

## News Release

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### Women's Council Exhibit Honors Women Who Have Shaped Missouri's History

**JEFFERSON CITY** \_ In honor of National Women's History Month, which runs the entire month of March, the Missouri Women's Council is sponsoring an exhibit honoring Missouri women whose historic achievements have helped shape the Show Me State throughout history.

The exhibit, "Outstanding Missouri Women," can be seen starting March 13 through the end of the month at the Capital Rotunda in Jefferson City. The exhibit features more than 50 Missouri women who have made a difference through their leadership, dedication, and courage.

"Women have played an inspirational, influential and instrumental role in shaping Missouri's history," said Mary Cottom, executive director of the Missouri Women's Council. "We are proud to honor the pioneering women whose contributions have enhanced the quality of life in Missouri and opened new doors of opportunity for today's women."

As recently as the 1970s women's history was virtually an unknown topic to the general public. To address this situation, the Education Taskforce of Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978.

In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both houses of Congress. Each year, programs and activities in schools, workplaces, and communities have become more extensive as information and program ideas have been developed and shared.

The Missouri Women's Council works closely with other agencies and community based organizations to promote the well being of women in Missouri. Located within the Department of Economic Development, the Council was created by statute in 1985 to identify and address issues affecting the economic and employment status of Missouri women. The Missouri Women's Council has 15 members, including two members of the Senate, two from the House, and 11 appointed by the governor.

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