

**WORKFORCE2030
FEATURED
SPEAKER**

MARDY LEATHERS

State Director

Missouri Office of Workforce Development

Dr. Mardy L. Leathers was appointed to serve as the Director of the Missouri Office of Workforce Development in October 2017. In his capacity, Dr. Leathers serves as Executive Director to Missouri's State Workforce Development Board, Director of Apprenticeship Missouri, and oversees Missouri's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Programs. Since his appointment, he has served an integral role in transforming Missouri's public workforce development system, expanding and modernizing apprenticeship and work-based learning programs, and launching Missouri Job Center Connect. Additionally, Dr. Leathers led key initiatives such as Missouri Return Strong, Job Centers of the Future, Talent for Tomorrow, Best in Midwest, and the Missouri Governor's Supply Chain Management Task Force. In 2018, he founded the Missouri-United Kingdom Apprenticeship Partnership. Dr. Leathers has led his organization through a myriad of challenges including organizational restructuring, natural disaster, merger of state agencies, and global pandemic.

Dr. Leathers serves as a national voice to the value of aligning educational attainment, labor force participation, and sustainable employment as critical components of transformational workforce

development strategy. Currently, he serves as Vice Chair on the Employment & Training Committee for the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, as well as Vice Chair on the Directors' Committee for the National Governor's Association State Workforce. Dr. Leathers has led a number of national executive-level working groups to discuss federal workforce development policies, inform government leaders, and cultivate transformational concepts to serve our citizens.

Prior to becoming the Director of the Office of Workforce Development, he served as Executive Director of the Center for Workforce Development at East Central College, held the role of CEO for a community economic development organization, and held public office as the County Clerk in Crawford County, Missouri. Dr. Leathers holds a BS from Southeast Missouri State University, a MBA from William Woods University, and a Doctor of Management from Webster University.