



“Building Vision” Educational Resource and Innovation Center (ERIC)

A vision of successful, economic growth in the region can be created through a focus on how rural ingenuity is vital to the success of Missouri and the U.S. The vision is for a high-profile Educational Resource and Innovation Center (ERIC) which will showcase the best of University of Missouri Extension, Missouri agriculture and the applicability of rural technologies and energy conservation

Our current Extension office is highly undersized which limits our abilities to serve the citizens at the local level. The ERIC vision does include a three to five year approach which will not only benefit our local community but serve as a focal point along the heavily traveled I-70 corridor. The ERIC building will showcase the model for what other Extension Centers across the nation would aspire to achieve. This facility will have functionality both indoor and outdoor and will support activities locally, regionally, statewide and nationally.

The general concept is to have a working state of the art facility where every aspect of the design could provide an immediate working educational opportunity. It will have energy efficiency and alternative energy in use of modern insulation materials, ground source, wind and solar aspects; space utilization functionality for day to day operations and conference settings; handicap accessible; water use efficiency; the latest in technological advances for global network conferencing; serve as an Agriculture Incubator Center to support and develop new agriculture business opportunities or ideas that offer the most practical method to expand consumption of locally produced food in Missouri and the region; commercial adaptive kitchen for use in development of value added locally grown foods and enhancing Agritourism; a museum to showcase rural history; a tourist visitor center to market Missouri Products; a large conference facility with partition capabilities for smaller conferences or breakout sessions.

The ERIC vision includes an outdoor shelter facility with an amphitheater surrounded by an educational horticulture botanic garden with water gardens, pathways and demonstration areas to highlight the ever growing horticulture industry in the county and state. This centrally located state of the art educational facility includes a vision that will inspire corporation retreats, large and small conferences, community activities, business access, both adult education and 4-H and youth activities as well as entrepreneurship opportunities while supporting the traditional extension office in an inviting rural setting. Our goal is to acquire 20 to 40 acres that would accommodate the long range aspects of this facility.

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
 Extension



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University Of Missouri Extension Reaches Out To All Missourians Through:

- Local Extension Centers
- Distance education including online courses and degrees
- Video and audio conferencing
- Publications, videos and informational websites

Through input from County Extension councils, we respond to local priorities with programs to enhance: economic viability; build strong individuals, families and communities; and sustain healthy environments.



Our Five Programming Efforts to address these needs:

- Agriculture and Natural Resources: supplies 21st century tools to enhance profitability, strengthen communities and protect the environment
- Business Development: creates wealth for communities by assisting business start-ups, and helping businesses remain competitive and prosperous
- Community Development: engages people to tap into local strengths and University resources to create communities of the future
- 4-H Youth Development: connects parents and youth with the latest research and best practices to be valued, contributing members of their communities.
- Human Environmental Sciences: provides Missouri families with research-based programs on health, nutrition, parenting, aging, personal finance, housing, consumer action, divorce and more.

University of Missouri Extension continuing education programs partner with MU academic departments to deliver for-credit and noncredit courses, degrees and professional development opportunities in areas that include business, labor education, public safety, health care, and veterinary medicine. Missourians, and many beyond the state's borders, access our offerings through face-to-face courses, conferences and seminars, distanced educations and interactive television.

Every year, more than 1 million Missourians turn to University of Missouri Extension to help them address complex change, solve problems and make informed decisions. These programs reach people of all ages from elementary school students to retirees who pursue learning for the sake of learning and improving their lives.