



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
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SEN. GARY NODLER PRAISES MSSC, CROWDER'S PLAN TO BEGIN COOPERATIVE EFFORT IN BUSINESS TRAINING

With a struggling state economy, a renewed emphasis has been placed on economic development in Missouri. This effort takes a variety of forms, and an agreement in principle between two local colleges is a good example of Southwest Missouri's economic development efforts.

It was recently announced that the Customized Training program at Crowder College is in discussions with Missouri Southern State College on a cooperative training proposal between the two institutions. The new program would be known as the Alliance for Business Consulting and Development, and it will be a real asset for our area's existing businesses and will aid in attracting new industry.

The Alliance will be operated under the direction of co-directors, each having distinct but overlapping responsibilities for all operations. The center will be located at Crowder College's Webb City Center facility, and Crowder will handle financial transactions for the joint effort.

Both institutions have provided a valuable service to our area's industries with their individual industrial training programs. By bringing them together, there will be an even higher level of quality service.

Many of the area's largest employers, including Leggett & Platt, La-Z-Boy Midwest, FAG Bearings and Modine Manufacturing Company have utilized this technical training and improved the efforts of their workforce.

Improving the skills of our workforce is an important step toward ensuring economic security for all Missourians and our businesses.

In recent years, Missouri's higher education system has implemented specific efforts to address workforce development needs. As a result, the number of Missouri communities in which technical education is available has grown from 17 in 1996 to 67 in 2001.

Community colleges and universities have the flexibility to meet the changing workforce development needs of today's knowledge-based economy.

MSSC and Crowder College have historically led the way in providing industrial training, and a joint effort will only improve their efforts.

Southwest Missouri – as well as the rest of the state – must be aggressive about attracting new businesses and having a well-trained, well-educated workforce will help do that.

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