



# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18<sup>th</sup> District**

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### **SEN. SHOEMYER NAMED TO WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, has been named to the Missouri Workforce Investment Board. The board’s mission is to improve the quality of the state’s workforce, reduce welfare dependency and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the state of Missouri.

The Missouri Workforce Investment Board was created in response to Congressional passage of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The act established a national workforce preparation and employment system to meet the needs of businesses, job seekers, and those who want to further their careers. The act directed governors to establish and appoint members of a statewide partnership to assist in the development of a state plan.

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 was enacted to replace the Job Training Partnership Act and certain other federal job training programs with new workforce investment systems. Each state Workforce Investment Board is part of a nationwide system of workforce development organizations that help employers find qualified workers and help people manage their careers. Through its One-Stop Career Center system, customers can access a wide array of job training, education and employment services. It also provides a single point of contact for employers to provide information about current and future skills needed by their workers, and to list job openings.

“Most of the folks on the state board are business owners and CEO’s,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “By appointing me to the board, the governor has ensured that the voice of small business owners and farmers will be represented. Jobs can be fairly tough to find in rural Missouri, and anything we can do to create jobs in rural parts of the state will benefit the state’s economy as a whole.”

The job training programs managed by the Workforce Investment Board are targeted to low-income individuals who:

- lack basic literacy skills
- dropped out of high school
- are homeless or a runaway
- are pregnant or a single parent
- are an offender
- requires assistance to complete an educational program , or
- need help in finding and keeping a job.

The system also offers residentially-based education and training programs and adult literacy programs for dislocated workers and people with disabilities.

“About the only thing worse than losing your job is not being able to find one in the first place,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “The state’s Workforce Investment Board helps to coordinate all of the job training and education programs offered by the state and federal governments to help those individuals who are looking for work find the right job. My focus will be on making sure our rural folks have the same education and employment opportunities that folks in our cities have.”

The Workforce Investment Board issues an annual report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem of the Senate by the end of each January.

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