



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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Week of May 12, 2008

A Thank You to Our Legislative Interns

With the 2008 legislative session drawing to a close, we are soon going to say good-bye to one of our office members. Ian Liss is an intern from Missouri Southern State University who has been with our office this session. Each year, we welcome a Missouri Southern intern to Jefferson City, and I am always impressed with their enthusiasm and hard-work throughout the session.

The legislative intern program at Missouri Southern is valuable for my office as well as the intern. During the year, these students, many of them with political science backgrounds, get the opportunity to see the legislative process in a way that few of their classmates do. They are also a big help to the office during the busy session and are an indispensable part of our daily routine. Legislative interns spend the spring semester from January until May in Jefferson City. In order to be selected for the program candidates need to have their grades in good standing and have the ability to conduct themselves well in a high-profile environment. Many of these students have gone on to pursue a political career, including my current legislative assistant Jake Heisten, who was first introduced to our office as an intern.

This year, Neosho resident and freshman at MSSU Ian Liss has been helping in our office. As a political science major, he hopes to move on to law school and become a corporate attorney. He has always had an interest in politics and was a member of the debate team and Young Republicans throughout high school. While this was his first extended visit to Jefferson City, he came to the capitol for the governor's inauguration in 2004 and also made a trip with his government class during his senior year of high school.

Ian's daily tasks have included preparing my committee books and preparing my desk in the chamber for session. During his time here, he has been able to see debate on the floor of the Senate and committee work in action. I am pleased that he has enjoyed his time in our office and found it to be an educational experience. In his own words, "You can try and learn all this stuff about the legislature in the classroom, but you never really know how it works until you actually see it."

I would like to say a special thank you to Ian and all of the legislative interns that have contributed to our office over the past six years. Our office depends on the efforts of these students each session, and I am glad they were able to come to the Capitol for this experience.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*