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St. Louis Regional Chamber to Honor Missouri and Illinois Legislators Advancing Pro-Business Policies at Annual Awards Dinner

ST. LOUIS (Dec. 6, 2019) – On Monday, December 16th, 2019, the St. Louis Regional Chamber will honor Missouri and Illinois legislators at its annual Chamber Champion Awards Dinner at the Missouri Athletic Club in downtown St. Louis. The bi-state region's largest gathering of elected officials will come together to recognize lawmakers for their exemplary dedication to their Missouri and Illinois communities and the advancement of pro-business policies. Throughout the year, the St. Louis Regional Chamber works with local, state, and federal elected officials to advance legislation and policies that make it more attractive to do business and grow jobs in the bi-state St. Louis region.

In Missouri, a productive legislative year led to the passage of many top Regional Chamber pro-business priorities including:

- Senate Bill 68 – the largest economic and workforce development package in Missouri's history
- Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 – the authorization of \$301 million in bonds to repair 215 bridges
- Senate Bill 7 – the modification of civil procedure that will create a more favorable environment for businesses by reducing frivolous lawsuits
- An increase in funding for the Missouri Technology Corporation
- The creation of the Blue Ribbon Panel for the Missouri Hyperloop project
- St. Louis' Major League Soccer team and related infrastructure

Illinois' 2019 legislative year also yielded gains for the St. Louis region including:

- Illinois Capital Bill – the first capital bill in a decade that will commit valuable investment into the state's transportation and infrastructure networks
- House Bill 1652 - military occupational licensing reform that will help reduce occupational barriers for military members, their spouses, and businesses in Illinois
- Metrolink expansion in St. Clair County, Illinois

St. Louis Regional Chamber's Champion Award is presented to lawmakers that have championed a priority issue of the Regional Chamber and achieved meaningful success. The 2019 recipients include:

- Governor Mike Parson



- Speaker Elijah Haahr
- Senate President Pro Tem Dave Schatz
- Leader Caleb Rowden
- St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson
- St. Louis Board of Aldermen President Lewis Reed
- Governor J.B. Pritzker
- Leader Jay Hoffman
- Senate President John Cullerton

The Catalyst Award recognizes up-and-coming lawmakers that demonstrate promise for championing a priority issue of the Regional Chamber in the future. The 2019 awardees are:

- Speaker Pro Tem John Wiemann
- Leader Rob Vescovo
- Senator Brian Williams
- Representative Monica Bristow
- Senator Jason Plummer

Finally, the Legacy Award recognizes two political leaders who have dedicated their careers serving Missouri, Illinois, and our country. The Regional Chamber will honor former U.S. Senator for Missouri Claire McCaskill and retiring Illinois Congressman John Shimkus with the 2019 Legacy Award for their lifelong commitments to inspiring a greater St. Louis region.

“The Chamber Champion Awards highlights our lawmakers’ passion for service and dedication to their communities and to the advancement of pro-business policies,” said Tom Minogue, the Regional Chamber’s Board Chair. “We are grateful for their partnership and want to recognize their dedication to our region.”

Tom Chulick, the Regional Chamber’s President & CEO, echoed those statements saying, “When we collaborate with our elected officials to champion our economic and workforce priorities, we make the St. Louis region stronger.”

“The St. Louis region grows when leaders on both sides of the river work together for meaningful change. The Chamber Champion Awards celebrates those bi-state efforts and highlights the achievements shared by all those who support the development of the bi-state region,” said Austin Walker, Vice President of Public Policy at the St. Louis Regional Chamber.

The dinner and program, which takes place from 6:00-8:00 PM will be preceded by a reception at 5:00 PM. Those wishing to attend the awards dinner can purchase tickets here: <https://stlregionalchamberevents.com/product/chamber-champions>



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About the St. Louis Regional Chamber

The St. Louis Regional Chamber is the region's largest business organization, representing the St. Louis business community across 15 counties in both Missouri and Illinois. We champion a greater St. Louis region by serving as a catalyst for regional economic opportunity and forward-thinking public policy. For more information, visit www.stlregionalchamber.com.