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HEART INSTITUTE NAMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS - 5/26/2004

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The Missouri Heart Institute Foundation recently named six new members to its Board of Directors: Gerald Brouder, Stephen Erdel, Dave Machens, Paul Gieringer, Jeffrey Echelmeier, Eric Thompson and John Baird.

“These new board members will help the foundation carry into the future its public health mission of service to the local community,” said Allen Goree, executive director of the foundation. “With the burgeoning growth of the life sciences industry in Mid-Missouri and around the world, the foundation’s work is more important than ever.”

Formed in 1981, the Missouri Heart Institute Foundation fosters heart health in central Missouri by promoting clinical excellence, public and professional education, research and community outreach.

Working together with such organizations as the American Heart Association, the Missouri Order of the Eastern Star and the Grand Aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the foundation has supported research projects that taught healthier living habits to local families with a history of heart disease, funded continuing education scholarships and seminars for local cardiac nursing staff, promoted public events aimed at improving heart healthy living, and raised funds to help local high school graduates pursue their dreams of medical, nursing or healthcare- related careers.

Dr. Gerald Brouder, Ph.D., president of Columbia College for the past nine years, brings the board valuable expertise in nursing continuing education. He previously served the University of Missouri-Columbia in posts such as interim chancellor, deputy chancellor and provost. A well-known proponent of higher education with four degrees in nursing, Dr. Brouder has led an expansion and enhancement of adult education programs at Columbia College, which now supports more than 30 teaching locations around the nation and online.

Stephen Erdel, president of Boone County National Bank, brings to the board 26 years experience in the financial industry. Before coming to Boone County National Bank two years ago, he served as president and CEO of Commerce Bank’s Midstate Region, president of Commerce Bank in Mexico, Mo., and worked at Commerce Bancshares/Commerce Bank of Kansas City.

Dave Machens, president of Joe Machens Toyota-BMW-Scion and co-owner of Joe Machens Ford, brings to the board valuable experience in business. In business since 1969, Joe Machens Ford is Mid-Missouri’s largest automotive organization and boasts the largest sales volume in Missouri.

Paul Gieringer has been an instructor of forensics, debate and history for 25 years at Marshall High School in Marshall, Mo. The chairman of Marshall High School’s Social Studies Department, he is a four-diamond coach in the National Forensic League and a five-time chairman of the Heart of America District

of the National Forensic League. He has coached a state debate champion and seven qualifiers to the National Debate Tournament.

Jeffrey Echelmeier, C.P.A., is a member of the ownership group at Williams-Keepers LLC and a certified personal financial specialist. He specializes in income tax planning, issues related to the formation of new businesses, succession planning, estate tax planning and wealth accumulation and management.

Eric Thompson, M.D., a surgeon with the Missouri Heart Center, practiced medicine in Columbia in the early 1990s and returned to Columbia last year after practicing for 10 years at the Prairie Heart Institute in Springfield, Ill. A graduate of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, he trained in surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and thoracic surgery at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

A partner in Missouri Cardiovascular Specialists at the Missouri Heart Center, John Baird, M.D., has practiced as a non-invasive cardiologist since 1993 and specializes in nuclear cardiac imaging and echocardiography. He is a graduate of the Washington University School of Medicine.

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