



## NEWS RELEASE

Tri-State Development Summit  
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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

### **Elected Officials and Business Leaders to Gather for 10<sup>th</sup> Tri-State Development Summit**

Tri-State Development Summit Steering committee members are pleased to announce that the 10th Tri-State Development Summit will take place May 7, 2014, in Hannibal, Mo. This will mark the 18th year of bringing together tri-state leaders from 35 counties in Southeast Iowa, Northeast Missouri and Western Illinois to define common issues and develop an on-going dialogue to effectively address those issues.

The 2014 Summit will take place in the Roland Fine Arts Center auditorium located on the campus of Hannibal-LaGrange University, and will consist of a four-hour agenda from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Past speakers have included governors, U.S. Congressmen, federal and state department heads, state senators and representatives and private-sector business leaders.

Steering Committee members are building a dynamic agenda for the 2014 event. The focus will be transportation infrastructure including the importance of our inland waterways system and their ability to transport the products that keep America, and the tri-states, working. 2014 speakers will include leaders in economic development, representatives from private business and elected officials. Speakers will be announced at a later date. The event will also include updates from each of the Summit's task forces. In 2013, the Summit sharpened its focus to work in four key areas: connectivity, housing, tourism and transportation (now including rivers issues).

"The primary goal of the Summit is to bring together tri-state leaders to identify and address common issues," said Summit steering committee member Chuck Scholz. "By speaking with one voice and presenting a united front on key issues, we can make a big impact."

Validation for the Summit's regional approach came in November, when the Summit and its 35 counties was designated as a Great Region by the USDA. Great Regions is a priority of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack who has stressed the importance of a regional approach to creating economic opportunity and

job creation in rural communities. The Summit has long recognized and worked to accomplish the task of assessing regional needs and identifying resources to meet those needs.

The Transportation Task Force held a meeting in Macomb in November to discuss transportation and highway issues. Members of highway coalitions from all three states attended and gave updates on their efforts. Just as the Summit counties focus on regionalism and joint successes, the Transportation Task Force members advocate for highway corridors, rather than point-to-point roads. While members of the Task Force can point to decades of transportation successes including nearly 1,300 miles of highways completed, its number one challenge today is lack of funding.

“Having a modern, multi-modal transportation system is critical to the economic wellbeing of the tri-state area,” said Summit steering committee member Dan Wiedemeier. “Funding transportation projects, including lock and dam infrastructure, is essential to creating jobs, increasing exports and keeping our region and nation competitive in the global marketplace.”

Details about registration and individual speakers will be announced at a later date. For more information about the Tri-State Development Summit, visit [www.tristateofmind.org](http://www.tristateofmind.org).

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