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Mike McGraw Joins KCPT's Hale Center for Journalism to Lead Investigative News Efforts

KANSAS CITY, Missouri - July 10, 2014-- KCPT announced today that retired Kansas City Star Reporter, Mike McGraw has joined the Hale Center for Journalism to lead its investigative news efforts. McGraw will focus on in-depth stories that tap into his expertise in agribusiness and government accountability.

In his more than 30 years at The Star, McGraw has covered a wide range of topics from food safety and agribusiness to the business of college sports to art world fraud. His last major series, an investigation of the U.S. beef industry, was produced in conjunction with The Star and Harvest Public Media, based at KCUR. KCPT will soon be part of the Harvest Public Media network.

He was part of a 3-person team that produced a 5-part series on human trafficking published in The Star in December 2009 that found serious flaws in U.S. efforts to lead the international fight against modern day slavery. The series won the 2010 Robert F. Kennedy journalism award, which recognizes coverage of injustice against the underprivileged, and a 2010 Investigative Reporters and Editors award.

"We are so pleased that a reporter of Mike McGraw's caliber has chosen to join our team as we prepare to develop our digital news service," said KCPT CEO Kliff Kuehl, "Public Media prides itself on its in-depth investigative coverage in series like FRONTLINE and PBS NewsHour. This is a new initiative for us and we're eager to pair our video and digital storytelling skills with Mike's experience and leadership in journalism."

McGraw has been a reporter since 1972, when he graduated from the University Of Missouri School Of Journalism. He has taught investigative reporting at the University of Missouri, the University of Kansas and as a Ferris Professor in residence last year at Princeton University. He is a former member of the board of Investigative Reporters and Editors, and contributor to IRE's "The Reporter's Handbook." Other awards include a Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting for a 1992 series on the U.S. Department of Agriculture and two George Polk awards.