

Officers

Barbara Touchette
PRESIDENT
Kathianne Knaup Crane
VICE-PRESIDENT
Hardy Washington, Jr.
VICE-PRESIDENT
Patty Malashock
TREASURER
Kathleen A. Day
SECRETARY
Lisa K. Thorp
MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Directors

Paul Arenberg
M. Colleen Beckemeyer
Burton Buffkin
Pat Cox
James E. Crowe, III
Joan Esserman
Mark Gellman
Sid Goldstein
Jennifer A. Haynes
Ralonda Jasper
Sandy Nelson Marsh
Colin Meadows
Lauren Nash Ming
Harry Moppins, Jr.
Ellen Sheffield Pace
Minnie Phillips
Susan Plassmeyer
Don Poling
Susan Rava
Dana L. Romeis
Nancy Rose
Earl Shreckengast
Joan Silber
James Tatum

Honorary Life Directors

Betsy Douglass
Joyce Follman
Linda Goldstein
Joel Iskiwitch
Nancy Kalishman
Lynne Kipnis
Donna Moog
Julia Muller
Estie Pruett
Audrey Shanfeld

Executive Director

Faith Sandler

Testimony to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and Steering Committee members of the Missouri Department of Higher Education regarding the coordinated plan for Missouri

June 4, 2015

NAME: Karissa Anderson
ADDRESS: 8215 Clayton Road COUNTY: St. Louis City
PHONE: 314-243-6439
EMAIL: Karissa@sfstl.org
ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION: The Scholarship Foundation of Saint Louis – Manager of Advocacy and Policy Research

Good afternoon to the members of the coordinating board and other guests in the room. My name is Karissa Anderson, I am a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University and most recently earned my Master's in Social Work from Saint Louis University. I was previously an education policy intern with The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis and I am now the Manager of Advocacy and Policy Research. You have gathered here today to talk about completion strategies. In my experiences as a low income student, a policy intern, and now a college access professional - I can tell you this for sure...the key to completion for students like myself is adequate funding. This is particularly true for students whose families can't contribute financially. I can talk to you about my personal experience if you like but I would like to share the data as well.

Students who are lower income are told they need to go to public colleges and universities because it's more affordable. People also think that low

Officers

Barbara Touchette
PRESIDENT

Kathianne Knaup Crane
VICE-PRESIDENT

Hardy Washington, Jr.
VICE-PRESIDENT

Patty Malashock
TREASURER

Kathleen A. Day
SECRETARY

Lisa K. Thorp
MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Directors

Paul Arenberg

M. Colleen Beckemeyer

Buron Buffkin

Pat Cox

James E. Crowe, III

Joan Esserman

Mark Gellman

Sid Goldstein

Jennifer A. Haynes

Ralonda Jasper

Sandy Nelson Marsh

Colin Meadows

Lauren Nash Ming

Harry Moppins, Jr.

Ellen Sheffield Pace

Minnie Phillips

Susan Plassmeyer

Don Poling

Susan Rava

Dana L. Romeis

Nancy Rose

Earl Shreckengast

Joan Silber

James Tatum

Honorary Life Directors

Betsy Douglass

Joyce Follman

Linda Goldstein

Joel Iskiwitch

Nancy Kalishman

Lynne Kipnis

Donna Moog

Julia Muller

Estie Pruett

Audrey Shanfeld

Executive Director

Faith Sandler

income students receive full financial aid packages. Well, here in Missouri, the numbers don't add up. For the 2015-2016 school year, the annual cost of attendance at Mizzou is over \$25,000¹. The maximum publicly funded aid that a low-income student can receive is \$12,775. That means that this year, a low income freshmen at Mizzou will likely face a gap of over \$12,000. This is a gap which they nor their parents can possibly pay. Such a student is not eligible to borrow enough from a trustworthy source and even if they could, they would be borrowing over twice the national average. In the 2012-2013 school year, over 178,000² students in Missouri were eligible for the federal Pell Grant - the largest indicator of need. Take a look at the math on the infographic I've provided, low-income students cannot afford our state flagship university. The numbers don't add up; the gap is too big and students are faced with the decision not to enroll or they soon find they cannot complete their studies. This is a hit Missouri cannot afford to take.

The states' single need-based aid program, Access Missouri, has consistently seen budget cuts - but the state consistently says we need more college graduates. Of those 178,000 Pell eligible students, Access only has the capacity to serve about 50,000 students. If we want to see Missouri students

¹ University of Missouri – Columbia - <http://admissions.missouri.edu/costs-and-aid/costs/index.php>

² 2012-2013 Federal Pell Grant Program End-of-Year Report - <http://www2.ed.gov/finaid/prof/resources/data/pell-2012-13/pell-eoy-2012-13.html>

Officers

Barbara Touchette
PRESIDENT

Kathianne Knaup Crane
VICE-PRESIDENT

Hardy Washington, Jr.
VICE-PRESIDENT

Patty Malashock
TREASURER

Kathleen A. Day
SECRETARY

Lisa K. Thorp
MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Directors

Paul Arenberg

M. Colleen Beckemeyer

Buron Buffkin

Pat Cox

James E. Crowe, III

Joan Esserman

Mark Gellman

Sid Goldstein

Jennifer A. Haynes

Ralonda Jasper

Sandy Nelson Marsh

Colin Meadows

Lauren Nash Ming

Harry Moppins, Jr.

Ellen Sheffield Pace

Minnie Phillips

Susan Plassmeyer

Don Poling

Susan Rava

Dana L. Romeis

Nancy Rose

Earl Shreckengast

Joan Silber

James Tatum

Honorary Life Directors

Betsy Douglass

Joyce Follman

Linda Goldstein

Joel Iskiwitch

Nancy Kalishman

Lynne Kipnis

Donna Moog

Julia Muller

Estie Pruett

Audrey Shanfeld

Executive Director

Faith Sandler

graduate we must admit them with full funding and continue to fully fund them until degree completion. We must stop gapping the very students our state needs to see graduate. Students cannot complete their degrees if they can't afford them. They cannot access on-campus support services to aid them in their journey if they cannot cover their bill. They cannot achieve their dreams or climb their way out of poverty.