



**John S. Gaal, Ed.D., CWP,
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**Director
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In March 2021, Dr. Gaal accepted the newly created position of director for the MO AFL-CIO's Missouri Works Initiative Worker Wellness Program. (At the end of January 2019, after 40 years of service, he retired as the director of training and workforce development for the St. Louis-Kansas City Carpenters Regional Council.) As a labor representative, Dr. Gaal continues to serve on the St. Louis County Workforce Development Board, the International Vocational Education and Training Association's Board of Directors (past-president), and the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plan's Mental Health Expert Panel. Dr. Gaal served on the U.S. Department of Labor's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship from 2003 to 2010. He completed a union apprenticeship in carpentry over 40 years ago and has since earned an associate's degree in construction management, a bachelor's degree in architecture, master's degree in international business, and a doctorate in organizational leadership. In addition, he completed post-doctoral projects at Harvard University (trade union leadership in 2009) and the University of Florida (marketing and management in 2014). Dr. Gaal was honored with two Fulbright (Specialist) Scholarships in labor and industrial relations (Tokyo, Japan in 2010 and Toronto, Canada in 2015). He has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed and professional journals on issues related to various aspects of workforce development. Since 2018, Dr. Gaal has completed the Mental Health First Aid Train-the-Trainer course, NAMI Family-to-Family teacher training course, Missouri Certified Peer Specialist certification, NWI's Certified Wellness Practitioner certification, QPR Train-the-Trainer certification course, Missouri Community Health Worker credential course, ASIST training course, CALM Train-the-Trainer course, and AFSP's Bereavement Support Group Facilitator course. In addition, he recently earned LAP-C certification and is in his 29th year as an adjunct professor at Webster University.