



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

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Media Release

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MISSOURI DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION RECEIVES HONORABLE MENTION FOR EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Missouri Development Finance Board, Department of Economic Development, & Housing Development Commission received an Honorable Mention for Excellence in Economic Development for their *DREAM – Program Year 2006* in the category of Neighborhood Development for communities with populations of greater than 500,000 from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

The honor was presented at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, September 28 during the IEDC Annual Conference, September 26-29 in Columbus, Ohio.

“We recognize the Missouri Development Finance Board, Department of Economic Development, & Housing Development Commission for providing successful strategies to promote new paradigms in economic development in this period of global recovery,” said William Best, IEDC chair. “Our awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in communities. The Missouri Development Finance Board, Department of Economic Development, & Housing Development Commission are showing that they are at the forefront of the economic development profession and are using innovative and effective practices that can be replicated in other communities.”

The Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) Initiative provides Missouri communities an opportunity to obtain discounted planning assistance and priority access to State financial programs necessary to accomplish neighborhood revitalization goals. The State of Missouri, through the agencies of the Missouri Development Finance Board, the Missouri Department of Economic Development, and the Missouri Housing Development Commission, frames the program within the context of a three-year commitment tailored to the needs of each downtown. The resulting contract offers the city a multi-faceted downtown planning effort with integrated development project support and community involvement. The community can obtain planning help with components including:

- Organizational Structure Review
- Land Use Survey
- Community / Consumer Surveys

- Residential and Retail Market Analyses
- Streetscape and Building Design Concepts
- Financial Assistance Review
- Marketing
- Destination Assessment

These components culminate in a Downtown Strategic Plan designed to leverage the City's public expenditures to attract new private investment that will create jobs, stabilize property values, and increase tax revenues.

To date, the State of Missouri has designated thirty-five DREAM communities representing nearly 440,000 Missouri residents. The first ten communities that received DREAM designation in 2006 and have recently graduated from the Initiative.

The Excellence in Economic Awards Program annually recognizes the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. The program honors organizations and individuals in 28 categories for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the premier membership organization dedicated to helping economic development professionals create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. Serving more than 4,500 members, IEDC represents the largest network of economic development professionals in the world. IEDC provides a diverse range of services, including conferences, certification, professional development, publications, research, advisory services and legislative tracking.

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