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For More Information:

Greg Prestemon
President & CEO
Scott J. Drachnik
SVP – Business Development & Marketing
636-441-6880

“Alternative Energy” jobs, industries to get new emphasis for St. Charles County
EDC announces initiatives to impact job creation and local economy

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO --- Announcing their intention to ramp up the community focus on “AE” alternative energy jobs and industries, the Economic Development Center (EDC) of St. Charles County today announced nine organizational initiatives they are now pursuing to help strengthen the local economy and create new jobs.

St. Charles County has important advantages that could help the area become a hub for alternative energy businesses because of the local workforce and an existing base of companies in the field or related work, according to Ed Bee, president and founder of Tamerica Management Company, today’s keynote speaker at the EDC Jobs Summit 2009 held in St. Peters, Mo.

“The skills the workforce in your area has in automotive manufacturing and supplying, the aerospace and defense industry and even brewery operations, are transferrable and ideal for attracting alternative energy investment,” Bee said. Two existing companies he mentioned as a base for expanding this niche include Zoltek and MEMC.

In response, EDC President and CEO Greg Prestemon today announced the organization will begin work on a local and state-wide effort to move more in that direction.

“Today I am proud to present a series of special initiatives the EDC is undertaking to help strengthen the local economy and create jobs,” Prestemon said. “One part of this effort will be pursuing the jobs of the future right here in St. Charles County in the areas of research, manufacturing, installation and servicing in the alternative energy field.”

(continued)

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Prestemon said the EDC created the current list of initiatives with the goal of using their business services and influence to help impact the current economic challenges in the region.

“We don’t have all the answers, but we are working on asking the right questions, getting more people involved in the process of looking ahead, and offering up ideas in the areas where we can make an organizational difference,” he said. “We are also encouraging other local organizations, businesses, and public institutions to formulate their own initiatives to help move the economy and the community in a positive direction. We are all in this together.”

The list of EDC initiatives unveiled today includes:

- Pursuing Alternative Energy (AE) and Green Industries
- Midwest China Hub Commission
- EDC Graduate School of Entrepreneurship
- EDC Entrepreneurial Scholarship
- EDC 504 Loan Program Discounts
- EDC Revolving Micro-Loan Fund
- I-64 Growth Corridor Master Plan Study
- “Employees Now – Jobs Now” Database
- Shop Local St. Charles County Program

“Through the efforts of our Economic Solutions Summit Series and our new Economic Solutions website, we are looking to partner with local leaders, business owners and residents to impact the economy together rather than simply letting it impact all of us,” Prestemon said.

To download a copy of the EDC Economic Solution Initiatives for St. Charles County, visit www.edceconomicsolutions.com or call 636-441-6880 ext. 221.

The EDC Economic Summit Series 2009 is co-sponsored by The Electrical Connection and Lee Allen Advertising.

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EDC Jobs Initiatives



Pursuing Alternative Energy (AE) & Green Industries

- Emphasizing the recruitment of industries and jobs in the field of AE & "green" sectors
- Exploring any necessary adjustments for AE recruitment in the areas of public assistance, zoning & master planning, education & training, & infrastructure investment



Midwest China Hub Commission

- Financially supporting St. Charles County representation on new regional commission to expand bi-lateral trade with China
- Developing & expanding export opportunities for St. Charles County businesses with Chinese government, businesses & consumers
- Exploring Foreign Trade Zone opportunities for St. Charles County



EDC Graduate School of Entrepreneurship

- 12-month business training for EDC tenants, planning to open to general business community in 2010
- Cooperative effort with Missouri Small Business Development Center
- Pursuing accreditation from the University of Missouri



EDC Entrepreneurial Scholarships

- Working to secure funding & partnerships to offer one-year scholarships
- Underwriting assistance for select number of recipients to participate in the EDC incubator program for counseling, training & office space allocation



EDC 504 Loan Program

- Promoting limited-time federal reduction in origination & bank participation fees to businesses applying for new 504 loans



EDC Revolving Micro-Loan Fund

- Working to pull together an initial seed pool of \$100,000 for micro-lending
- Seeking outside funding sources, local partnerships, grants, & other assistance



I-64 Corridor Master Plan Study

- Working with local municipalities to evaluate the developmental future of I-64 & other growth corridors in St. Charles County
- Pursuing new emphasis on AE industries, research, advanced manufacturing, business incubators & other high-tech usages in St. Charles County
- Consider starting a new local promotional group for I-64 similar to Discover! 370



Employees Now - Jobs Now Database

- Supporting work of Missouri Career Center to identify local jobs, offer employee recruitment & screening services to businesses & placing workers in new positions



Shop Local St. Charles County Program

- Recent efforts include billboards, radio commercials & print ads
- Working to expand with chambers & governments to offer special benefits

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