

MIZZOU

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Around the Columns

MU joins in new research park

The city of Blue Springs, Mo., with collaborative support from the University of Missouri, is developing the Missouri Innovation Park, a 500-acre science and business park south of Interstate 70 on Adams Dairy Parkway in Blue Springs. MU will serve as the project's anchor tenant.

MU will occupy 20 of the park's 500 acres. The university's role in the project includes the development of the Mizzou Innovation Center, which will serve as a headquarters for various MU activities in the region, such as alumni relations, fundraising and research collaborations, particularly in animal health and comparative medicine.

"We are pulling together a group of campus stakeholders that we foresee being involved in the facility," says Thomas Henderson, assistant to the provost in the MU Office of Economic Development. "In the next three to six months, that working group will develop a plan for MU's use of the facility."




Although MU is a partner in the research park, "We're not going to make any capital investment in the facility," Henderson says. "We will cover the operational costs of the buildings we use, and the working group is also charged with developing a plan for the financing of those day-to-day operations."



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The Blue Springs Economic Development Corp., the city of Blue Springs and the University of Missouri will identify a master developer for the park over the next few months, Henderson says.

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