



**Missouri's  
Local  
Program**  
*for community  
development*

## COVER SHEET

(This must accompany your firm's letter of interest and does not count in the page limit)

Firm's Full Legal  
Name:

Bernice S. Warren Center for Archaeological Research, Missouri State  
University

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Firm Contact Name:

Kevin Cupka Head

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Contact Email  
Address:

KCupkaHead@MissouriState.edu

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Firm's Mailing Address:

901 S. National Ave.

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Springfield, MO

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65897

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Work Category:

- Roadway Design
- Trails & Sidewalks
- Construction Inspection
- Traffic Engineering & TEAP
- Structures
- Environmental
- Historic Preservation
- Multimodal Planning / Systems and Facilities  
Design
- Transportation Planning – **NEW CATEGORY**

**Missouri  
State**  
BERNICE S. WARREN  
CENTER for ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH

December 11, 2025

Ashley Buechter, P.E.  
Assistant State Design Engineer – Local Programs Administrator  
MoDOT Central Office  
105 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Letter of Interest, 2026–2029 MoDOT LPA On-Call, Historic Preservation

Dear Ashley,

In response to the solicitation of November 3, 2025, allow me to express our interest in renewing our listing as a provider of LPA on-call services in the work category of Historic Preservation for the 2026–2029 period. The Bernice S. Warren Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at Missouri State University (MSU) is a MoDOT-prequalified (renewal pending), full-service cultural resource management (CRM) program with 50 years of experience. CAR has a well-established record of completing all manner of cultural resources investigations, including background investigations, cultural resources surveys, NRHP evaluations and nominations, Section 4(f) documentation, MOA/PA consultation, geoarchaeological testing, archaeological monitoring and data recovery, HABS/HAER recordation, and bespoke mitigation solutions tailored to unique project demands. Our staff includes SOI-qualified field and laboratory personnel with extensive experience completing cultural resources investigations throughout Missouri (see enclosed Statement of Qualifications).

Since 2023, CAR has provided cultural resources services on over 100 projects to LPA partners throughout Missouri. Our team boasts considerable experience working through the LPA Environmental Review process. We have been fortunate to develop strong relationships with many municipalities, regional councils, and their consultants. As the state's Public Affairs university, MSU is deeply committed to enriching and improving Missouri's infrastructure and public spaces. CAR takes pride in serving Missouri's communities in support of the important public works initiatives made possible through the Local Programs initiative. We comply fully with the code of ethics and standards of performance developed and adopted by the Register of Professional Archaeologists and the Society for American Archaeology. Moreover, our professional archaeologists exceed the minimum requirements for archaeological investigations established by the United States Department of the Interior.

We thank you for the opportunity to express our interest in renewing our LPA on-call listing. CAR is always happy to assist MoDOT and the Local Programs initiative, and we look forward to continuing to serve the Show-Me State. We are always ready to deliver timely, thorough, and cost-effective proposals for any task that comes our way, and are well-versed in the LPA, 4f, and MOA/PA process, allowing us to expedite MoDOT/LPA work. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Cupka', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Cupka Head  
Director  
Bernice S. Warren Center for Archaeological Research  
Missouri State University  
901 S. National Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65897

enclosures: 1

## Statement of Qualifications

Since 1975, the Warren Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) has remained dedicated to two primary functions: (1) providing cultural resource management services to public and private entities in compliance with federal and state regulations; and (2) conducting archaeological research and educational programs in collaboration with the public, students, and heritage professionals. The overarching mission of CAR is to assist in the identification, investigation, and management of archaeological resources, as well as the curation and presentation of archaeological data for the benefit of all.

### *Services Offered*

- Cultural Resources Survey
- Section 106, Section 110, Section 4(f) and NEPA Compliance
- National Register of Historic Places Evaluation and Nomination
- Excavation and Data Recovery
- MOA and PA coordination
- Archaeological Monitoring
- Architectural Documentation
- Archival Research
- Artifact Analysis and Curation
- Geoarchaeological Investigations
- Geophysics and Remote Sensing
- Public Outreach and Education

Headquartered on the Missouri State University (MSU) campus in Springfield, within the Reynolds College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, our facilities include a well-equipped archaeological laboratory, a comprehensive research library and map collection, extensive comparative artifact collections, educational exhibits, and curation space. We have a compacting storage system for curation of artifact and records collections, with ongoing efforts to upgrade our collections database and digitize older photographic collections. Our lab prepares and maintains all materials and records in accordance with federal curation standards. The Center also owns several GNSS units (including centimeter RTK and sub-meter instruments), as well as a complete array of field equipment needed for archaeological projects of any size. CAR owns a G-858 cesium magnetometer/gradiometer and has access to other specialized equipment and analyses, including drone-based photogrammetry, LiDAR, ground penetrating radar (GPR), electromagnetic (EM) conductivity, electrical resistivity, radiocarbon dating, and x-ray fluorescence (XRF).

CAR presently employs a staff of nine professional archaeologists and a pool of experienced field and laboratory technicians. CAR operates under the direction of Kevin Cupka Head (Ph.D. Candidate, University of Illinois; M.A., Ball State University), a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) with extensive field and lab experience. Other staff members are research archaeologists Daniel Pierce (Ph.D., University of Missouri, RPA), Jennifer Rideout (M.S., Missouri State University, RPA), Christopher Bodine (PhD. Candidate, University of Arkansas, RPA), Brandon Ives (M.S., Missouri State University) and Rachel Deal (B.S., Missouri State University), project supervisors Dustin Thompson (B.A., Missouri State University) and Alan O'Connor (B.S., Missouri State University), Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS) program manager Lisa Haney (B.A., Missouri State University), and research specialist Sarah Reid (B.A.,

Missouri State University). CAR staff boast a wide range of specializations, including Geographic Information Systems, artifact analysis, remote sensing, geophysical prospection, archaeometry, archival research, and architectural history, among others.

The Center is supported through the assistance of the university's Financial Services, Purchasing, and Human Resources departments. The Center also utilizes the expertise of consulting specialists in such areas as archaeobotany, geology, geoarchaeology, and history. Several specialists maintain Research Associate status with the Center and are actively involved with Center projects, including three geomorphologists: Dr. F. Scott Worman (Ph.D., University of New Mexico) of Springfield, Missouri, Dr. Rolfe D. Mandel (Ph.D., University of Kansas) of Topeka, Kansas, and Dr. Edwin R. Hajic (Ph.D., University of Illinois) of Sante Fe, New Mexico. Furthermore, Emeritus director Neal Lopinot (Ph.D., Southern Illinois University) continues to contribute his considerable archaeobotanical expertise to the Center, and retired assistant director Jack H. Ray (M.A., University of Missouri) provides lithic analysis.

CAR is funded primarily by external contracts and grants and has completed more than 1,500 projects to date. The center routinely handles all phases of cultural resource investigation including document searches, literature reviews, reconnaissance and intensive cultural resource surveys, test excavations, mitigation or intensive excavations, monitoring, and site preservation. Many of these projects have been undertaken in conjunction with local municipal, county, and state agencies. Major agencies for which CAR works include the Missouri Department of Transportation, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Little Rock, Kansas City, Rock Island, St. Louis, and Tulsa Districts), among others. CAR also has extensive experience completing cultural resources surveys according to the standards of the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office. Over the years, CAR has also undertaken investigations for numerous engineering and/or consulting firms throughout Missouri, as well as in Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, and Oklahoma. In addition, CAR projects have been sponsored by private individuals and small businesses.

~~CAR has traditionally operated the MSU Field School in Archaeology. Previous CAR-operated field schools in southwest Missouri have focused on early nineteenth century Delaware settlement in the James River valley, Osage hunting camps, and early transportation routes, including the Trail of Tears. CAR staff have also taught courses at the university, usually with instruction in the evening or as educational extension classes. The Center also boasts a strong record of public outreach and engagement, including headquartering the Missouri Archaeological Society (MAS), as well as sponsoring monthly meetings of the MAS Ozarks Chapter, an annual Artifact Identification Day, regional efforts for Missouri Archaeology Awareness Month, and volunteer excavations of threatened sites. CAR also welcomes field trips of elementary and secondary schoolers. Our archaeologists publish regularly and are often available to present public lectures upon request. CAR staff hold membership in several professional organizations and routinely attend regional, national, and international meetings.~~

Should you require cultural resource management services ~~or are simply curious about the archaeology of the Ozarks~~, please give CAR a call at **(417) 836-5363** or contact us via e-mail at [archaeologicalresearch@missouristate.edu](mailto:archaeologicalresearch@missouristate.edu). We hope to hear from you soon!

