



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Diana Gulotta, assistant superintendent for communications
(314) 953-5005 or (314) 575-0503 cell

St. Louis County Executive Dooley visits gifted students at Hazelwood East Middle School

St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley met with gifted students at Hazelwood East Middle School as part of a lesson associated with the MY LOGO program – Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government. It is a citizenship program sponsored by the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Education and University of Missouri Extension that is designed to teach students in grades 4 through 12 about local government and involve them in issues in their communities. Five schools in the District participate in MY LOGO – Hazelwood Central Middle, Hazelwood East Middle, Hazelwood Northwest Middle, Hazelwood Southeast Middle and Hazelwood West Middle.

Dooley spoke to seventh and eighth graders in Sonja Brewer's Student's Activities in Investigative Learning (SAIL) class. The students had the opportunity to ask Dooley about the construction of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) building, which will be located on the east side of the school. The NARA building is the future site of the National Personnel Records Center for military personnel. The current records center is in Overland, Mo. Dooley explained that the center is being built in a new location to meet expansion and modern technology needs. A groundbreaking for the NARA building is expected in June 2010. The building is expected to open in fall 2011.

Students asked questions such as "How long did it take to get approval for the building?" "How will the building be protected from the same fate as Oklahoma City?" "Will the building bring money to the Hazelwood School District?" and "What kind of weather conditions can the building withstand?" Students also asked about security measures, the consideration of green resources and the impact of the building on the school, student safety and bus traffic.

Dooley told the students that relocating the center will save 800 jobs in the community. He talked about the process of gaining permits and securing funds for the cost of the building, which is \$100 million. He explained how the downturn in the economy and real estate market affected the early planning stages of the project.

Monica Conners of the St. Louis County Economic Council spoke to the students about the potential impact of the building in the community. She talked about the need for more resources such as gas stations, restaurants and retail and consumer services and how those needs can provide more tax dollars for the school district.

Eighth grade students Larry Wilbon and Cyrus Daniel and seventh grader Sierra Conklin spoke about some of their concerns as they prepared for the session with Dooley.

“I wanted to know about safety measures because of the Oklahoma City bombing,” said Daniel. He also expressed concern about the impact on transportation for school buses.

“I wanted to know more about the purpose of moving next to our school,” said Wilbon. Conklin had the same concern.

“It was very informative. It was a nice experience to ask questions and talk to Mr. Dooley. It’s better than phone calls or e-mail. It’s much more memorable,” said Wilbon.

The next step for the students from Hazelwood East Middle is to prepare a presentation for the MY LOGO Project Fair on May 19 at the Hazelwood East Early Childhood Education Center. The fair is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sandy Diamond, program director for MY LOGO, explained the fair.

“After studying local government, students are asked to work together to prepare a presentation about one aspect of local government. This might be a particular issue like building a federal building or it might be about saving the environment and the importance of recycling. The culminating activity is for students to attend a local government projects fair and present their project to other students,” said Diamond.

“For the fair on May 19, students from Pattonville Remington will join Hazelwood Central Middle, Hazelwood East Middle, Hazelwood Northwest Middle, Hazelwood Southeast Middle and Hazelwood West Middle,” she said. Approximately 108 students will participate.

Michael O’Mara, St. Louis County Council 4th District, will give opening remarks at the fair, along with a representative from the University of Missouri Extension. Student presentation topics include “Safety Zone and Traffic Engineering,” “How Did That Building Get Next to Our School?” “Florissant – Missouri’s Third Oldest City,” “Blood Drives Save Lives,” and “SIGMA Legacy Garden.” Closing remarks will be given by Mike McDowell, city manager, City of Olivette.

Photo Information

HEMS_SAIL_Dooley2.jpg, HEMS_SAIL_Dooley4.jpg – St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley visited with gifted students at Hazelwood East Middle School as part of a lesson associated with the MY LOGO program – Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government. Dooley talked about the National Archives and Records Administration building being constructed next to the school.

The Hazelwood School District serves nearly 19,000 students and is the second largest district in St. Louis County. Communities in the district include Hazelwood, Black Jack, Spanish Lake, a large section of Florissant, portions of Bridgeton, Bellefontaine Neighbors and Ferguson, and several square miles of unincorporated St. Louis County. The mission of the Hazelwood School District is to launch learners on a quest for high standards, fairness and distinguished achievement.