

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

REDI Highlights

Aurora Organic Dairy

Aurora Organic Dairy began production in 2019 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 completed construction on its \$70 million national distribution center in Boone County in 2018. As of December 2019 the facility housed 340 workers, with 72 jobs newly created by AOB. REDI facilitated the site selection and Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds incentive process.

Kraft Heinz Modernization

Kraft Heinz is in the fourth year of its Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds program to finance a \$100 million expansion and modernization of its Columbia Foods plant, retaining 350 local employees. REDI worked with Kraft Heinz to secure the bonds and to retain the plant, the sole plant manufacturing Oscar Meyer hot dogs in the U.S., and its jobs for the Columbia community.

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 had 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; and 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, recently tripled its production footprint in Columbia. Beyond Meat launched a successful initial public offering in May 2019, and in June 2020 announced its expansion into European markets with its first manufacturing facility outside Missouri in the Netherlands. Beyond Meat was a successful REDI attraction project in 2012.

Rochepoint Bridge Replacement

The U.S. Department of Transportation in July 2018 awarded Missouri an \$81.2 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant to build a new I-70 Missouri River Bridge at Rochepoint. The grant relieved concerns over months of lengthy traffic delays that would have negatively impacted mid-Missouri business and beyond if the bridge were to be repaired instead of replaced. The business community discussed the need for replacement at the Economic Outlook conference and at other REDI events and Board meetings. REDI investors and REDI staff helped to support the grant application.

REDI Innovation Hub

REDI's Innovation Hub is a co-working space that offers business counseling, training sessions, classes and programs to local entrepreneurs. The Hub is currently home to 20+ entrepreneurs advancing their startups and business concepts. 1 Million Cups, a free program designed to educate, engage and inspire entrepreneurs around the country, meets at the Hub on Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

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. 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; 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.

On Site Resources

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

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.

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.

REDI Staff Certified in Diversity Training

REDI Executive Assistant Naia Owens has earned her Certified Diversity Facilitator credential from the NCCJ (National Conference for Community and Justice) St. Louis Facilitator Certification Program (FTCP). The FTCP prepares individuals to facilitate dialog and train others on diversity, equity and inclusion, to help organizations move from mere awareness of diversity to deep and lasting change that creates a truly inclusive and equitable community. Owens will use her certification to facilitate training within the City of Columbia's Building Inclusive Communities (BIC) program. The BIC program was developed by the NCCJ and offers curriculum to increase knowledge and awareness around issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, class, ability, age, religion, and appearance.

REDI Participates in Inclusive Excellence for Business

REDI Executive Assistant Naia Owens is REDI's liaison to Inclusive Excellence for Business, an initiative created by the Inclusive Impact Institute. Inclusive Excellence helps businesses and organizations develop inclusive environments by integrating inclusion into the core of organizational functioning, and to realize the benefits of infusing diversity into an organization's recruiting, hiring processes, training, administrative structures and practices.

REDI President Certified by IEDC

REDI President Stacey Button has earned the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The CEcD is the leading industry certification for economic development professionals and is the industry gold standard for excellence in the profession. The IEDC is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers and is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities.

ColumbiaREDI.com

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