

Featured Speakers



Rep. Mike Thomson
District 1 Representative

Missouri State Representative Mike Thomson represents District 1, including Atchison, Holt, Nodaway and Worth counties in the Missouri House of Representatives. He has served as the Chairman of the Higher Education Committee and as a member of the Education Appropriations Committee, Budget Committee, and the Joint Committee on Education.

A graduate of Northwest Missouri State University, Thomson holds a bachelor's degree in education and a Master of Science Degree.

Thomson is a former teacher, counselor and coach, as well as an instructor and recruiter for NWMSU. He is a member of the Missouri State Teachers Association, Missouri Retired Teachers Association, Missouri School Counselor Association, Optimist Club of Maryville and American Legislative Exchange Council.

Since joining the Missouri Legislature, Thomson has received many awards. These include: 2008 Ed Ailor Memorial Award, Missouri School Counselor Association; 2008-2009 Friend of Education Award, Missouri K-8 Schools Association; 2009 Legislator of the Year Award, Missouri Association of Career and Technical Education; 2009 Distinguished Legislator Award from the Missouri Community College Association; 2010 Friend of Education Award from the Missouri Staff Development Council; 2010 James C. Kirkpatrick Excellence in Governance Award from the Student Government Association of the University of Central Missouri; 2011 University of Missouri Presidential Citation Award; and 2012 Outstanding Legislator Award from the Missouri State Teachers Association.



Dr. David Russell
Commissioner of
Higher Education

David R. Russell became commissioner of higher education for the state of Missouri in July 2010, following a 19-year career with the University of Missouri System, where he served as director of university relations, senior associate vice president and chief of staff.

Under Russell's direction, the Department of Higher Education has adopted policies and initiatives in the areas of student retention, time-to-degree and degree completion that have raised the national profile of Missouri higher education. He has focused state resources on such goals as eliminating barriers to college completion for Missouri's students, making a college education attainable and affordable, and promoting career pathways in such high demand areas as the sciences, education and the health professions. He also has challenged the state's colleges and universities to work closely with public school

districts to create seamless transitions from high school to postsecondary education that will ultimately contribute to student success.

Prior to his tenure at the University of Missouri, Russell served in the United States Army as a commissioned officer, retiring in 1991 as a lieutenant colonel after a 22-year career. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal for Valor and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Russell holds a bachelor's degree in education from Henderson State University, Arkansas; a master's degree in communications from The American University in Washington, D.C., and a doctoral degree in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri in Columbia.



MISSOURI REVERSE TRANSFER
seamless associate degree completion

Statewide Launch
September 16, 2014
Capitol Plaza Hotel • Jefferson City, Mo.

Missouri Reverse Transfer is brought to you by the Missouri Department of Higher Education in conjunction with the Lumina Foundation.



Missouri Department of Higher Education
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10:30 a.m. Saxophone Quartet
University of Missouri

11:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
Dr. David R. Russell
Commissioner of Higher Education
Representative Mike Thomson
District 1

Missouri Reverse Transfer Presentation and Recognition of Reverse Transfer Coordinators

Dr. Rusty Monhollon
Assistant Commissioner of Higher Education

Kim Harvey
Jefferson College

Brenda Selman
University of Missouri System

Dixie Williams
Missouri State University

Melissa Hattman
University of Missouri–St. Louis

Tery Donelson
Columbia College

Larry Westermeyer
University of Missouri–St. Louis

Kristy Bishop
Metropolitan Community College

Lunch Pianist Verena Abufaiad
University of Missouri

Vocalist Tyesha Wilder
Lincoln University

A Cappella Society Vocalists: Logan Moore, Jordan Ulrich,
Matthew Howard, Laura Rowe and Lydia Garwood
Columbia College

Recognition of Missouri Reverse Transfer Degree Recipients

Dr. David R. Russell
Commissioner of Higher Education

Mark Stone
St. Louis Community College and University of Missouri–St. Louis

Amanda Moody
Missouri State University–West Plains and Missouri State University

Recognition of Missouri Reverse Transfer Steering Committee Members

Dr. David R. Russell
Commissioner of Higher Education

Representative Mike Thomson
District 1

The Missouri Department of Higher Education would like to thank the following members of the Missouri Reverse Transfer Steering Committee and workgroups from 2012–2014 for their work on this important initiative.

Terrence Andrews
Maryville University

Jack Dozier
Ozarks Technical Community College

Richard Pemberton
State Technical College of Missouri

Kristy Bishop
Metropolitan Community College

Leigh Durdle
University of Missouri

Tyson Schank
Metropolitan Community College

Steve Bishop
Ozarks Technical Community College

Kim Harvey
Jefferson College

Beverly Schenkel
Northwest Missouri State University

Susan Bracciano
Missouri Western State University

Melissa Hattman
University of Missouri–St. Louis

Vicki Schwinke
State Technical College of Missouri

Kelli Burns
St. Louis Community College

Jay Haugen
Saint Louis University

Brenda Selman
University of Missouri System

Gary Cain
Columbia College

Cynthia Heider
Missouri Western State University

Yvette Sweeney
Metropolitan Community College

CJ Collins
Missouri State University–West Plains

Rob Hornberger
Missouri State University

Larry Westermeyer
University of Missouri–St. Louis

Donna Dare
St. Louis Community College

Evelyn Jorgenson
Moberly Area Community College

Dixie Williams
Missouri State University

Tery Donelson
Columbia College

Mary Merrifield
Maryville University

About the Missouri Reverse Transfer Program

The goal of the Missouri Reverse Transfer program is to increase the number of students receiving associate degrees in Missouri. The program allows students who have earned a minimum of 15 transferable credit hours at a qualifying community college and have transferred to a four-year university in Missouri to transfer credit hours back to the community college to receive an associate degree. Legislation calling for Missouri to create a Reverse Transfer Program was sponsored by Senator David Pearce and Representative Mike Thomson and approved by the Missouri General Assembly in 2012. After a successful pilot project this past year, the Missouri Reverse Transfer Program is now being expanded statewide. For more information, visit <http://dhe.mo.gov/MOREverseTransfer.php>.

