



# STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND APPROACH

Tri-State Development is an educational and research organization administratively homed at Culver-Stockton College, providing scholars the opportunity for learning through civic engagement. The mission of Tri-State Development is to bring together all stakeholders to identify challenges and opportunities within the 3 State regions of northeast Missouri, southeast Iowa, and west central Illinois and to assist in creating an environment that encourages collaborative work toward regional outcomes that will promote investment in our communities and enhance the lives of our citizens. We envision a sustainable, replicable model for collective impact among academic, industry, and organizational partnerships through strategic discussions and projects, leading to program outcomes.

Culver-Stockton College and Tri-State Development at Culver-Stockton College take no positions as institutions, organizations, or through task force activities so that scholars, speakers, and community members may participate in the mission and engage with one another with academic freedom.

Tri-State Development at Culver-Stockton College operations is financed by Culver-Stockton College using its resources and grants from various external sources. The College does not perform contract research, nor does it organize programs contracted by outside entities. The principles outlined in this statement apply to all Tri-State Development activities and funding sources. Research conducted by scholars is part of the experiential learning academic model for the benefit of education and civic engagement.

Tri-State Development research, projects, and programming are determined by its executive director in consultation with its advisory board, the directors of stakeholder partner organizations, staff, and internal and external scholars. The substance and conclusions of Tri-State Development research and publications are determined by the individuals conducting the study and not by Tri-State Development. The content and views expressed by speakers and other participants during Tri-State Development events are determined by those individuals, not Tri-State Development.

As part of a tax-exempt educational organization governed by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Tri-State Development at Culver-Stockton College will not attempt to influence legislation or endorse any political candidate. It is allowed to conduct educational meetings, prepare and distribute educational materials, or otherwise consider public policy issues in a scholarly manner. On top of these legal constraints is the belief that any attempts to formulate organization-wide positions would interfere with the intellectual independence of individual scholars. As such, Tri-State Development takes no organizational positions on policy issues.

Tri-State Development scholars, stakeholder partners, sponsors, and speakers frequently take positions on policy and other issues, including directly advocating for or against legislation. When they do, they speak for themselves and not for Culver-Stockton College, Tri-State Development, or the college's other scholars and speakers.

Tri-State Development will consider requests for letters of support for grant applications. The letter will not state any position on the project or outcome but will ask the addressee for consideration of the funding request.