



Building Missouri's future...by degrees

February 28, 2011

Governor Jeremiah (Jay) Nixon
State Capitol Building
Room 216
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Nixon:

On behalf of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) I am pleased to present you with the special report on Statewide Academic Program Review. The report is responsive to the challenge you posed to our public four-year and two-year universities and colleges during the Governor's Summit on Higher Education in August 2010 to ensure that state resources are being used effectively to address the state's future need for well prepared graduates.

This special review afforded institutions with new opportunities to collaborate with each other on academic program delivery. It also underscored the need for new policies and processes to promote the efficient use of state resources while also maintaining quality on campuses statewide.

The institutions have identified 119 programs for closure due to low productivity. MDHE staff also recommended follow-up evaluation in three years of an additional 175 programs that show promise of improved productivity provided that the economy improves or as a consequence of adequate investments in such areas as recruitment, student retention, and innovative solutions.

The review process does not conclude with the publication of this report. Missouri's institutions are still evaluating low-producing academic programs. They are exploring additional options for delivering academic programs in ways that are responsive to student demand, cost-effective and accountable. Academic program review will continue to be one of the policy tools used by the CBHE to accomplish our state's long-range goals for a well-educated citizenry.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Russell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David R. Russell, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education

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