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For Immediate Release

Construction Begins at Early Childhood Education Center in Wellston
Highly anticipated project is more than a decade in the making

St. Louis, July 18, 2013 – Crews will soon begin construction on the much-anticipated Wellston Child Care Center. Community leaders were on hand to celebrate with the kids and educators who will benefit from the new center.

The Wellston Child Care Center will provide high-quality, early childhood education services that are adjacent to St. Louis County's main workforce training facility, the Metropolitan Education & Training (MET) Center and mass transit at the Wellston MetroLink Station.

"This is important for Wellston, the surrounding communities and in a larger sense, St. Louis as a whole," said St. Louis County Executive Charlie A. Dooley. "The research is there to prove if you invest in a child's education, you are securing their future and the economic future of the region."

Slated to open in fall of 2014, the child care center is located in the heart of Wellston. It will be operated by an expert educational team from Family Workforce Centers of America.

New Opportunities
$5.6 million Facility
High-Quality Early Childhood Education
Next to Job Training

"My goal is to bring the highest quality educational opportunities to this community. The dollars we invest in these children will deliver benefits for years to come," said Carolyn Seward, executive director of Family Workforce Centers of America. "It's a two-generation approach that delivers resources to the parents and the kids to help working families achieve greater success."

While in the United States Congress, former U.S. Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond put the child care center on the top of his priority list. In 2010, he secured $3 million in federal Housing and Urban Development funds to construct the center.

"To ensure that the next generation leaves school ready to take part in the economy of the future, they must *enter* school ready to learn," said Senator Bond. "This center will provide the quality, early education needed to put our children on the path to learn and succeed."

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For a neighborhood currently lacking options for quality early childhood education, the center will come as a welcome addition for working parents. It will become the community's only licensed, accredited, center-based, early childhood education facility.

"When parents come to the MET Center for job training, there has been a critical gap. These working families need quality child care," said Jacqueline Davis Wellington, chief operating officer, St. Louis County Economic Council. "This project had so many hurdles, but County Executive Charlie Dooley kept pushing us to find a way to make it a reality. We all knew it was a critical piece if we were going to help parents find better jobs and achieve a better life."

Bi-State Development Agency/Metro made available the space in its Wellston Park-Ride lot that allowed the Center to be located directly next to the Wellston MetroLink Station.

"The Bi-State Development Agency/Metro is committed to stimulating economic development in the region while improving the quality of life for citizens. One of the ways we do that is by working with communities and developers to realize the benefits of locating businesses and homes near MetroLink stations," said John Nations, Bi-State Development Agency president & CEO. "We are proud to have partnered with St. Louis County on this important project, which will improve the quality of life for residents in Wellston and for our public transit customers."

Additional funding came from: Missouri Department of Economic Development ($2 million), St. Louis County Economic Council ($500,000) and Archs ($100,000).

Partner Links:

St. Louis County Economic Council

Missouri Department of Economic Development

Metro

Family and Workforce Centers of America

Archs

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