

2020 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.

IEDC ACCREDITED

Aurora Organic Dairy

In April 2019, Aurora Organic Dairy held a ribbon cutting to signal that production is underway at its newly constructed \$106 million fluid milk processing facility in Columbia. Aurora purchased the Missouri Certified Sutter Industrial Site in Columbia for a plant that initially created 100 jobs. A planned expansion 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 has completed its \$55 million national distribution center announced in Boone County, and is currently hiring to fill 150 newly created jobs. REDI facilitated the site selection and Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds incentive process.

Northwest Medical Isotopes, LLC

The Boone County Commission voted to finalize Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds for the \$108 million Northwest Medical Isotopes Radioisotope Production Facility to be built at the University of Missouri Discovery Ridge Research Park. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a construction permit for the facility, and the U. S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration has issued a cooperative agreement award to NWMI to produce a reliable domestic supply of molybdenum-99, a vital medical isotope. NWMI will create 104 new jobs.

ABC Laboratories Chapter 100 Completion Summary

ABC Labs is the first company to make use of Boone County's Chapter 100 Revenue Bond program, as an incentive to build a new facility in Boone County rather than relocating to another community. At the end of its abatement period, ABC Labs paid a total of \$3,674,670.87 in payments in lieu of taxes and non-abated real and personal property taxes to our local taxing districts. As of May 2018, ABC Labs had 370 employees, exceeding its job retention and creation requirement of 274 jobs. These jobs, funds collected and all future taxes collected from ABC Labs (now owned by Eurofins BioPharma Product Testing) would have been received by another community without the Boone County Chapter 100 Revenue Bond program as an incentive.

Beyond Meat

Beyond Meat, a plant-based food company developed from research at MU that recently tripled its production footprint in Columbia, launched a successful initial public offering in May. Beyond Meat was a successful REDI attraction project in 2012.

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.

REDI Supports Small Scale Manufacturing

REDI is working alongside The Business Loop Community Improvement District to identify and support local small-scale manufacturing along The Business Loop Corridor. This project is supported by a grant from Smart Growth America with funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Small-scale manufacturers produce tangible goods, usually have between one and thirty employees, and focus on both retail sales and wholesale distribution. The goal is to revitalize this working-class neighborhood with new, locally-owned small-scale manufacturers.

Shared Commercial Kitchen

REDI has partnered with the Business Loop Community Improvement District to launch a shared commercial kitchen. The kitchen will encourage the growth of local food entrepreneurs by reducing barriers and creating opportunities for those without easy access to a commercial kitchen; support local farmers by providing cost-effective space to produce value-added products; increase the economic vitality of the Business Loop by developing a catalytic project that can spur new food-based businesses; create quality jobs that support upward economic mobility; and providing a space that can be used for business incubation, workforce development, food safety classes, and other training opportunities.

Workforce Initiatives

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

Certified Site Status

In April 2019, Hinshaw East was designated as a Missouri Certified Site, the fourth certified site in Boone County and the 32nd certified site in the state. Certification of a site includes comprehensive review of items including the availability of utilities, site access, environmental concerns, land use conformance, and potential site development costs. The Ewing Certified Site was recertified in 2019.

Legacy Company Presentations

The REDI Board in 2019 invited legacy companies to present at its monthly Board meetings. Each company shared an overview of its history, employment numbers, local impacts, and suggestions for how REDI can help local companies succeed. Presenters included OTSCON, Missouri Employers Mutual (MEM), Quaker Oats/Pepsico, Shelter Insurance and MBS Textbook Exchange.

On Site Resources

REDI collaborates with the City of Columbia Supplier Diversity Program, the Missouri Women's Business Center, the Missouri Procurement Technical Assistant Center and the U.S. Small Business Administration to house offices and offer services at REDI.

REDI Marketing

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

CEO Roundtable Certification

REDI's Entrepreneurship Coordinator Collin Bunch has been certified as a PeerSpectives™ Roundtable System facilitator, a program of the Edward Lowe Foundation. Facilitators lead 8-12 second-stage company leaders through an experience that improves leadership skills, sharpens decision making abilities and builds lasting relationships with peers.

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.

IEDC Accreditation

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) has recognized REDI as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO). REDI is one of only 62 organizations to earn AEDO status worldwide.

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