



County of GREENE State of Missouri

GREENE COUNTY COMMISSION

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OFFICE OF
CINDY S. STEIN, CPA
Auditor

Media Advisory:

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Greene County, Missouri is the inaugural recipient of the Gathering of the Games All-Star Pioneer Award, which honors an organization that is the first in their field to implement and practice the methodology of The Great Game of Business (GGOB) and Open-Book Management, and do so at a high level. The County accepted the award at the world's largest conference on open-book management held in St. Louis on September 10, 2015.

The Pioneer Award was designed to honor the way in which the County, a public institution, has worked to think "outside of the box" and create new ways of sharing, educating, and practicing GGOB — paving the way for their industry. Through GGOB implementation, Greene County showed demonstrable improvement in their financial performance, as well as employee attitudes and involvement. As the recipient of the award, by virtue of their "pioneer" status, the County was recognized for the way in which it has taken great pride in being an ambassador, sharing the transformative power of The Great Game of Business with other similar organizations, and the business community as a whole.

"We are proud of all Greene County employees, whose hard work and dedication helped achieve this wonderful recognition." said Commissioner Harold Bengsch.

The administrators of Greene County, Missouri, had long admired the business practices of one of its homegrown companies, SRC Holdings. While running a public-sector organization is very different than running a for-profit business, county administrators believed they could benefit by implementing some of the GGOB's best practices.

"There's a lot of talk about more fiscal responsibility and transparency needed in government. Greene County's efforts to apply the Great Game of Business principles to improve efficiency and fiscal literacy in every department demonstrates our local county government's commitment to do something tangible that actually impacts fiscal accountability and budget transparency," said Jack Stack, President and CEO of SRC Holdings and the founder of GGOB. "At every level, employees and elected officials are more educated about the budget process and the impact of their decision-making on the County's finances. Now, they have the tools traditionally applied in business that they need to make better public financial decisions that affect the taxpayers."

Implementing department-wide huddles once a week to teach financial literacy to attendees and, once a month, talk through updates to the budget has helped the County deal more effectively with the reality of a waning cash balance in the general fund that most public entities have confronted in recent years. The county also implemented a series of Mini-Games to help further educate county employees on the intricacies of the budget.

"Improving fiscal literacy has been very positive - the county's cash balance is stable and healthier than it has been in years," said County Auditor Cindy Stein, who was the coordinating "champion" for GGOB implementation at the County. With the extra resources, the county could afford to give its employees their first cost-of-living raise in nearly six years.

Greene County hopes to share its application of open-book management and financial literacy with other governmental agencies. *"Whether you are for-profit or not, you can't run an organization if you don't know your numbers."*

For additional information please contact Cindy Stein, Greene County Auditor at 417/868-4120.