



# NEWS RELEASE

## ST. JOSEPH Chamber of Commerce

3003 Frederick Ave. | St. Joseph, MO 64506  
(816) 232-4461 | [saintjoseph.com](http://saintjoseph.com)

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CONTACT: Kristi Bailey, Director of Communications & Marketing  
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce  
816-364-4108 or [bailey@saintjoseph.com](mailto:bailey@saintjoseph.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ST. JOSEPH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE FORMED**

(St. Joseph, MO) -- The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce has joined with the St. Joseph Public School District, Hillyard Technical Center, Missouri Western State University, the United Way of Greater St. Joseph and local businesses to form the St. Joseph Workforce Development Alliance. The purpose of the alliance is to coordinate local training and educational initiatives to support a prepared and engaged workforce, leading to successful local businesses.

“As the Chamber continues to meet and talk with local businesses, we hear about the need for an educated and skilled workforce for jobs available today and in the future,” said R. Patt Lilly, President and CEO of the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce. “Bringing together the key organizations that provide education and training in St. Joseph allows us to focus on what is needed and what programs and initiatives are necessary to fill the gap in workforce development. While there is much being done statewide and by the individual educational entities, we did not have an initiative that provided the focus on the needs of St. Joseph employers.”

The alliance plans to meet on a monthly basis and will focus on issues such as early childhood preparedness to learn, student assessment and career preparation, training and educational programs to support the needs of local business and engaging businesses in workforce development efforts. Those involved in the alliance are committed to preparing students for future careers in St. Joseph and supporting the needs of local business.

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