; Leann McClanahan, USDA, Rural Development; Scott Calicott, Representative from Congressman Hulshof's office

ANYONE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING INFORMATION REGARDING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT MAY VISIT THE HOMEPAGE AT [HTTP:WWW.RURDEV.USDA.GOV/MO/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/) OR CAN CONTACT JAN BONNES, RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, AT THE COLUMBIA LOCAL OFFICE OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT 601 BUSINESS LOOP 70 WEST, SUITE 213E, COLUMBIA, MO. 65203 OR BY CALL 573-875-5540 (EXTENSION 4).

“COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE OF RURAL COMMUNITIES.”

“USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER.”
TO FILE A COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION WRITE USDA, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, 1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE., S.W.,
WASHINGTON, DC 20250-9410 OR CALL (800) 795-3272 (VOICE) OR (202) 720-6382 (TDD).