

# CONNECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

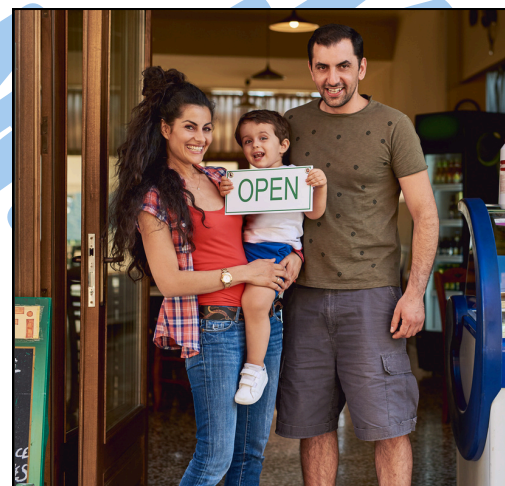


**"The best way to predict the future is to create it." - Peter Drucker**

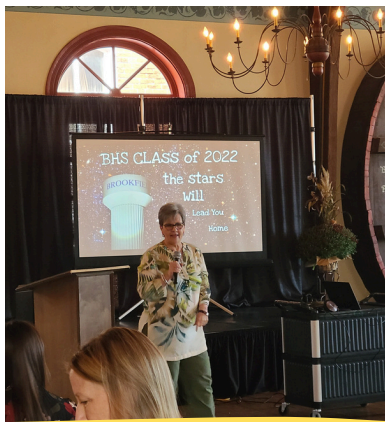
## Help make a difference in Missouri's rural entrepreneurial and economic growth

Across Missouri, driven entrepreneurs are making a remarkable impact on the growth and sustainability of their local economies, fostering innovation and creating new opportunities for their communities.

University of Missouri (MU) Extension Business and Communities offers the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) program, a collaborative initiative that supports communities in developing and enhancing resources that foster economic growth. CEC serves as a platform where economic developers, local government officials, and other professionals can share best practices, learn from successes and challenges, and exchange innovative ideas.



## Your sponsorship is critical to the impact of the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Program.



***The CEC Conference promotes entrepreneurial and community success.***

Additionally, MU Extension supports rural communities by offering a monthly webinar series. These webinars feature expert speakers discussing various topics that are vital for promoting rural economic development through entrepreneurship and innovation.

[Check out the CEC Monthly Exchange Series](#)

The centerpiece of CEC is the annual CEC Conference, held in a rural Missouri community. This event provides an opportunity for rural communities across the state to showcase their downtown businesses, entrepreneurs, and other unique assets to a wide-ranging audience from Missouri and neighboring states. It's a chance for these communities to showcase their true potential to investors, funding agencies, entrepreneurs, newcomers, and state organizations, signaling that they're open for business.

[Visit the CEC Conference Site](#)



As part of our land-grant mission,  
MU Extension seeks to foster entrepreneurship, innovation,  
and economic viability across Missouri.

Across Missouri, driven entrepreneurs are making a remarkable impact on the growth and sustainability of their local economies, fostering innovation and creating new opportunities for their communities.

Evidence shows that future leaders are more likely to find success with an entrepreneurial mindset that drives innovation. The entrepreneurial process of testing ideas is invaluable; it is a mindset that trains students to identify, assess, shape, and act on opportunities in a variety of contexts, settings and organizations.

## Your CEC Sponsorship Helps MU Extension Help

- Communities seeking to build and grow their entrepreneurial resources and facilitate economic development
- Conferences that offer rural communities throughout the state the opportunity to showcase their local businesses, entrepreneurs and additional assets
- Monthly seminar series featuring engaging stories of rural economic development, and more!



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

Conference Breakout Session Host Business  
The Brick District - Fulton, Missouri 2024

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**Make Plans to Attend the CEC Conference**  
**September 30 - October 2, 2025**  
**Hosted by the City of Excelsior Springs!**



**Ready to Sponsor? Go to [bit.ly/CECSponsorForm](https://bit.ly/CECSponsorForm)**

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