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Senate Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee Chairman Sen. David Pearce Speaks at Senate Seminar

Sen. Pearce Updates Colleagues on Committee's Progress and Future Plans

JEFFERSON CITY— Senator David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) addressed his colleagues in the Missouri Senate about the progress of the Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee during an educational Senate seminar held in the Capitol at 3 p.m. today (1/12). The seminar is one of six scheduled this week that are designed to provide senators with a foundation of knowledge on the most pressing issues facing Missouri this year.

Senator Pearce serves as chairman of the Missouri Senate [Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee](#), which is charged with determining where Missouri should stand in terms of education by the year 2020 and developing long-term strategies to achieve these future goals. Already, the committee has met several times to map out a long-term plan for Missouri's educational system in the coming years, as well as heard testimony over the interim from several people involved in all aspects of education. The committee's next steps include working to summarize the public testimony members heard during the interim, narrowing its focus to create a framework for what educational success will look like in 2020, gathering more public testimony after developing a vision statement and plan of action, and presenting a report to the Senate at the end of 2010.

"We are well into the information-gathering process, but as soon as we present our recommendations to the General Assembly at the end of the year and actually start making progress on our goals, that's when the hard work really begins," Sen. Pearce said. "I know many challenges await us as we develop a long-term plan for education in our state, but we must face those challenges head-on for the sake of Missouri's economic future."

The educational seminars—the idea for which was developed by Senate President Pro Tem Charlie Shields (R-St. Joseph) last year—feature experts, leaders and citizens from across the state. In addition to covering the progress of the 2020 committees, other seminars include topics such as ethics, federal health care legislation, health information technology, the higher education P-20 Council, tax policy and the 2010 U.S. Census.

The Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee was established last year under [Senate Resolution 304](#). Also serving on the committee is Sen. Jane Cunningham (R-Chesterfield), Sen. Kurt Schaefer (R-Columbia), Sen. Wes Shoemyer (D-Clarence) and Sen. Robin Wright-Jones (D-St. Louis).

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