



NEWS

From the Office of Representative
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140th District

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Dixon Amendment Funds Joint Engineering Program *MSU and Missouri S&T to Offer Degree This Fall*

Jefferson City, MO — Today, on the floor of the House, Representative Bob Dixon (R-Springfield) introduced an amendment to House Bill 2020, which appropriates funds for supplemental purposes. The amendment will allocate \$1,000,000 for start-up costs of a joint engineering program developed by Missouri State University and the Missouri University of Science and Technology, to be divided evenly between the two universities. Both the amendment and House Bill 2020 were successfully passed. The Cooperative Engineering Program addresses an identified need in Springfield, the state's third-largest city, for civil and electrical engineers. Students enrolled in the program will obtain an electrical or civil engineering degree from both MSU and Missouri S&T.

"Both of these universities are outstanding institutions of higher education," said Rep. Dixon. "The Cooperative Engineering Program serves as an excellent example of two universities uniting in a common effort to meet an educational need in the state of Missouri. This joint venture will be much more cost effective than initiating a new program, saving the taxpayers upwards of \$25 million."

MSU and Missouri S&T spent two years developing the program. Unfortunately, the one-time start-up funding for renovations and equipment, included in House Bill 19, was not passed during the 2007 session. As a result, the program was delayed for a year. With Rep. Dixon's amendment putting the necessary funding in place, the program will be on track to begin in the fall of 2008. The twenty-seven students who have already applied for the program will be able to obtain their engineering degrees without leaving the area.

"We are very pleased with the support that has been provided by the Governor and the legislature, particularly the members of our local delegation," declared Dr. Michael Nietzel, Missouri State University President. "We look forward to making this a highly successful program."

Jim Anderson, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce President, applauded the amendment. "This program is vitally important to the economic development of the Springfield area, and we have been working for ten years to make it a reality. I commend Missouri State University and Missouri University of Science and Technology for their innovation and determination to make it happen."

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