



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MISSOURI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL NAMES AFFILIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

The Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDDC) recently held its spring conference at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake of the Ozarks held June 14-17. During the awards portion of the meeting, Mr. Kelly Gillespie, Executive Director of the Missouri Biotechnology Association (MOBIO) was awarded the Affiliate Member of the Year. This award is presented to a member whose primary duties are not community-based economic development, but broader in scope such as those who work in job training, utilities, education and research.

The Missouri Biotechnology Association is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to development and growth of the Missouri biotechnology and biomedical industry. By supporting basic research in the life sciences, development of a highly educated work force and providing a friendly environment for attracting and founding new business, the Missouri Biotechnology Association makes a significant impact on Missouri economic development.

Mr. Gillespie recently finished a two-year stint as national chairman of the Council of State Bioscience Associations (CSBA) and remains on the three-person national executive committee of CSBA. He has lead trade delegations to BiO Japan, Israel, and Canada, and has marketed Missouri companies beyond our state borders to the Drug Information Association, and the World Congress on Biofuels, AdvaMed. Additionally, for the past six years, he has led a delegation of more than 100 to the International Bio Conference. Mr. Gillespie has advocated to jumpstart Missouri's economy by enhancing the high-tech stance of our state with legislation such as the Missouri Science and Innovation Investment Act (MOSIRA), helping to advance it further in 2011 than ever before.

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Some of MOBIO's Economic Development members include:

- St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association (RCGA)
- St. Louis County Economic Council
- Missouri Partnership
- Missouri Department of Economic Development
- Kansas City Area Development Council
- Economic Development Center of Kansas City
- Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
- **Blue Springs Economic Development Corporation**
- City of Mexico , Missouri
- Liberty Economic Development Corporation
- Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI-Columbia)
- Joplin Chamber of Commerce
- City of Hazelwood

While presenting the award, immediate past president of MEDC, John Mehner of the Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce, stated, “We are fortunate to have such a partner in Economic Development as Kelly Gillespie and MoBio. They are the driving force for biotechnology business in our state and Kelly has done an excellent job in ensuring that Missouri is at the forefront of this industry relative to business attraction and expansion.”

The MEDC is a statewide, not-for-profit association of economic development professionals and community leaders. Created in 1979 to provide a unified voice for economic development, MEDC offers its members programs in professional education, legislation and marketing. MEDC is dedicated to enhancing economic growth through its own program initiatives and in collaboration with other economic development entities.

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