



# News Release

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## **STATE APPROVES DEAL TO BRING CHIEFS CAMP TO WESTERN**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Jan. 16, 2009—State officials have given final approval to tax credits that could bring the training camp of the Kansas City Chiefs to Missouri Western State University, Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder formally announced today.

“It’s a great day to be in St. Joseph,” said Kinder, who serves as chair of the Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB), the panel that initially approved the \$25 million in tax credits last month. “We’re very excited about this new partnership developing between the great organization of the Kansas City Chiefs and Missouri Western State University.”

The tax credits will help generate \$50 million for improvements to Arrowhead Stadium, the Chiefs Kansas City home. The Chiefs will donate \$10 million to Western for facility improvements, including the construction of an indoor practice facility. Western is working with the city of St. Joseph, Buchanan County and private donors to secure additional funding for the project. If the facilities are in place, the Chiefs will hold their three-week summer training camp at Western beginning in 2010.

“This is the right time, the right opportunity to move our training camp back to Missouri,” said Denny Thum, interim president of the Kansas City Chiefs. The indoor practice facility, which will also include a locker room, weight room, training room, meeting rooms, lecture halls and coaches’ offices, will be a “showplace,” Thum said. “What we’re excited about is that we’ll leave a legacy on this campus.”

Because of the size of the tax credits, the deal required the signatures of three state department directors. Outgoing members of former Gov. Matt Blunt’s administration gave their approval last week before leaving office, Kinder said.

“I want to thank Lt. Gov. Kinder; Mr. Thum, the Hunt family and the entire Chiefs organization; State Senator Charlie Shields; Dirck Clark, chair of the Western Board of Governors; and Dave Williams, our athletic director, for their support and leadership on this project,” said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western’s president. “This will be of tremendous benefit to Western and the St. Joseph community, and we’re happy to be a part of it.”

Hosting the Chiefs’ training camp would bring significant economic benefits to the region, said Ted Allison, president and CEO of the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition to the money spent by the expected 5,000 visitors a day, Allison said the camp could strengthen the ties between St. Joseph and Kansas City.

“The interstate between Kansas City and St. Joseph will be a little bit shorter,” Allison said. “Many Kansas City residents will come to St. Joseph that might not have visited us otherwise. Once they see what we have to offer, we’re sure they’ll return again and again.”

Missouri Western State University is a comprehensive regional university providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves. Visit [www.missouriwestern.edu](http://www.missouriwestern.edu).

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