



# TRI-STATE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

## A Brief History...

In 1993, flooding on the Mississippi River wreaked havoc in the Midwest. As rising water closed bridges, highways, railways and barge traffic, the tri-state area of Northeast Missouri, Southeast Iowa and Western Illinois learned that a common transportation network was the lifeline of their economies.

There is no arguing our tri-state region shares common issues - we have a common workforce, we utilize area educational and healthcare facilities, we exchange goods and services, and we depend on the same river, rail and roads to move products and people in and out of our region.

Born of the need to cultivate working relationships beyond state boundaries, a committee of five organized the first Tri-State Development Summit in 1996.

Eight Summits have taken place since 1996, rotating among the three states and hosting hundreds of leaders, including Governors from all 3 states, U.S. Senators and Congressmen and speakers of national significance.

**BE A PART**  
of the  
**TRI-STATE MOVEMENT.**

## MISSION

To bring together tri-state area leaders to define common issues; to develop an on-going dialogue to effectively address those issues; and to improve the quality of life of the entire tri-state region through economic development activities.

## LOCATION

Working together to address common issues gives our tri-state region a powerful advantage. According to the 2010 Census, the 35-county Tri-State Summit region has a population of 682,263 people. That means our united voice represents a population greater than three states and the District of Columbia.



## SPEAKERS & AGENDA

The summit features an action-packed, four-hour agenda from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Speakers have included governors, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers division and district engineers, U.S. Congressmen, federal and state department heads, state senators, state representatives, rail and barge executives, and local private-sector business people.

One of the most popular features of the summit is a networking lunch where participants mix with their counterparts from other states.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

So what have we done with our unified voice?

- Together we have achieved the development of over 1,500 miles of regional highway priorities.
- We have created opportunities for entrepreneurs to network and grow their businesses.
- We have promoted regional tourist attractions through collaborative marketing pieces.
- We started a Tri-State Workforce Development Consortium that works with the private sector to offer training needed to strengthen the economy of the entire region.