**For Immediate Release**
**Media Contact:** Ted Abernathy, Executive Director, Southern Growth Policies Board
**Office: 919-941-5145, tabernathy@southern.org**

# Southern Growth Policies Board Names Northwest Missouri State University's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship 2010 Innovator Award Winner from Missouri

***RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC*** – Southern Growth Policies Board is pleased to announce Northwest Missouri State University's **Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE)** as the recipient of its *2010 Innovator Award from Missouri*. The Center, which opened its doors in September 2009, provides collaborative research and grant opportunities for industrial tenants, faculty, staff, and students in an environment that nurtures young companies and advances economic growth in the region.

The Center's state-of-the art, mixed-use facility houses classrooms and student and faculty research laboratories related to Northwest's new undergraduate degree program in Nanoscale Science as well as a business incubator with emphasis on science and technology based start-up companies. **CIE** supports the University's academic mission by providing students with opportunities for real-world experiences through research, internships, and employment with **CIE** tenants. At the same time, it connects promising new businesses to the University's scientific and research resources. The incubator facility currently hosts five tenants, including Carbolytic Materials Company, a manufacturer of carbon black replacement material, which is produced from shredded automotive tires and has a wide range of applications in the rubber and plastics industry.

Innovator Awards are presented annually to one organization in each of Southern Growth's 13 member states in recognition of initiatives that are improving economic opportunities and quality of life in the region. The *2010 Innovator Awards* were chosen from creative initiatives in the region that aim to help communities recover from the recession. One award winner per week will be announced in Southern Growth's e-newsletter, Southern Compass, leading up to an official recognition of all awardees at ***Southern Growth's Chairman's Conference***, **June 7-8, 2010 in Lexington, Kentucky**. For more information on Southern Growth's Innovator Awards program or Chairman's Conference, contact Ted Abernathy, Executive Director, Southern Growth Policies Board, at (919) 941-5145 or tabernathy@southern.org.

**About Southern Growth Policies Board**
Southern Growth Policies Board is a regional public policy think tank based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Formed by the region's governors in 1971, Southern Growth Policies Board develops and advances visionary economic development policies by providing a forum for collaboration among a diverse cross-section of the region's governors, legislators, business and academic leaders and the economic and community development sectors. Southern Growth provides its members, and the region, with authoritative research, discussion forums and pilot projects in the areas of technology and innovation, globalization, workforce development, community development, civic engagement and leadership. To learn more about Southern Growth Policies Board, visit www.southern.org.