



**LINN STATE**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

One Technology Drive  
Linn, Missouri 65051

Phone 573-897-5000  
Fax 573-897-4656  
[www.linnstate.edu](http://www.linnstate.edu)

April 20, 2011

Missouri State Board of Education  
Care of Dr. Chris L. Nicastro, Commissioner of Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear State Education Level Policy Makers and Leaders,

A well-trained, highly qualified workforce is crucial to making Missouri a destination for the high-paying, high-skill jobs of the future.

I applaud the work that the Department, the State Board of Education and educators across Missouri have done to steadily improve education in our state. As Missourians look ahead, we know we must place major effort in making sure that our graduates can compete nationally and internationally.

The above being said, I am writing to express my support for an important effort being undertaken by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – the Top 10 by 20 initiative. I also believe doing whatever is appropriate including consideration of revising the Missouri School Improvement Program standards to be more rigorous is important to this effort. Making Missouri's public education system one of the Top 10 in the country is a lofty goal; however striving to do so is crucial to the future of our state.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Claycomb, Ph.D.  
President