



NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler
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Sen. Nodler Earns Appointment to Statewide Education Commission

Panel Charged with Strengthening Links Between Education and Economic Development

JEFFERSON CITY - State Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, today earned appointment to Missouri's Commission on the Future of Higher Education. Created by the governor earlier this month, the panel, made up of 29 leaders from the legislative, education and business fields, will be responsible for making recommendations on how to expand the bi-directional link between the state's higher education and business communities, a link vital in any effort promoting economic development.

"The stronger our higher education system becomes, the stronger our business community becomes – that makes a positive equation for sound economic growth," Nodler said. "The reverse is equally true – a strong business environment fosters a positive environment for higher learning. The process is a textbook model of circulatory progression, and a process well deserving of constant improvement and stewardship."

In accepting the appointment, Nodler adds the responsibilities accompanying the Future of Higher Education Commission to the work brought on by membership in six legislative panels, including the Senate's Economic Development, Tourism and Local Government Committee.

"I see my work on the higher education commission as a natural extension of my duties here in the Senate," Nodler said. "It's a great honor for me to represent the Senate, my district and all Missourians on this important panel."

Nodler's appointment to the higher education commission coincides with an announcement that Missouri was the first state chosen to participate in the National Collaborative for Postsecondary Education Policy, a country-wide effort dedicated to improving higher education quality, affordability and accessibility.

“Our commission will be working very closely with the national collaborative,” Nodler said. “We’ll be offering insight into the education and business climates in Missouri, while at the same time listening to what conditions are like in other regions of the U.S. This type of information sharing venue is a unique and valuable opportunity for today’s Missourians and for future generations as well.”

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