What is an association, and why do I need one?

BETTER TOGETHER

▸ Stronger voice when you speak as one

▸ Develop new and better ways to tackle common problems

▸ Cost savings and sharing

▸ Expand capacity

▸ Someone to have your back, so you can focus on what you need to focus on

Sounds good, but what does that really look like?

ADVOCATE

▸ Shared legislative priorities

▸ Shared advocacy team

▸ Shared talking points and messaging

▸ Occasional joint press conferences

ADVOCATE

- ▶ Equity funding
- ▶ Performance funding request
- ▶ Funding for the A+ Scholarship
- ▶ Workforce development
- ▶ Employee retirement system

ADVOCATE

▸ All 12 colleges represented

▸ Business and legislators spoke

▸ Earned 20 media mentions across the state, with an ad value of $32,257 and a potential 1.7 million viewers

▸ House reduced budget cuts

LEARN

▸ Annual convention open to all community college employees in the state

▸ Leadership conference

▸ Smaller targeted seminars and workshops

CONNECT

- ▸ $60 million in federal grants
- ▸ Presidents and Chancellors meet monthly
- ▸ Peer groups that meet regularly
- ▸ Working on group purchasing
- ▸ Statewide Workforce Network

Play the Video.

Industry Credentials	The development of stackable credentials that lead to industry certifications and provide students with an easy to navigate path to better jobs and higher pay
Accelerated, Flexible Programs	Multiple entrance and exit points that allow students to train and earn credentials in short increments, giving them the flexibility to return to work or school when needed
Soft Skills	Innovative approaches that contextualize and bring students up to speed in essential areas like soft skills, reading, writing, and math
Intrusive Advising	A more comprehensive approach to counseling, called intrusive advising, helps students navigate every aspect of postsecondary coursework and life challenges that might prevent the student from completing

Credit for Prior Learning

A statewide policy on credit for prior learning, which allows students to earn credit for knowledge and skills acquired outside of their studies

---

Career Pathways

A focus on aligning programs of study with industry needs, so that students complete with employable skills for their chosen profession.

Labor Market Data

The development of regional labor market information that is shared with students to help them make educated decisions when choosing a program of study

---

Wage Performance Data

The development of a data system that will allow us to track wage information for students who have participated in/completed non-credit training programs

Applied Learning Opportunities for applied learning through simulations, internships and apprenticeships

Industry Involvement Unprecedented employer involvement in the development of curriculum through industry councils and partnerships with more than 300 employers across the state

Workforce Partnerships Strengthened partnerships with other entities within the state's workforce system including state and regional boards, departments, agencies and job centers

Certified Work Ready Communities Over 3400 employers support the Certified WorkReady Community Initiative with 84 counties actively engaged in the certification process.

CONNECT

- 5 to Move Forward:
  - Student Success
  - Enrollment and Retention
 - Workforce Development
  - Public Perceptions
  - Advocacy

ABOUT

▸ Founded in 1963

▸ Now have a staff of 7

▸ Office is in Jefferson City

▸ 501c6 non-profit organization

▸ Funding comes from individual membership dues, institutional dues, sponsorship and event revenue

▸ Governed by the Presidents and Chancellors from all 12 colleges, and have a Board of Directors that advises on membership and professional development content

ABOUT

▶ 12 colleges

▶ Decentralized system

▶ Mix of urban and rural

▶ 90,000 students enrolled

▶ $3,197 average tuition
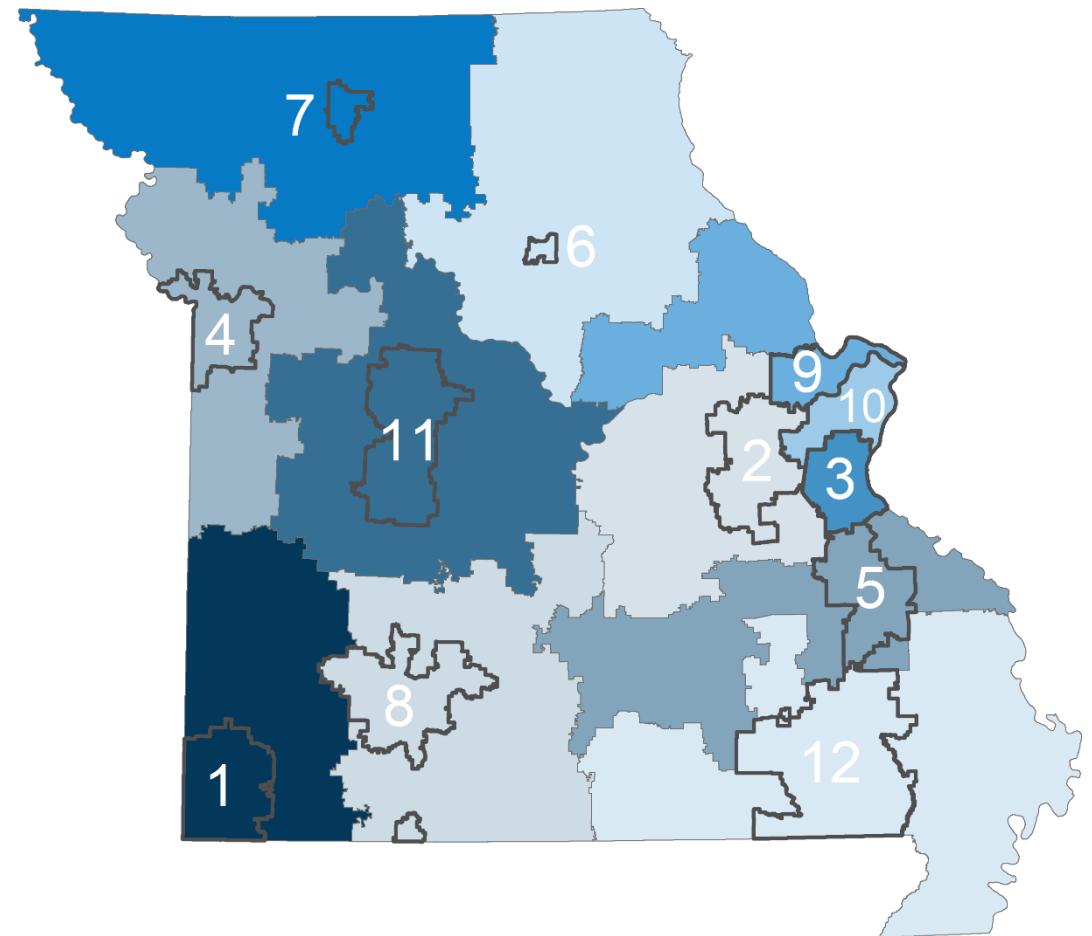
Where do we even start?

BETTER TOGETHER

▸ Step 1: Find a common problem you can agree on.

▸ Step 2: Get the right people at the table.

▸ Step 3: Don't get bogged down by the details.

▸ Step 4: Develop a solution.

▸ Step 5: Repeat often, with emphasis on Step 3.

Questions?

If time allows…

▸ What are some strengths of your state when it comes to collaboration?

▸ What are some weaknesses?

▸ Where do you see opportunity for collaboration?

▸ Where do you see threats to collaboration?