



**Video Transcription**  
**Commissioner of Education Chris Nicastro**  
**May 2014**

Hello. I'm Chris Nicastro, commissioner of education for the state of Missouri. Thanks for watching this month's Top 10 by 20 UPDATE.

More than 300 school leaders from across the state have participated in the first two groups of MoLEAD. That's the Missouri Leadership for Excellence, Achievement and Development. The program combines online and face-to-face training to prepare educators to lead more effectively and implement best practices in their schools. It's a great opportunity for superintendents, principals and teachers to receive hands-on experiences and mentoring opportunities.

Quality instructional leadership training is vital to ensure high quality education opportunities for students across the state. For more information on MoLEAD, please visit our website.

At its April meeting, the State Board of Education approved the Department's recommendation that the St. Louis Public Schools remain a transitional district. Maintaining stable leadership is critical for St. Louis Schools, and is in the best interest of the students. The Department supports the district's efforts to improve as it strives toward renewed accreditation. The term of the transitional district runs through June 2016.

The Department recently finished a redesign of its website. The updated web provides information in a more user-friendly manner, with a fresh layout. Please visit the new site at [www.dese.mo.gov](http://www.dese.mo.gov).

I'd like to congratulate the eight Missouri schools that were named Gold Star Schools recently. These schools perform at high academic levels, or are making exceptional progress while serving a significant proportion of disadvantaged students. A list of these schools can be found on our website. These schools were also nominated by the state for the national Blue Ribbon Schools award. Winners of the national program will be announced this fall.

And finally, I want to congratulate the 15 Missouri high school seniors who were honored as recipients of the 2014 Missouri Citizenship Award. The students, who are listed on the screen, received the award at a banquet last month. These young men and women are to be commended for their hard work and determination as they strive for excellence in and out of the classroom.

I hope you are finishing out the school year on a positive note. Please continue to stay updated on our effort to help Missouri's students reach the Top 10 by 20.