

Conference on diversity and economic development comes to Missouri State University

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SPRINGFIELD, Mo.—Minority business owners, civic leaders and government officials will discuss racial/ethnic diversity and economic development in Springfield at 9 am – 1 pm, Saturday, Feb. 27, in Missouri State University's Meyer Library Auditorium.

The conference, "Diversity and Economic Development: Building Springfield's Future," is free and open to the public.

"I'm really pleased to see such a broad spectrum of participants from the Springfield community engaging vital conversations from an in-depth perspective," said Phil Snider, senior minister at Brentwood Christian Church.

Panelists and moderators include:

- Greg Burris, City of Springfield
- Dave Coonrod, Greene County Commission
- Brian Fogle, Community Foundation of the Ozarks
- Lyle Foster, Big Momma's Coffee and Espresso Bar and Q Enoteca wine bar
- Byron Klaus, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
- Mary Newbern-Williams, John Calvin Presbytery, PCUSA
- John Oke-Thomas, Oke-Thomas and Associates
- Francine Pratt, NAACP-Springfield Branch
- H. Wes Pratt, Missouri State University Diversity Outreach and Recruitment
- Joe Robles Jr., Joe A. Robles State Farm Insurance Agency
- Tim Rosenbury, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
- Phil Snider, Brentwood Christian Church
- Mark Struckhoff, Council of Churches of the Ozarks

Free parking is in the parking garage at Holland and Grand on the MSU campus. Advanced registration is not necessary, but seating is limited.

The conference is sponsored by Brentwood Christian Church, Drury University, Missouri State University Multicultural Student Services, NAACP-Springfield Branch and The Gathering.

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