

# Sponsorship Opportunities

## CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE



Extension  
*University of Missouri*



Excelsior Springs, Missouri \* Sept. 30 - Oct. 2

# CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE



**You're invited to help pave the way toward empowering Missouri's economic future.**

The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference is where Missouri's entrepreneurs, business leaders, and community builders come together to ignite ideas and inspire growth. Hosted by the University of Missouri (MU) Extension, the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference fosters meaningful connections and collaborative solutions to drive rural economic development. This year in Excelsior Springs, the CEC Conference brings learning to life through local venues, powerful sessions, and real community impact. With a focus on sharing strategies, showcasing local and statewide talent, and building lasting partnerships, the CEC Conference is a must-attend for anyone committed to empowering Missouri's communities.

The 2025 CEC Conference stands out by hosting sessions in charming local businesses and venues, all within walking distance of one another and from Excelsior Springs' abundant lodging. This immersive approach connects participants directly with the host community. Experience dynamic breakouts, thought-provoking panels, and rich networking opportunities that allow you to engage with industry leaders and forge lasting connections that continue well beyond the event. By attending, you not only gain valuable insights but also help fuel rural entrepreneurship and attract investment, funding, and fresh talent to drive local growth.

**Invest in progress—partner with MU Extension to champion entrepreneurship where it matters most.**

Discover how your support can spark real change—this booklet provides you with meaningful ways to get involved in the CEC movement. By sponsoring the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference, you play a key role in celebrating local business success, empowering small towns, and advancing community-led innovation. *Your partnership helps strengthen Missouri's rural economy by fostering collaboration, creativity, and lasting impact.*



**The CEC Conference unites entrepreneurs, business leaders, and community stakeholders to share best practices, forge new partnerships, and exchange ideas that strengthen small-town resilience.**

**[bit.ly/25CECInfo](https://bit.ly/25CECInfo)**



**Dr. Ashley Allen-Brown**  
2025 CEC STATE CONFERENCE CHAIR

**99%**  
Of Missouri's enterprise is small business.

**1.1M**  
Missourians are employed by small business.

**60K**  
Number of Missouri jobs created by new startups between 2022 and 2023

**89%**  
Increase in attendance since the original CEC in 2021

**SCAN ME**





## You Can Be The Driving Force Behind Rural Entrepreneurship in Missouri

*Your generous sponsorship or gift fuels innovation, education, and opportunity across Missouri. With your support, MU Extension specialists can conduct essential research in rural entrepreneurship, driving sustainable growth in underserved communities. Your contribution also helps create transformative learning experiences for youth and veterans, opening doors to leadership, skill-building, and personal growth. By funding scholarships and empowering local leaders, you're making a lasting impact on individuals and the future of Missouri.*

A stylized illustration of a winding road with yellow dashed lines. The road curves from the top left towards the bottom right. On the left side of the road, there are green grassy areas with grey rocks.

30

The total number of desired scholarships needed for area youth and veterans to be able to attend the 2025 CEC Conference in Excelsior Springs

2

The number of Youth Entrepreneur Pitch Contests proposed for 2025-2026

4

Total number of combined Catalyst and Connector sponsors we are seeking to serve as underwriters for the:

- 2025 CEC Conference
- CEC Exchange Webinar Series
- Return to Rural Missouri Study
- Research & Development for ongoing improvement to all CEC programming

**"The best way to predict the future is to create it."**

*— Peter Drucker, Management Consultant and Author*



# CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES



September 30 - October 2



## Sponsorship: Your Opportunity to Help Fuel Entrepreneurial Growth in Rural Missouri

### Entrepreneurial Catalyst – \$15,000+

#### Benefits

As a Catalyst sponsor, your investment directly powers the CEC Conference's high-impact programs—fueling hands-on learning, community engagement, and entrepreneurial growth across Missouri. Your support helps bring innovative sessions to life, connect rural entrepreneurs with essential resources, and expand the conference's reach. This is more than sponsorship—it's a strategic role in shaping Missouri's economic future, with your name at the forefront of transformative change.

#### Visibility

- Exclusive Roundtable discussion with key speakers and influencers post-CEC Conference and coordinated by MU Extension
- Prominent logo placement on digital materials, conference signage.
- Logo on the website and in the program, on our social media, plus a thank-you mention in opening and closing remarks.
- Feature in a conference highlight video and webinar episode
- Named as Underwriter of 2025-2026 Youth Entrepreneurship Pitch Contests
- Sponsor of 5 Youth and/or Veteran Scholarships to attend the CEC Conference
- Five (5) complimentary CEC Conference registrations



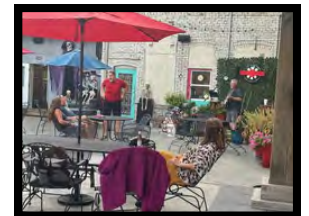
### Community Connector – \$10,000

#### Benefits

As a Community Connector, your support fuels the relationships that drive rural progress—funding interactive workshops, high-impact networking events, and vital resources for small-town entrepreneurs. Align your brand with meaningful connections and community-driven innovation. Together, we'll spark collaboration, strengthen local ecosystems, and build a sustainable future—one town at a time.

#### Visibility

- Breakout Session: Sponsor a Breakout Session with opportunity to introduce speaker(s).
- Visibility Package: Prominent logo placement on digital materials, conference signage, and a dedicated CEC monthly newsletter article.
- Recognition: Logo on the website and in the program, on our social media, plus a thank-you mention in opening and closing remarks.
- Sponsor of 3 Youth and/or Veteran Scholarships to attend the CEC Conference
- Four (4) complimentary tickets.



*Individual donations are also welcome. Scan the QR Code to register to sponsor or attend!*

[bit.ly/25CECInfo](https://bit.ly/25CECInfo)



# CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES



September 30 - October 2



## Sponsorship: Your investment Empowers Small Towns to Grow Big Ideas!

### Innovator - \$5000

#### Benefits

As an Innovator sponsor, you spark the ideas that power Missouri's entrepreneurial future. Your investment fuels the CEC Conference's efforts to ignite innovation in rural and underserved communities—bringing bold solutions to life, amplifying local voices, and accelerating statewide support for entrepreneurship. Join us in driving the momentum that transforms small-town potential into lasting economic impact.

#### Visibility

- Success Story Feature: Showcase a success story related to your organization in the conference materials.
- Recognition: Logo on the website and in the program, on our social media, plus a thank-you mention in opening and closing remarks.
- Sponsor of 2 Youth and/or Veteran Scholarships to attend the CEC Conference
- Three (3) complimentary tickets.



### Startup Supporter - \$2,500

#### Benefits

As a Startup Supporter, your sponsorship helps lay the foundation for vibrant, resilient communities across Missouri. Your support enables the CEC Conference to highlight local entrepreneurs, provide valuable learning opportunities, and strengthen rural economic ecosystems through collaboration and innovation.

#### Visibility

- Spotlight Article: Feature in a CEC monthly newsletter.
- Digital Promotion: Logo on the conference website and app
- Two (2) complimentary tickets.



### Ecosystem Builder - \$1000

#### Benefits

Becoming an Ecosystem Builder helps connect the people, resources, and ideas that drive entrepreneurship in Missouri's rural communities. Your support strengthens the foundation for collaboration by making it possible for local leaders, business owners, and innovators to come together, share insights, and build lasting partnerships.

#### Visibility

- Thank You Package: Thank you mention in the program and on social media.
- One (1) complimentary ticket.



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# CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES



September 30 - October 2



## DON'T MISS OUT!

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities  
Conference 2025

*\*Closing Keynote*  
**JEFF SIEGLER**  
Civic Pride. Civic Apathy

**Oct. 2, 2025 @ 12:30 PM**

Montgomery Event Venue - Excelsior Springs MO

\*Must register for full CEC Conference to attend.



Brought to you by the  
Clay County Council of



Extension  
University of Missouri

**Meet Jeff** — urban planner, community agitator, and unapologetic champion for revitalization. With experience spanning real estate, downtown management, and economics, he's helped hundreds of towns find new life. His approach? Less sugarcoating, more passion. In 2023, he wrote *Your City is Sick*, a wake-up call for communities everywhere. Based in Pittsburgh, Jeff is on a mission to cure apathy, one town (or teenager) at a time. This is your chance to see community revitalization through Jeff's fearless and inspiring lens.

Scan to Plan



[Review the  
Conference Schedule](#)

[Where to Stay](#)

[Meet Our Closing Keynote](#)

[CEC Speaker Bios](#)

[What to Do](#)

[Meet the  
CEC PLanning Committee](#)



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## Testimonials



"This was an excellent conference very affordable and easy to attend. Wish I could have made it to all of the sessions!"

Economic Development Director

**CEC Creates  
Lasting Connections.**



"This has been a wonderful conference filled with tangible takeaways to put into practice almost immediately in my community. The connections have been invaluable!"

Executive Director, Rural Chamber of Commerce



We are so excited to attend and speak at this conference and for the opportunity to explore Excelsior Springs!

Rural Microbusiness Advocate

**CEC Is A Community.**

*We Can't Wait for You to Be Part of It!*

**REGISTER NOW**

## CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE



**Refresh. Revive. Replenish Your Entrepreneurial Toolkit!**

Excelsior Springs, Missouri • September 30 – October 2



Website

<https://bit.ly/25CECInfo>

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E-mail

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Social Media

