

REDI Highlights



ATTRACT.

EXPAND.

GROW.

The REDI collaboration works to attract, expand and grow businesses that provide quality, sustainable jobs in Columbia and Boone County, Missouri. REDI brings together the City of Columbia, Boone County, the University of Missouri and other educational institutions, regional and state economic development agencies, and the private sector to attract new businesses, retain and expand existing businesses, and foster a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem for business start-ups and emerging technologies. REDI's goal is to promote positive economic growth in Boone County while maintaining our exceptional quality of life.



Regional Economic Development Inc.

Aurora Organic Dairy

Aurora Organic Dairy announced in 2017 its selection of the Sutter Industrial Site in Columbia for a \$106 million fluid milk processing facility that will create 100 jobs, and construction is underway. An expansion planned within the first three years of the facility's operation will bring an additional \$50 million investment and create 50 additional jobs. REDI facilitated the project from proposal through site visits and selection, as well as the Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds incentive process.

American Outdoor Brands

American Outdoor Brands is constructing its national distribution center announced in 2017 for Boone County, a \$55 million investment that will create more than 150 jobs. REDI facilitated the site selection and Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds incentive process.

Dana Light Axle Products, LLC Expansion Project

Dana Light Axle Products has readied its plant for new equipment that will be installed as its new programs launch in the coming months. Employment has increased with this \$39 million investment that will retain 89 jobs and create at least 135 new jobs. REDI worked with Dana to secure Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds and bring this new production line to Columbia.

Kraft Heinz Expansion

Kraft Heinz in the last year completed a \$100 million expansion and modernization of its Columbia Foods plant, retaining 350 local employees. REDI worked with Kraft Heinz to secure Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds to retain the plant and its jobs for the Columbia community.

Northwest Medical Isotopes, LLC

In May 2018, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a construction permit for NWMI's Radioisotope Production Facility that will be constructed and operated at the University of Missouri Discovery Ridge Research Park. Originally announced in 2014, the facility will produce molybdenum-99, which is used in medical scans for cancer, heart disease, and bone and kidney disease. REDI worked with NWMI in 2018 to secure Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds for this new construction that will create 104 new jobs.

BioPharma Services, Inc.

BioPharma Services continues its work, including that under a \$20 million contract from the FDA to conduct studies of generic drug products in human subjects. The Toronto, Canada based clinical trials company established its only U.S. facility in Columbia in 2014.

Principles of Community

The REDI Board adopted the Principles of Community diversity/inclusion resolution in 2018 as part of REDI's continuing efforts to grow and foster diversity and inclusion within the REDI organization.

Certified Work Ready Community (CWRC)

Boone County attained CWRC status in 2017, showcasing Boone County's strong workforce to potential employers. REDI continues to promote the National Career Readiness Certificate to maintain Boone County's CWRC status.

Workforce Initiatives

Graduates of the Moberly Area Community College (MACC) Mechatronics program continue to be hired by 3M, JM Eagle, Kraft Foods and other area employers. In 2014, REDI worked with MACC and local employers to help create the Mechatronics program that trains students to work in automated manufacturing. REDI continues to work with area employers and local educational institutions to promote a well-trained workforce.

Certified Site Status

In recent years REDI has successfully acquired "Missouri Certified Site" status for three properties in Columbia, with a fourth property conditionally approved in 2018. One certified site, the Sutter Industrial Site, was purchased by Aurora Organic Dairy. REDI staff continues to assist landowners seeking Missouri Certified Site status.

Site Tours for Legacy Companies

REDI coordinates tours of major area businesses for the City Manager, City Council representatives, County Commissioners, and other community leaders. These existing business visits provide the opportunity to learn about employment and investment in the community by these businesses, and increases communication with community leadership.

City of Columbia Strategic Plan Economy Team

REDI staff serves as co-chairs for the Economy priority of the City's Strategic Plan 2016-2019/2020, providing leadership to the team in establishing goals, indicators and metrics to ensure the creation of quality jobs that pay a living wage.

REDI Marketing

REDI staff create and maintain marketing and promotional materials for REDI, including its website, social media presence and publications to promote REDI's services and showcase Columbia and Boone County as an excellent location for businesses and entrepreneurs.

REDI Innovation Hub

REDI's Innovation Hub is a co-working space that offers business counseling, training sessions, classes and programs to local entrepreneurs. REDI's Entrepreneurship Coordinator continually develops new programming for the Hub, which is currently home to 20+ entrepreneurs advancing their startups and business concepts.

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

In support of the region's burgeoning entrepreneurial ecosystem, REDI staff coordinates entrepreneurial activities and events, such as Game Jam weekends and hackathons. Additionally, REDI staff collaborates with the region's other entrepreneurial resources, providing leadership and coordination of several initiatives, including hosting the Entrepreneurial Master Calendar.

Entrepreneurial Working Group

REDI's Entrepreneurial Working Group brought renowned entrepreneurs Jeff Hoffman, co-founder of Priceline, and Maxine Clark, founder of Build-A-Bear, to Columbia. Each speaker participated in a day of events interacting with entrepreneurs in both large and small group settings.

IEDC Accreditation

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recognized REDI as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) in September 2017. REDI staff compiled and submitted an application for accreditation which was followed by an IEDC site visit to REDI. REDI is one of only 60 organizations to earn AEDO status worldwide.

REDI Staff Honored

Bernie Andrews, REDI Executive Vice President, was named Professional Economic Developer of the Year for 2017 by the Missouri Economic Development Council. Bernie's nomination letters outlined his exceptional local and regional leadership.



Regional Economic Development Inc.

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