

**Remarks by Donald Strom
Chief of Police
Washington University, St. Louis
2010 IACLEA Annual Conference Host**

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French-born Pierre Laclède founded our home as a fur trading post on the Mississippi River in 1764 and called it St. Louis in honor of King Louis the Ninth of France. It was soon populated by trappers and traders. It was from St. Louis that Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the Louisiana Territory. And in the early 1800's the City became the Gateway to the West for many mountain men, adventurers and settlers as they followed the path of Lewis and Clark into the new frontier.

By the mid 1800's, St. Louis was the second largest port city in America and over 150 steamboats visited its shores each day.

It was in the mid 1800's that Thomas Eliot had the foresight to establish what would shortly become Washington University and we are proud of the over 150 year history of our University. In fact if you visit our campus you will note that we have preserved the collegiate gothic architecture of that era and house one of the most beautiful campuses in America.

Wash U was the site of the first Olympics held on U.S. soil in 1904 and parts of our campus played host to the World's Fair in that same year. More recently, Wash U is called by many one of the two or three hottest Universities in the country for undergraduate admissions with over 21,000 applications each year. Some 19 Nobel Prize winners have been associated with Wash U and our researchers played the primary role in the recent work on sequencing the human genome.

And we have been proud to play a part in American history in hosting four Presidential or Vice Presidential Debates since 1992. In fact, at your places this morning, we are sharing with you one of the commemorative challenge coins we minted for the 2008 VP Debate to celebrate the partnership among our various regional emergency services to secure the event.

So we think IACLEA has chosen a great place, in St. Louis, to host its next conference. We have selected the Hyatt Hotel at the base of the famous St. Louis Arch as your conference hotel and exhibit and meeting center. And when you are not networking or learning, we believe you will find St. Louis to be a very family friendly destination with plenty of great local attractions for you to visit:

- You can ride 630 feet high to the top of the Gateway Arch;
- Explore Forest Park, the largest inner city park outside of Central Park in New York, which houses our world famous Zoo, Art Museum, History Museum and Science Center;
- Visit one of the world's top gardens at the Missouri Botanical Gardens;
- Visit the Gateway International Raceway or for you less aggressive drivers, trek down the Old Route 66;
- St. Louis is one of America's great sports cities and you can cheer on the St. Louis Cardinals and Albert Pujols in our new Busch Stadium...which in a matter of weeks will host Baseball's All Star Game;
- Or you can visit one of our many historic neighborhoods and enjoy the birthplace of the Blues or have your first taste of toasted ravioli or gooey butter cake or one of the many other cuisines;
- St. Louis is home to Six Flags over Mid America and for you golfers, the region boasts a variety of championship golf courses;
- We are the home to the world's largest brewer and you can tour Anheuser-Busch brewery during your visit;
- And if you are feeling lucky, we have several casinos just minutes away; and
- All of this is supported by an expansive transportation system.

Team St. Louis will include partners from our sister IACLEA institutions in St. Louis...all committed to help planning and make this a rewarding, and fun, experience for our attendees. In these difficult times, we hope St. Louis will prove to be the "Gateway to the Future" for IACLEA.

We have a short video highlighting St. Louis that I will close with today, but before I do, on behalf of Team St. Louis I hope you will Meet Me in St. Louis and...Welcome to St. Louis!

And for our Canadian friends...*Bien venue au St. Louie.*