



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Senator David Pearce Speaks To MU Alumni Association Members

JEFFERSON CITY—Senator David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, last week (9/11) appeared before the University of Missouri’s Alliance of Alumni Associations at its fall meeting to discuss future higher education issues, the Missouri Senate’s Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee and legislation relating to education in Missouri.

The meeting included an informal panel discussion on higher education topics, which allowed Sen. Pearce, who serves as chairman of the Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee and vice-chairman of the Senate Education Committee, to share his thoughts on issues facing education in Missouri, including potential budget challenges in the upcoming fiscal year.

One of the main focuses of the panel discussion was the work lawmakers are doing in the Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee and the Legislature’s commitment to exploring long-range education issues. Senator Pearce said that the higher education community will be looking to the committee as well as to other leaders in higher education as the state formulates a plan for significantly improving the state’s educational system by the year 2020. Also discussed in the panel were legislative issues that were considered during the 2009 legislative session, such as Access Missouri, the management of trusts and endowments ([HB 239](#)) and the issue of student curators.

“I am honored that I was asked to participate in this timely discussion with individuals who have a deep understanding of the fundamental importance of education,” Sen. Pearce said. “We have some challenges ahead, and we will best handle them if we are prepared with innovative, carefully thought-out solutions that are the result of compromise and teamwork.”

Also serving on the panel with Sen. Pearce were University of Missouri President Gary Forsee and Paul Wagner, deputy commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

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