



News Release

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New Missouri Career Guide Available for Students and Job Seekers

Preparing for a career involves many steps and choosing from many possible directions, so it can be hard to know where to begin. The new, improved Missouri Career Guide 2009-2010 provides an inviting starting point.

“This guide covers it all, from exploring career interests and strengths to how to make a great impression when meeting with prospective employers,” said Marty Romitti, director of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). “It offers help both to students and adults hoping to attain higher education, as well as those who are active job-seekers. And it does it all in just 32 pages so it’s not overwhelming.”

Visitors to Missouri Career Centers will be able to pick up copies of the Career Guide starting this, the second week of June. High school counselors will receive copies this fall when attending their statewide conference, and the guide will also be distributed at Adult Education & Literacy Centers, college and career fairs, events for laid-off workers and other places where job-seekers look for career information. Distribution will be impressive, with 140,000 copies being printed.

“This valuable guide is another way Missouri is working to provide help for its unemployed citizens,” said Department of Economic Development Director Linda Martínez.

The guide begins with a one-page round-up of career, education and financial planning resources in Missouri. Following sections include exploring careers, money management, job-seeking tips, career and education services, and forming a plan of action.

“It just has everything in it,” said Jan Speck, senior counselor at Windsor High School in Imperial. “Having all of this information at students’ fingertips is a really helpful thing.”

Al Babich, a career counselor at Manual Career and Technical Center in Kansas City, added that the guide will also fill a gap for adult job-seekers.

“Students have access to a lot of this information in school, but adults don’t usually have this information,” he said. “For adults, this publication is a concise, valuable guide to the resources available to them.”

The state agencies involved in producing the Missouri Career Guide include the Department of Economic Development, MERIC, the Division of Workforce Development, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Higher Education. Also involved are the Missouri Center for Career Education and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Funding for printing comes from a Workforce Investment Act federal grant. The Career Guide is accessible online at www.missourieconomy.org, www.MissouriCareerSource.com and www.MissouriConnections.org.

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Full-length news release, quotes and fact sheet are available at
www.dese.mo.gov/divcareered/missouri_connections_news_room.htm

The Missouri Connections Public Outreach Partnership workgroup represents a collaboration of state agencies concerned with education and workforce development who are helping inform and build awareness among the public, particularly students and potential students, of targeted careers, educational and industry trends, and workforce development priorities. Workgroup members represent the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Department of Higher Education; Department of Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development and Missouri Economic Research & Information Center; Missouri Center for Career Education; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Freelance writer is Anita Harrison.