

**MERAMEC REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE/DEVELOPER'S LUNCHEON**

**Friday, April 8, 2016**

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

**This meeting will be a combined meeting of the CEDS Advisory Committee and the Meramec Region Entrepreneurship Assessment and Strategy Focus Group.** The meeting will be held at the Meramec Regional Planning Commission large conference room, 4 Industrial Drive, St. James.

A light lunch will be served.

**Key Participants:**

**CEDS Advisory Committee  
Meramec Region Stakeholders  
Southeast Missouri State University**

- Crystal Jones, Interim Director, Institute for Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- John Gruidl, PhD, Senior Research Analyst, Institute for Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Kelli Behrle, Project Coordinator, Institute for Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship

**MEETING AGENDA**

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** John Petersen, chairman
2. **Approval of November 17, 2015 Minutes:** John Petersen, chairman
3. **Entrepreneur Assessment Overview:** Bonnie Prigge, MRPC Executive Director will welcome attendees and provide a brief overview of the Entrepreneurship Assessment for the Meramec Region and provide introductions of representatives of Southeast Missouri State University.
4. **Why Are We Here?** Presented by the Institute for Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
  - a. Regional Entrepreneurship Assessment & Strategy Report.
  - b. Discuss resources for entrepreneurship in the Region.
  - c. Present opportunities for the Region with stakeholder feedback.
  - d. Discuss resources present in the region and what could be done to generate more interest in entrepreneurship.
  - e. Discuss the assessment process and next steps.
5. **Why Entrepreneurship?**
  - a. Reasons communities are shifting to the entrepreneurial approach.
  - b. Different types of entrepreneurs.
  - c. Examples of Communities employing entrepreneurial strategies.
6. **Assessment of Opportunities**
  - a. Presentation of data culminating in a list of opportunities.
  - b. Feedback from participants on opportunities.
7. **Feedback on Resources**
  - a. Use Up & Out as visual aid.
  - b. In pairs, participants will identify improvements already present in the region.
  - c. Discussion ensues about assets for entrepreneurship that exist in the region.
  - d. In pairs, identify the most important improvements that could be made or expanded throughout the region.
  - e. Discussion ensues about the most needed improvements in the region.

f. All improvements will be placed on flipcharts and voted upon.

**8. Conclusion and Next Steps**

**9. Next Meeting:** TBD

**10. Adjournment**