

Week of February 22, 2010



[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

## [Promoting International Education](#)

This week in Jefferson City, more than 200 international students representing more than 50 countries—including a group from the University of Central Missouri—came to the Capitol on Feb. 24 for International Education Day to meet lawmakers and observe the legislative process. It's important that we recognize the contribution of these students to our local communities, not just in terms of economic impact, but in the diversity and educational opportunities they bring to our colleges and universities.

During their visit to the Capitol, the international students were able to witness democracy in action as the Senate passed a resolution I sponsored this year to encourage support for international education at Missouri's higher education institutions. The resolution now moves to the House for approval.

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 31](#) urges students and faculty in Missouri to promote international education in and out of the classroom. This includes increasing study abroad opportunities, improving foreign language instruction and exposing Missouri students to a multi-dimensional educational environment. The resolution also recognizes the importance of making our state an attractive place for international students to receive an education. My colleague, Representative Denny Hoskins of Warrensburg, sponsored similar legislation this year as well.

Not only does the presence of international students create a diverse college environment, enhancing the educational experience of all students, but they also have a big impact on our state's economy. It's estimated that international students and their families contribute more than \$270 million to Missouri's economy each year. Impressively, Missouri ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of international students enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions with approximately 11,285 international students receiving an education here in our state. Locally, 435 international students representing 48 different countries from around the world attend UCM.

Gaining a broad perspective of the world and its many different cultures is one of the

best things students can do to prepare themselves for their future careers and add to their own personal enrichment. In the era of global competition, it's crucial that our students are able to work in a cross-cultural environment. It should be one of the primary goals of our colleges and universities to arm graduates with the essential skills they will need to succeed in a global workforce and expose them to many diverse worldviews. To achieve this, we must ensure that Missouri continues to draw international scholars seeking a high-quality education from around the world.

To view video or listen to audio of me presenting SCR 31 on the Senate floor, please visit my multimedia page at [www.senate.mo.gov/multimedia/Pearce/Multimedia.htm](http://www.senate.mo.gov/multimedia/Pearce/Multimedia.htm).

As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

*Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31<sup>st</sup> State Senatorial District.*

#### Contact Information

**Capitol Office**

State Capitol Building  
Room 419  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Website:**

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/pearce>

**Phone Number:**

866.277.0882 (toll-free)  
573.751.2272

**Fax:**

573.526.7381