



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Frank A. Barnitz
16th Senatorial District
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UPDATED WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Senator Frank Barnitz to Host Informational Meeting for Area Small Business Owners and Entrepreneurs

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, is planning to host a meeting on March 19th for small business owners and entrepreneurs in the 16th District to get information about state programs and services that could help their businesses. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in Rolla at the Havener Center on the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus.

The meeting will include presentations by representatives from the Missouri Department of Economic Development and Missouri Technology Corporation. Workforce development, economic incentives, and ways to better utilize technology are some of the areas that could be discussed. Lt. Col. Allen Rolfing will also speak about the Show-Me Heroes program, a new initiative in the state to connect military veterans with job opportunities when they return home from service.

Richard LaBrash, owner of DefBar Systems in Salem, will also address the crowd about his experience with state programs and services and how they have helped him to develop and expand his business.

Several informational booths will also be set up on site for attendees. The University of Missouri Extension, Missouri Enterprise, the Meramec Regional Planning Commission, Associated Industries of Missouri, the Missouri Biotechnology Association, and others will have booths with staff to answer questions and provide information.

The event will also include an extended question and answer portion so that attendees can ask questions and discuss any possible concerns.

“My goal with this meeting is to offer local small business owners and entrepreneurs the tools they need to get their businesses back on track,” said Sen. Barnitz. “Small businesses are the foundation of Missouri’s economy, and we have to ensure that they have opportunities for stability and even growth in these tough economic times.”

“Programs like this one help make small- and medium-sized companies, especially manufacturers, aware of the resources that are available to them through the Department of Economic Development and other state and federal agencies,” said Dusty Cruise, president and chief executive officer of Rolla-based Missouri Enterprise. “Rolla-area members of the General Assembly, led by Sen. Barnitz, have always been extremely supportive and sensitive to the needs of entrepreneurs and small businesses.”

Members of the public from throughout the 16th Senatorial district are encouraged to attend.

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