



NEWS RELEASE

October 24, 2008

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“Hot Jobs” List Helps Students Look Ahead

Missourians now have access to a resource that identifies which Missouri jobs are expected to be hot through 2016. The “Missouri’s Hot Jobs” report, available at www.MissouriConnections.org, provides information on hundreds of occupations with bright outlooks.

“While the economy will have its ups and downs, it is important for students to look at the long-term trends so they will know which occupations are most likely to be in demand,” said Michele Clark, a spokesperson for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

To be rated ‘hot,’ an occupation must be growing, have numerous openings and offer better-than-average wages, according to the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, which partnered with DESE’s Division of Career Education to create the report.

“We expected high school students, in particular, to be interested in learning which jobs meet these criteria, but we have been surprised at just how popular this report has been with Missourians of all ages,” said Clark. “It has attracted more than 10,000 hits in the few months it has been available online.”

The 10-page report groups the hot occupations under six career paths: 1) arts and communication, 2) business, management and technology, 3) health services, 4) human services, 5) industrial and engineering technology and 6) natural resources/agriculture. This organization allows users of the report to easily find jobs related to their areas of interest.

“A quick glance shows students that there are good jobs in all the paths,” Clark said. Featured occupations range from plumbers and music directors to aerospace engineers.

The report also organizes the careers according to level of education that is typically required, such as a bachelor’s degree, associate degree or on-the-job-training. For each occupation, the report shows the number of expected openings through 2016, as well as the average annual wage at the entry, experienced and average levels.

“Students and parents are interested in ‘Missouri’s Hot Jobs’ report,” said Lori Mann, a career education coordinator for the greater Kansas City region. Mann is one of eight career education coordinators who work with students in high schools and area career centers across the state to promote and support career development.

“This is just one example of all the resources available on Missouri Connections,” she said. “The report helps students make informed decisions about their career prospects, salary ranges and how that fits into what they aspire to be.”

DESE is working with other career-focused agencies to expand the locations where the report can be accessed. The statewide job search website, MissouriCareerSource.com (administered by the Division of Workforce Development) now features a link to the “Hot Jobs” report, allowing job seekers to integrate this valuable information into their job searches.

New Resource Adds Even More

While the “Hot Jobs” report identifies Missouri’s high-demand occupations, a brand new resource gives students a great start in planning for these and other popular occupations.

This month, DESE released a compilation of more than 250 Missouri occupation profiles on the Missouri Connections site. The occupations, which reflect those commonly pursued and demanded in Missouri, are organized according to 16 career clusters. Students can click on a cluster, such as Health Science, and see various occupations in that field, from a public health social worker to a microbiologist.

Selecting an occupation brings up a one- to two-page profile that contains a brief description of the occupation, education requirements, wage information (state and national), employment trends (state and national) and a list of Missouri schools that may offer related education and training for that career.

“School counselors rave about how useful these profiles are when helping students with their career planning,” Clark said. The profile sheets will be central to a toolkit DESE is providing to school counselors in early November.

The profiles draw upon a national database sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, CareerOneStop.org, as well as the program inventory database maintained by the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

MissouriConnections.org

The “Hot Jobs” report and occupation profiles are just two examples of the career exploration features offered on the Missouri Connections site, which was revamped this fall.

Students (grades 6-14), parents, educators and job seekers can all find sections devoted to their needs on the DESE-sponsored site. Topics on the main menu bar include career exploration, education and career planning, college exploration, paying for college, a career search and more.

Students and parents can contact their school counselors for more information about using www.MissouriConnections.org.

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More information is available at http://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 Neal Harrison.