



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS MEET WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO DISCUSS NEW ST. CHARLES COUNTY CAPS CONSORTIUM**

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO** – In August, the new St. Charles County CAPS Consortium will begin its work pairing high school students and local businesses for the 2018-19 school year. After more than a year of coordination between the five public school districts in St. Charles County, local superintendents and CAPS officials met with St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann to discuss this new initiative and how it will impact students and businesses.

CAPS, or Center for Advanced Professional Studies, teaches business etiquette and soft skills to participating high school juniors and seniors. It also places them in business internships during the school day to work on meaningful business projects and learn about specific career pathways. High school and college credit will be awarded to successful students in the program. Initial career tracks include healthcare, information technology and global business/entrepreneurship.

Nearly 150 high school students are enrolled in the new CAPS program, which will begin with a special kick-off event Aug. 14 at Lindenwood University.

“The public schools in St. Charles County are already among the best in Missouri,” says St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann. “The new CAPS program is an excellent addition to the local curriculum that will help better prepare students for their future careers and help build new connections between our schools and growing businesses that are looking for their future workforce.”

Businesses currently participating in the CAPS Consortium include BJC HealthCare, Spectrum, EDC Business & Community Partners, SSM Health, Stauder Technologies and Vatterott College.

County Executive Ehlmann congratulated the superintendents and boards of Fort Zumwalt, Francis Howell, Orchard Farm, St. Charles and Wentzville school districts. “As a former educator, I know the importance of getting students excited and engaged in what they are learning. The efforts of everyone involved in establishing the new CAPS Consortium in St. Charles County are to be congratulated.”

Ehlmann and educators also talked about ways to provide mentorships, career shadowing and summer internships so even more students can gain “real-world” business experience prior to high school graduation. “It will benefit everyone if we can get more business leaders and employers to partner with our schools on initiatives like CAPS, STEM, career shadowing and internships. It is up to all of us working together in the community to help prepare the workforce of tomorrow that we need and want in St. Charles County,” he says.

For more information about the new St. Charles County CAPS Consortium, contact CAPS Director Nicole Whitesell at 636-443-4077 or visit [scccaps.org](http://scccaps.org).

For more information about the local economy, workforce, and business growth assistance, contact the St. Charles County Department of Workforce & Business Development at 636-255-6060 or visit [sccmo.org/workforce](http://sccmo.org/workforce).

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## **About St. Charles County**

*Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state's third largest county in both population and economic share. St. Charles County consistently ranks one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri in the County Health Rankings report published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It is home to 12 scenic county parks encompassing more than 2,800 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.*

*With a population of 385,840, St Charles County is home to large employers including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.*

*St. Charles County Government employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit [sccmo.org](http://sccmo.org).*