



**John S. Gaal, Ed.D.,
CPS, CWP, 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. (At the end of January 2019, after 40 years of service, John retired as the director of training and workforce development for the St. Louis-Kansas City Carpenters Regional Council.) As a labor representative, he continues to serve on the St. Louis County Workforce Development Board, Missouri Suicide Prevention Network's Advisory Committee, and International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plan's Mental Health and Addictions Expert Panel. He recently finished a six-year term on IVETA's Executive Committee. John 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. In addition, he completed postdoctoral projects at Harvard University (trade union leadership, 2009) and the University of Florida (marketing and management, 2014). John was honored with two Fulbright (Specialist) Scholarships in Labor and Industrial Relations (Tokyo, Japan, 2010 and Toronto, Canada, 2015). He has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed and professional journals on issues related to various aspects of workforce development and worker wellness. Since 2018, John has completed a variety of mental health certifications and, in 2023, he earned his Labor Assistance Professional certification. Dr. Gaal has been married for 41 years, has four children, and is in his 30th year as an adjunct professor at Webster University.