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The Missouri Higher Education Partnership (MOHEP) is an organization of business leaders focused on improving higher education as a critical contributor to state-wide economic development, competitiveness on the global stage and a higher quality of life for all Missourians through research, education and advocacy. MOHEP's mission is to advocate the importance and value of higher education, to educate the grassroots and grasstops on the impact of higher education to their lives, communities and state, and to support candidates and elected officials who are pro-higher education all to ensure a more successful Missouri. MOHEP chair Bruce Allen and executive director Jason Dalen are at today's forum. [jdalen@kcciviccouncil.org](mailto:jdalen@kcciviccouncil.org)

## **HUSCH BLACKWELL**

With more than 85 years of experience in education law, Husch Blackwell is a recognized leader in representing public and private elementary schools, secondary schools and institutions of higher education. Husch Blackwell's Education Litigation group has a proven track record of successfully defending educational institutions against a wide range of claims, including mass actions and class actions involving significant financial exposure. The firm's impressive client list includes many of the leading private sector colleges and universities as well as several well-known nonprofit institutions, including law schools and medical schools. The firm's litigators understand the unique needs of academic institutions and leverage this experience to provide effective legal counsel in a cost-effective manner. Joe Cornelison represents Husch Blackwell at today's forum. [Joseph.cornelison@huschblackwell.com](mailto:Joseph.cornelison@huschblackwell.com)

## **COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA**

Established in 2009, Complete College America is a national nonprofit with a single mission: to work with states to significantly increase the number of Americans with quality career certificates or college degrees and to close attainment gaps for traditionally underrepresented populations. Between 1970 and 2009, undergraduate enrollment in the United States more than doubled, while the completion rate has been virtually unchanged. The U.S. has made progress in giving students from all backgrounds access to college, but has not finished the all-important job of helping them achieve a degree. Counting the success of all students is an essential first step and then beginning to reinvent American higher education to meet the needs of the new majority of students on college campuses, delicately balancing the jobs they need with the education they desire. Founder Stan Jones is today's luncheon speaker. [sjones@completecollege.org](mailto:sjones@completecollege.org)



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Missouri's 13 public four-year universities comprise the Council on Public Higher Education in Missouri (COPHE). COPHE points to four major reasons to support Missouri's public universities:

- Missouri universities develop the advanced workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Missouri universities “teach the teachers.” Their graduates are educating the state's next generation of leaders, from preschool through doctoral programs.
- Missouri universities fuel the economic engine of Missouri every day of every year.
- Missouri universities improve the quality of life in Missouri by providing public and private benefits.

Brian Long serves as executive director of COPHE. [brianklong@mchsi.com](mailto:brianklong@mchsi.com)



The Missouri Community College Association is an individual membership organization dedicated to professional development and advocacy for community college students, faculty, staff, administrators and trustees.

The Missouri Community College Association's mission is to provide:

- Advocacy with stakeholders by providing one strong voice for all of Missouri's community colleges;
- Educational activities that support student learning and professional development;
- Information and resource sharing;
- Opportunities for networking that facilitate interactions among the Association's diverse membership; and
- Unity among all of Missouri's community colleges.

Zora Mulligan is executive director of MCCA. [Zora.mulligan@mccatoday.org](mailto:Zora.mulligan@mccatoday.org)