



# WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler  
District 32



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## **Legislation Benefiting Missouri Southern State College Advances In the Missouri Senate**

A Missouri Senate committee this week heard testimony on a bill that I've sponsored that would promote cooperative agreements between Missouri colleges and universities.

These cooperative agreements allow institutions of higher education to offer programs, including graduate degrees, on the campuses of other colleges. As part of Senate Bill 56, any diploma awarded for graduate degrees under such a cooperative agreement would include the names of both institutions.

Cooperative agreements go a long way in promoting Missouri's colleges and universities.

This region is in a unique position because we border three other states, that all offer graduate degree programs within easy driving access. However, we want to keep Missouri students in Missouri and I believe passage of SB 56 will help do that.

MSSC already has cooperative agreements with: Southwest Missouri State University, Masters in Business Administration, Masters in Educational Administration, Masters in Elementary Education or Reading Specialist, Masters in Social Work, Masters in Accountancy; University of Missouri – Kansas City, Masters of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner); and Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Masters in Criminal Justice.

So when a student earns a Masters in Elementary Education from Southwest Missouri State University, while attending those classes at MSSC, their diploma will have the names of both Southwest Missouri State University and Missouri Southern State College.

This proposal was a collaborative effort between the institutions of higher learning and the Coordinating Board of Higher Education.

In related news, Senate Bill 55, which would change the name of Missouri Southern State College to Missouri Southern State University – Joplin, is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Pensions and General Laws Committee on Tuesday.

Although similar legislation has failed in previous legislative sessions, this continues to be a very important bill to the entire 32<sup>nd</sup> District, and I'm very optimistic that we're going to get it passed this year. Aside from the importance from an academic standpoint for MSSC, this is important for the economic development and growth of the region.

Finally, Senate Bill 57 was considered in the Senate Financial and Governmental Organization, Veterans' Affairs and Elections Committee. This legislation would modify the filing procedure for campaign finance reports when done electronically.

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