

**June 1, 2005**  
**Missouri Biotechnology Association**  
**428 East Capitol, PO Box 148, Jefferson City, MO 65101**  
**www.mobio.org**  
**(573) 761-7600**  
**(573) 761-7601 fax**

**CONTACT:**

**Kelly Patrick Gillespie, Missouri Biotechnology Association, Executive Director**  
**(573) 761-7600**

**William P. Duncan, Ph.D., Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, President and**  
**Missouri Biotechnology Association, Chairman – (816) 753-7700**

**Dale Ludwig, Missouri Soybean Association, Executive Director / C.E.O. and**  
**Missouri Biotechnology Association, Vice Chairman (573) 635-6701**

**Daniel P. Mehan, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President / C.E.O.**  
**(573) 634-3511**

**David Wilson, Ph.D., Webster University, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences**  
**and Missouri Biotechnology Association Search Committee Chair, (314) 968-7180**

**Richard C. D. Fleming, St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association,**  
**President / C.E.O., (314) 231-5555**

**Jim Anderson, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, President, (417) 862-5567**

## **Kelly Gillespie named Executive Director of MOBIO**

JEFFERSON CITY (June 1, 2005) –Kelly Gillespie has been named Executive Director by the board of directors of the Missouri Biotechnology Association (MOBIO). MOBIO is a statewide nonprofit trade association dedicated to development and growth of the Missouri biotechnology and biomedical industry. Prior to his appointment as MOBIO's Executive Director, Gillespie was vice president of governmental affairs with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

“Biotechnology is proven and promising,” said Gillespie. “Further advancement of the industry represents future cures and treatments from medical research as well as holds the promise that Missouri croplands can be used even more efficiently and with greater stewardship toward conservation than ever before. Biotechnology has the potential to make our nation less reliant on fossil fuels as biofuels like ethanol and biodiesel become more prevalent in the marketplace.”

“Those involved in Missouri biotechnology are finding success,” added Gillespie. “Missouri Biotechnology is based on sound science, and Missourians understand the difference between progress and pipe-dreams. Missouri's research infrastructure is solid and gaining nationwide respect. The state's increasingly pro-business economic

*(more)*

development climate will help smooth the industry's manufacturing and commercialization issues. What Missouri biotechnology stakeholders need most is continued support from their communities, including consistent access to the venture capital and financial markets."

In his new role, Gillespie will advocate for public policy that will support ethical, sound-science based medical research, development of a highly educated work force and a positive environment for creating, attracting, and retaining new life sciences business growth in Missouri. He will work to build upon the collaboration of the academic community and public and private life science sectors to make biotechnology a preeminent economic force in Missouri.

"Gillespie's background in advocacy and work with private sector companies made him the perfect candidate," said Bill Duncan, who serves as chair of the MOBIO board of directors and is president of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute. "On behalf of MOBIO, we are very enthusiastic about having him on board."

"Kelly has been an integral part of the success of the Missouri Chamber's governmental affairs program, which has grown in influence and respect under his leadership," said Daniel P. Mehan, Missouri Chamber president and CEO. "Kelly has been a terrific asset to the Missouri Chamber, blending dedication and hard work with a political acumen second to none. He will be missed, but we are excited for him in his new leadership role in this important sector of our economy."

Dale R. Ludwig, CEO/executive director of Missouri Soybean Association, said, "In the State Capitol and beyond, Kelly Gillespie is viewed with the utmost level of respect. His proven ability to provide premier policy work, coupled with his understanding of statewide issues and relationships, make him the right leader at the right time for MOBIO."

"The RCGA has worked with Kelly over the past several years in Jefferson City on a variety of statewide issues, and we are very pleased with his appointment," stated Richard C.D. (Dick) Fleming, St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association president and CEO. "We believe he will make an outstanding leader of MOBIO; he has our enthusiastic support."

David Wilson, Ph.D., dean of the college of arts and sciences at Webster University was appointed by the Missouri Biotechnology Association to chair the search committee. Wilson stated, "We had a very impressive array of applicants from around the country--leaders from science, industry, government, and non-profit organizations. After we finished interviewing the finalists, the committee was unanimous: Kelly Gillespie was head and shoulders above the rest. His accomplishments in arenas such as economic development, legislative affairs, and fund-raising--all in the state of Missouri--made it clear that he could hit the ground running and quickly move biotech forward in our state."

*(more)*

According to Jim Anderson, President of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, “Gillespie’s commitment to local chambers and extensive grassroots outreach during the last seven years has elevated the profile of the state chamber. Kelly will continue to enjoy a professional relationship with that statewide network of local chamber executives.”

Prior to joining the Missouri Chamber in 1998, Gillespie served as director of annual funds for the Southwest Missouri State University Foundation in Springfield. Gillespie also has been involved in political fund-raising and campaign management for several statewide campaigns and civic issues.

Gillespie earned his bachelor degree in political science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Gillespie and his wife, Diane, and their daughter, Sarah, will continue to reside in Jefferson City.

On behalf of Missouri’s Biotechnology industry, Gillespie along with many other Missouri biotechnology industry representatives will attend the National BIO conference later this month in Philadelphia. At the conference, Missouri will display an interactive exhibit that will showcase the State’s Plant and Life Science assets.

The Missouri Biotechnology Association (MOBIO) is a nonprofit trade association that serves all Missouri organizations interested in the life sciences. MOBIO is composed of a broad cross-section of companies, institutions of higher education, research organizations and related firms involved in research, development and commercialization of the life sciences, plant sciences and animal sciences. MOBIO members promote economic development in Missouri by supporting life science research and practical applications that benefit the general population. MOBIO is the state affiliate of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO).

###