



John S. Gaal, Ed.D., CWP, CPS, CHW-C, LAP-C

**Director, Missouri Works Initiative
Worker Wellness Program, Missouri AFL-CIO
Ballwin, Missouri**

In March 2021, Dr. Gaal accepted the newly created position of director for the MO AFL-CIO's Missouri Works Initiative's Worker Wellness Program. As a labor representative, he continues to serve on the St. Louis County Workforce Development Board, International Vocational Education and Training Association's Board of Directors (past-president), and International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plan's Mental Health Expert Panel. John served on the U.S. DOL'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, a master's degree in international business, and a doctorate in organizational leadership. John has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed and professional journals on issues related to various aspects of workforce development. Since 2018, he completed the Missouri Certified Peer Specialist certification program, 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, towards the end of 2023, John earned the LAP certification. Dr. Gaal has been married for 40 years, has four children, and is in his 29th year as an adjunct professor at Webster University.