

*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth.*

MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2009

Senate Leader Names New Education Chair ***Sen. David Pearce to Lead Senate Education Committee***

JEFFERSON CITY –Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, today announced he has appointed Sen. David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, to serve as chairman of the Senate Education Committee. The panel is responsible for matters affecting early childhood learning, elementary and secondary schools, and higher education in Missouri. The appointment is effective today, December 1.

Senator Shields said Sen. Pearce's work as chairman of the Senate 2020 Educated Citizenry Committee is a reason for his appointment. That committee is charged with defining where education should be in Missouri in the year 2020 and creating a strategic plan of how to get there. He also noted Sen. Pearce was a member of the Warrensburg Board of Education for 9 years as well as a former member of the House Higher Education Committee.

"David is devoted to making sure all students have an equal opportunity to a quality education and that as many Missouri students as possible have an educational experience past high school in order for our workforce to compete nationally, and globally, in today's marketplace," Sen. Shields said. "I believe his insight and first-hand knowledge concerning Missouri's education policies make him the right person to lead this committee."

Senator Pearce was appointed vice-chair of the Senate Education Committee at the beginning of the 2009 legislative session after he was sworn in as a new member to the Senate. Former chairman, Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, has moved on to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"I am honored and appreciate the confidence that Senate Leader Charlie Shields has shown in me," Sen. Pearce said. "There has never been a more important time to make sure Missouri has an educated citizenry and I look forward to working hard for education in our state."

The 2010 legislative session begins Wednesday, January 6.

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