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Counties in
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Regional Project Brings \$7.5 Million Workforce Training Center



Groundbreaking ceremony for Ranken Technical College Campus in Lincoln County

Additional training opportunities are going to be available for residents in the region. In a collaborative effort, Lincoln County, the Lincoln County R-III School District, the State of Missouri, and Boonslick Regional Planning Commission worked with Ranken Technical College to establish a campus in Troy, Missouri. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in June, with hopes that the facility will be ready for students in the fall of 2021.

Ranken plans to offer secondary and post-secondary education and training, initially focusing on advanced manufacturing, building and construction trades, and aquaponics. Several options will be available for students who can earn professional certifications, associate degrees, or a bachelor of science degree in applied management—depending on their choices and career goals.



Lincoln County R-III Superintendent Mark Penny

The United States Department of Commerce Economic

Development Administration (EDA) awarded grant funds in the amount of \$5.1 million for the nearly 25,000 sq. ft. facility. The EDA funding will be matched with \$360,000 in local investment, and \$1 million in funding from the State of Missouri. The project is expected to create nearly 100 jobs and generate \$2.8 million in private investment.

The new training facility will provide valuable skills for both future and present workforce participants, increasing their employment opportunities. The training that will be offered will help address workforce needs of employers throughout the region.



Left to right: Warren Co. Commissioner Hubert Kluesner, BRPC Executive Director Chad Eggen, Governor Mike Parson, and EDA Representative Steve Castaner

Director's Update

2020 continues to be an unprecedented year to say the least. Boonslick has been working with state, regional, and local agencies on coronavirus (COVID-19), unemployment, and other disaster issues. We continue to support our members and local program participants and assist them in any way that we possibly can. Concurrently, work continues on projects and community planning, workforce development, homeland security, revolving loans, and the need for transportation coordination with MO Rides. If you need assistance, please contact us.



In the coming days, you should receive your annual membership dues invoice. These funds are always crucial for the organization as they help to support planning, outreach, and technical assistance activities that we provide to you...our members. This investment allows BRPC to provide staff to support project development and to leverage much needed state and federal funding.

Several new projects are lined up for the upcoming months including assistance with CARES Act funding, economic development planning, and revolving loan fund. Our Job Center staff are busy helping those impacted by unemployment due to COVID-19 and workforce training needs.

BRPC is here for you. If you have questions, please call (636) 456-3473 or email ceggen@boonslick.org. Remember to mark your calendars for our next general membership meeting on September 28!

MoDOT Buckle Up Phone Down Safety Initiative Receives NADO Award



The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has given the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Buckle Up Phone Down initiative an Excellence in Regional Transportation Award. The award recognizes noteworthy projects and practices that help meet regional needs through various program areas, including safety.

Boonslick Regional Planning Commission Planner Krishna Kunapareddy nominated the Buckle Up Phone Down effort for the NADO award, stating: "Missouri's Buckle Up Phone Down Program is helping to save lives at the local level by raising awareness for the dangers associated with distracted driving and not wearing a seat belt. This two-part message has been well received throughout the state and is now gaining attention at the national level as a viable, life-saving strategy."

This recognition helps support MoDOT's emphasis to renew a focus on safety as a national public health issue, and to begin tackling it by taking Missouri's successful Buckle Up Phone Down safety initiative to the national level. As a result, three other states – Wisconsin, Nebraska and Kentucky – are actively promoting the movement, while 11 states have expressed interest in taking up the cause and spreading the safety message.

To help continue the initiative's national momentum, MoDOT has created a Buckle Up Phone Down Starter Kit. It provides the tools necessary for entities interested in implementing the life-saving venture, including a video outlining the history of the program. The Starter Kit is available at <https://www.modot.org/bupd-starter-kit>, and the video can be found online at <https://youtu.be/JX0bL3cxhh8>.

MoDOT implemented the Buckle Up Phone Down program in 2017 as a way to combat a growing number of fatalities on state roadways and to promote two of the most effective actions drivers can take to stay safe when getting behind the wheel – fastening their seatbelts and putting down their cell phones. BRPC Executive Director Chad Eggen said, "We hope this generates some movement on the initiative. It is terrific to see impact from such small changes to personal behaviors."

Save the Date!

The COVID-19 pandemic has made 2020 a year of adjusting the way we live, including the way we do business and conduct meetings. BRPC staff has been working to provide services to our member communities, program participants, customers, and partners. The building, however, has been closed to the general public as we followed required and recommended guidelines to ensure safety for all.

We are happy to announce that the BRPC building will open to the public on September 16. Social distancing, occupancy limits, and other precautions will be in place. Due to space limitations, the BRPC general membership meeting on September 28 will be held at the Wright City Lions Club. We hope you are able to join us, and look forward to seeing you then!

**BRPC General Membership Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2020**

**Wright City Lions Club
678 Westwoods Road
Wright City, Missouri**

12:00 p.m.

Lunch will be served for members and invited guests

BRPC Hires New Planner—Welcome Tim Churchill



Tim Churchill

Boonslick Regional Planning Commission is pleased to announce that Tim Churchill has been hired as a planner for the organization. In this role, his main responsibility will be facilitating Regional Homeland Security Oversight Committee Region C and State Emergency Management Agency projects.

Tim holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Missouri—St. Louis and a Master's degree in project management from Missouri State University. He is also certified as a Project Management Professional. Tim brings a wealth of experience to the organization, having retired as Program Director from United Healthcare in 2019 and Avaya, Inc. in 2001.

Originally from South St. Louis, Tim has been a resident of Warren County for 13 years and is co-owner of Twin Spruce Farms, a provider of equine-assisted behavioral health therapy. He is currently serving as the Board Chair for Turning Point Advocacy Services, a Warren County-based shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Through my affiliation with Turning Point I became familiar with BRPC and their role in federal grant processes. The service provided to our greater community resonated with my personal goals so I welcomed the opportunity to join this more-than welcoming team. With great challenge comes great reward and that sums up the work that we are doing here. My hope is to contribute to our communities' betterment during my time in this position. —Tim Churchill

We welcome Tim and believe he will be an asset to the BRPC team. You can reach him by calling (636) 456-3473 or by email at tchurchill@boonslick.org

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More EDA Investment to Assist with Economic Development



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration has awarded Boonslick Regional Planning Commission supplemental grant funding in the amount of \$1 million. This investment

will be part of a revolving loan fund which can provide gap financing to area businesses in need of loans. Those who are interested can contact BRPC Business Outreach Coordinator JoAnn Toerper at jtoerper@boonslick.org or (636) 456-3473.

**New Hours
for the
East Central Missouri
Recycling Center**



In an effort to be more consistent in keeping the facility open with limited staff, the East Central Missouri Recycling Center is now closed to the public on Tuesdays. The facility will be open Wednesday—Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon. To access information about the recycling center and the materials accepted, visit boonslick.org/recycling-center/.

Additional Dates to Put on Your Calendar—Details to Come!

Tuesday, November 17
East Central Missouri
Solid Waste Management District
Annual Meeting

Wednesday, December 2
Boonslick Regional
Planning Commission
Annual Meeting

Calendar of Events - Contact us for More Information

September

- 14-16 Missouri Municipal League conference
- 16 BRPC building opens to the public
- 16 Community Agency Partnership meeting (virtual), 9:30 a.m.
- 21 NEMO Workforce Development Board meeting (virtual), 1:00 p.m.
- 28 BRPC General Membership meeting, 12:00 p.m.

October

- 12 BRPC closed in observance of Columbus Day
- 21 Community Agency Partnership meeting (virtual), 9:30 a.m.