

# Inside Missouri HIGHER EDUCATION

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*News from the Missouri Department of Higher Education | July 2015*

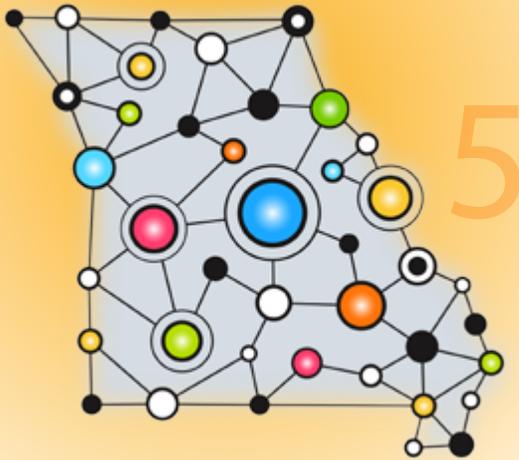


## **A Blueprint for Higher Education**

Public hearings focus  
on helping more students  
earn a degree

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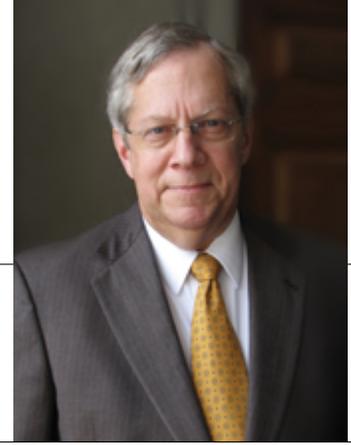
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A message from David R. Russell, Ph.D.

## Commissioner of higher education



**ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR** has concluded and thousands of students across Missouri have celebrated one of life's great milestones – college graduation.

For some families, earning a degree has become a rite of passage into adulthood. For others – especially students who are the first in their family to attend college – it is a long-held dream finally fulfilled.

Although the value of a degree has been questioned in recent years, the benefits of higher education cannot be denied. Students with a two- or four-year degree or professional certificate on average earn higher salaries than those who ended their education at high school graduation. In fact, students with a four-year degree can expect to earn about a million more dollars in their lifetime.

In addition to higher salaries, college graduates experience lower unemployment rates, enjoy better health, live longer lives and are more engaged in their communities.

Higher education is, without a doubt, essential for a strong workforce, a thriving economy and improved quality of life.

By 2018, nearly 60 percent of the jobs in our state will require some form of higher education. Our goal is for 60 percent of working-age adults in Missouri to have a college credential by 2025.

To help Missouri achieve the “Big Goal,” the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Department of Higher Education embarked on a process last December to create a new blueprint for Missouri higher education.

We thought the best place to start was to go out into our communities and talk with Missourians – talk to business owners about the kind of knowledge and skills their

employees need now and in the years ahead; talk to educators about how to help more students reach their full potential; and talk to students about how they view their future.

We also met with government officials and community leaders about the best way to help our state move forward together.

We heard repeatedly that Missouri cannot be its best until all students in our state have an opportunity to further their education beyond high school.

To assist us with this undertaking, we assembled a task force of 36 Missourians who represent the world of business, education, and government. The steering committee conducted public hearings in every region of the state. They listened to testimony and asked a lot of questions.

It has been a very busy, but productive eight months. I want to express my thanks to the steering committee members who have participated in this process. They have traveled hundreds of miles and made a tremendous investment of time and energy to this endeavor.

We are now pulling together all the information we have gathered to help create a plan that will guide higher education in Missouri in the years ahead. The plan will be presented to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education for approval in December.

By the time we are ready to congratulate the class of 2016, we will have a new plan in place to help more Missourians than ever before complete a college degree and experience firsthand the benefits of higher education. It will be a plan that reflects the aspirations of the people of Missouri for a brighter future.

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

# July

	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
3 Independence Day, MDHE offices closed				1	2	<b>3</b>	4
28 Joint meeting between CBHE and Board of Education, Columbia	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
29 MDHE Coordinated Plan work group meeting, Jefferson City	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
30 MDHE Coordinated Plan work group meeting, Jefferson City	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	31	

# August

	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
3 FAFSA Filing deadline for Marguerite Ross Barnett Scholarship							1
14 Apply Missouri site registration deadline	2	<b>3</b>	4	5	6	7	8
28 FAFSA Frenzy site registration deadline	9	10	11	12	13	<b>14</b>	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23 /30	24 /31	25	26	27	<b>28</b>	29

# September

	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
2 MDHE Coordinated Plan work group meeting, Jefferson City			1	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	4	5
3 CBHE Board Meeting, Jefferson City	6	<b>7</b>	8	9	10	11	12
7 Labor Day Holiday, MDHE offices closed	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			

# A conversation about college

Public hearings focus on meeting future education needs of Missouri citizens

## AS THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING

for a new coordinated plan for higher education in Missouri concluded in June, David Russell was encouraged by the discussions that had taken place across the state.

“The conversations we have had with hundreds of Missouri residents underscore the importance of higher education to the future of our state,” said Russell, Missouri’s commissioner of

higher education. “We have heard from businesses large and small, state and community leaders, students, educators and others about the need to help more students earn a degree.”

A steering committee of 36 leaders in business and industry, education and government is assisting the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Department of Higher Education in developing a new

coordinated plan for higher education, *Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education*.

“We need to provide quality, affordable, accessible higher education for the students of Missouri,” said Deb Hollingsworth, co-chair of the steering committee. “Our work is critical to the future of our state.”

*(continued on page 6)*



Students from Scott County Central High School in Sikeston talk with David Russell, Missouri commissioner of higher education, about their plans for the future. The students were participating in College Application Week last October. Increasing access to college is one focus of a new statewide plan being developed by Missouri’s Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

## Coordinated plan *(continued from page 5)*

The steering committee hosted nine public hearings from December through June to gather information and recommendations for Missouri's higher education system.

The hearings provided an opportunity for Missourians to participate in an important dialogue about higher education in the state, Russell said.

The hearings focused on a multitude of issues.

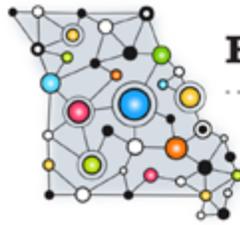
In December, hearings in O'Fallon and St. Louis addressed the state's workforce needs and the role of higher education in economic development.

In January, steering committee members met with state government leaders, including the commissioner of education and the directors of the departments of economic development, health and senior services, social services and corrections. They also heard testimony from state lawmakers, and the leaders of the Council on Public Higher Education, the Missouri Community College Association and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Missouri.

The February public hearing, held in Columbia, focused on university research, entrepreneurship and collaboration among colleges and universities.

The March hearing in Kirksville looked at the value of a liberal arts degree and Missouri's student financial aid programs.

In April, public hearings in St. Joseph and Kansas City included panel



### **Preparing Missourians to Succeed**

#### **A Blueprint for Higher Education**

discussions about educating health care professionals, increasing the number of students studying science, technology, engineering and math and the role of career and technical education.

The final two public hearings in Springfield and Cape Girardeau in June, focused on alternative funding models for colleges and universities, teacher education programs, higher education in the rural environment and strategies to increase college completion rates.

With the public hearing process completed, the steering committee split into three work groups to develop recommendations for the plan.

One group looked at issues related to access and affordability, including tuition and fees, student financial aid, the missions of Missouri's higher education institutions, remediation and the education needs of adult students, including veterans.

A second group worked on issues related to excellence and sustained quality, including online and competency-based education and partnerships among colleges and universities, higher education funding, and increasing public support for higher education in Missouri.

A third group examined student success, including college completion, achievement gaps, career and technical education, and workforce needs.

Russell said the new coordinated plan will support Missouri's work toward increasing the percentage of Missourians with a degree or certificate to 60 percent by 2025.

By 2018, nearly 60 percent of all jobs in the state will require a postsecondary credential. Currently, about 49 percent of Missourians have a degree or certificate.

"It's all about the students," said Jim Anderson, co-chair of the steering committee. "Get them enrolled, help them pay the up-front costs, remove the barriers to completing a degree, and they will ultimately repay Missouri by giving the state a brighter future. The result will be economic success and an improved quality of life."

The new plan will be presented to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in December.



**LEARN MORE** about the  
Blueprint for Higher Education.

# Blueprint for Higher Education steering committee

Thirty-six leaders representing business and industry, education and government were selected to serve on the steering committee for the development of a new coordinated plan for higher education in Missouri. Committee members are:

**Jim Anderson**, Co-chair, Vice President of Marketing and Public Affairs, CoxHealth, Springfield, and former President, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

**Deb Hollingsworth**, Co-chair, Vice President of External Affairs, AT&T (retired), St. Louis

**Dr. Jon Bauer**, Vice Chair, Missouri Community College Association, and President, East Central Community College, Union

**Angela Bennett**, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (retired), and Curator Emerita, University of Missouri Board of Curators, Kansas City

**Berla D. Bieller**, Retired Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Broseley

**Dr. Michael Bleich**, Missouri Nurses Association, and President and Maxine Clark and Bob Fox Dean and Professor, Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish College, St. Louis

**Gena Boling**, President, Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel, Rolla

**Marie Carmichael**, Owner and President, Affordable Homes Development Corporation, Springfield

**Jean-Paul Chaurand**, Chief Operating Officer, Guadalupe Centers, Inc., Kansas City

**Dr. Don Claycomb**, President, State Technical College of Missouri, Linn

**Robin Coffman**, Chief of Staff, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Jefferson City

**Brian Crouse**, Vice President of Education, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jefferson City

**Cliff Davis**, Chair, Missouri Community College Association, and President, Ozarks Technical Community College – Table Rock Campus, Branson

**Pat Dillon**, Community Liaison, Mosaic Life Care, St. Joseph

**Mike Downing**, Director, Department of Economic Development, Jefferson City

**Dr. Arlan Dykstra**, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Missouri Baptist University, St. Louis

**Mike Franks**, Chief Executive Officer, Neosho Area Business & Industrial Foundation, Inc., Neosho

**Dr. Charles Gooden**, Dean of Student Affairs, Harris-Stowe State University (retired), St. Louis

**Dr. Kevin Gwaltney**, Executive Director, Joint Committee on Education, Jefferson City

**Dr. Russell Hoffman**, Executive Director, BJC Learning and Organizational Effectiveness, St. Louis

**Mark James**, Chancellor, Metropolitan Community College, Kansas City

**Dr. John Jasinski**, Chair, Council on Public Higher Education, and President, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville

**Dr. Johndavid Kerr**, President, Missouri Association of Faculty Senates, and Professor, Harris-Stowe State University, St. Louis

**Tom Richmond**, Manager of Parts Distribution, Altec Industries, St. Joseph

**Michael Schwend**, President, Preferred Family Healthcare, Kirksville

**Dr. Ron Slepitz**, President, Avila University, Kansas City, and Immediate Past Chair, Independent Colleges and Universities of Missouri

**Clif Smart**, Chair, Council on Public Higher Education, and President, Missouri State University, Springfield

**Kathy Swan**, State Representative, and Owner, JCS/Tel-Link, Cape Girardeau

**Mike Thomson**, Former State Representative, and Retired Teacher, Maryville

**Tim Wolfe**, President, University of Missouri System, Columbia

**Bruce Wylie**, Executive Director, Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, Jefferson City

## *Ex-officio Members*

**Betty Sims**, Chair, Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education, St. Louis

**Dalton Wright**, Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education, Lebanon

**Dr. David Russell**, Commissioner, Missouri Department of Higher Education, Jefferson City

**Dr. Rusty Monhollon**, Assistant Commissioner of Academic Affairs, Missouri Department of Higher Education, Jefferson City

**Dr. Mike Nietzel**, Senior Advisor on Higher Education and Workforce Development, Missouri Governor's Office, Jefferson City

# On the road

## Colleges welcome higher education board for tours, public hearings

### MISSOURI'S COORDINATING BOARD

for Higher Education took its meetings on the road this year, giving board members an opportunity to visit a number of campuses across the state.

"We have seen some fabulous facilities at our colleges and universities," said Betty Sims, chair of the coordinating board. "It is an exciting time to be involved in higher education in Missouri."

The board met at St. Charles Community College, University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph and Missouri State University in Springfield.

Several of the meetings were held in conjunction with public hearings for the development of a new coordinated plan for higher education in Missouri. Additional hearings were held at Truman State University in Kirksville, Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City, Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield and Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

In St. Charles and Kansas City, the board toured virtual medical facilities equipped with patient simulators – mannequins that can be programmed to experience a variety of health issues, from high blood pressure to pregnancy. The simulators provide nursing students with life-like experiences to help prepare them for treating actual patients.



Members of Missouri's Coordinating Board for Higher Education tour the Nursing and Allied Health Sciences facility in St. Charles where patient simulators can be programmed to experience an array of health conditions. Nursing instructors at the facility demonstrate a simulator used to teach nursing students about labor and delivery.

At the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center in Columbia, the board met with student scientists who are working side-by-side with their professors on plant and animal research in state-of-the-art lab facilities.

In Springfield and Cape Girardeau, the board heard about programs and partnerships among colleges and universities that are improving educational opportunities for students across southern Missouri and beyond.

Discussion in Kirksville focused on the importance of liberal arts education.

Public hearings also were held at several corporate and community sites, including the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce; Component Bar Products, a high-tech manufacturing company in O'Fallon; and emPowerU, a community facility that provides health and education programs and resources for youth in St. Joseph.

"Touring the colleges and universities has given the board a better understanding of the kind of facilities students need to prepare them for today's world," Sims said.



## In the lab and on the factory floor

Students from the University of Missouri in Columbia (left) discuss their research projects at the Bond Life Sciences Center with members of Missouri's Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The board toured the research facility and met with the students in February, prior to a public hearing for the development of a new plan for higher education in Missouri.

Board members Lowell Kruse and Dalton Wright, Commissioner of Higher Education David Russell and Board Chair Betty Sims (below, left to right) listen as Troy Pohlman describes the job training provided at his manufacturing facility, Component Bar Products, in O'Fallon. Pohlman discussed the growing importance of higher education to the high-tech manufacturing sector. Board members toured the company's facility while in O'Fallon for the first of nine public hearings about higher education in Missouri.



From the desk of Leroy Wade

## Deputy commissioner



**IT IS PROBABLY AN** understatement to describe the 2015 legislative session as unusual. Every session has its unique issues and events, but this one was characterized by what seemed like a particularly large number of those items.

From an accelerated budget completion process to the early adjournment of the Senate, it was certainly an interesting year to be following the legislative process. On the issue of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget, the General Assembly stated at the beginning of the session a desire to pass appropriation bills early enough so the governor would need to sign or veto those bills, or parts of the bills, while the legislature was in session.

House Bill 3, the higher education appropriation bill, was passed by the General Assembly on April 23, two weeks before the statutory deadline. The bill was signed by the governor on May 8, with no vetoes or restrictions of funding items contained in the bill. The bill included \$12 million in additional operating funds for public higher education institutions, allocated through the performance funding process codified in statute last year.

State student aid remained mostly at FY 15 funding levels, except for the A+ Scholarship Program, which received a \$2 million increase. Other increases included a \$5.5 million appropriation

to public community colleges for equity adjustments, \$500,000 to the University of Missouri-Kansas City for its Center for the Neighborhoods Initiative, and \$300,000 to the University of Missouri-St. Louis to foster international collaboration and economic opportunity in Israel.

Probably the biggest news on the higher education funding front was in the area of capital improvements. Public higher education institutions received nearly \$275 million for repair, renovation and construction of facilities. This is the largest capital improvements appropriation in many years.

Funding for the projects came primarily from state bonds issued pursuant to legislative action last year and from the Higher Education Capital Fund, which requires institutions to provide matching funds from non-state sources. With projects funded at every public institution, I am sure you will see lots of construction activity across the state over the next several months.

While there were several legislative items pertaining to higher education, there was not a particular focus on higher education or an omnibus higher education bill this session. Bills passed by the General Assembly and signed by the governor include the following:

**Senate Bill 93** – This bill, identified as the Campus Free Expression Act,

was introduced by Sen. Ed Emery. The legislation designates the outdoor areas of campuses of public higher education institutions to be traditional public forums and states that any person may freely engage in expressive activity as long as the conduct is legal and does not disrupt the institution's functioning.

**Senate Bill 104** – This bill was introduced by Sen. Will Kraus to revise laws pertaining to public election candidates and certain urban school districts. Language was added during the session to increase the number of trustees governing the St. Louis Community College from six to seven, with the seventh member to be appointed by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

**Senate Bill 334** – Introduced by Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, this bill expands the degree programs that Harris-Stowe State University may offer to include a broader range of baccalaureate degrees and graduate degrees, subject to CBHE approval. The bill also made changes to the historic service region of Northwest Missouri State University for purposes of appointments to its governing board.

**Senate Bill 366** – Sen. Eric Schmitt introduced this bill, which allows the direct deposit of a state income tax refund to an individual's MOST account.

*(continued on page 11)*

## Deputy commissioner *(from page 10)*

**House Bill 567** – This legislation, introduced by Rep. Randy Dunn, designates Dec. 4 as “Alpha Phi Alpha Day” in Missouri in honor of the first black intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established by African-Americans.

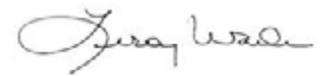
In addition, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 224, sponsored by Sen. Gary Romine, which required an individual to be a United States citizen or permanent resident in order to be eligible to receive reimbursement from the A+ Scholarship Program. On July 11, Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed this bill resulting in the eligibility requirements for the A+ Program remaining unchanged. With

its regular veto session scheduled for Sept. 16, the General Assembly may still have something to say on this subject.

Finally, there were several higher education bills that were not passed but that we expect to see again during the 2016 session. Those include expanding the Bright Flight Scholarship to include a loan forgiveness component, expanding the eligibility of the Public Safety Officer Survivor Grant to include additional categories of employment, and granting additional authority for community college campus police.

Although the ink is barely dry on these legislative items, we are already beginning to plan for the 2016

legislative session. With the conclusion of the CBHE’s coordinated plan process and interim committee work by legislators, there should be plenty of action that will be of interest to the higher education community. Keep in mind that MDHE staff produces a weekly update on higher education legislation during the session and have an end-of-session report posted on our website. I encourage you visit our Web page at [dhe.mo.gov/about/legislative/](http://dhe.mo.gov/about/legislative/) to read more about legislative actions affecting higher education.



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## Kruse recognized for service to higher education board

**LOWELL KRUSE**, a longtime member of the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education, completed 12 years of service to the board on June 30.

Kruse was recognized for his contributions to Missouri’s higher education system at the June 3 board meeting in Springfield. Board Chair Betty Sims presented Kruse with a proclamation from Gov. Jay Nixon.

Kruse served in a number of leadership positions on the board, including several terms as board chair.

“It has been an honor to serve with Lowell Kruse on the Coordinating Board for Higher Education,” Sims said. “He has been a mentor to numerous board members and several commissioners

of higher education. He understands the big picture of higher education and what it means for our future. Our state, our board, our colleges and universities, and our students have benefited from Lowell’s outstanding public service.”

Kruse was first appointed to the board in 2003 by former Gov. Matt Blunt. Kruse was reappointed in 2009 by Nixon.

“Lowell strongly believes that quality educational opportunities are essential to preparing students for success in life,” said David Russell, Missouri commissioner of higher education.

The proclamation presented to Kruse read, in part: “Lowell Kruse has been an excellent advocate for higher education, underscoring the needs, challenges and



Lowell Kruse

accomplishments of Missouri’s higher education system and the importance of creating a culture that places great value on educating and preparing students for the challenges ahead.”

# Grants and scholarships

## Access Missouri grant awards increase for 2015-2016 academic year

### STUDENTS QUALIFYING FOR

the Access Missouri Grant will see larger award amounts for the 2015-2016 academic year. Gov. Jay Nixon announced the increases July 15 during stops at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and North Central Missouri College in Trenton.

The maximum award amounts will increase from \$1,500 to \$1,850 for students who attend participating four-year public or independent colleges and universities or the State Technical College of Missouri and from \$660 to \$850 for students who attend participating two-year colleges.

“This substantial increase in Access Missouri scholarship amounts will make college more affordable for thousands of students across the state,” Nixon said. “Here in Missouri our commitment to our students and our higher education institutions continues to move our economy forward.”



Gov. Jay Nixon talks with a student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City after announcing that the Access Missouri Grant awards will increase for the 2015–2016 academic year. Nixon was joined by UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton and several students for the event.

Grant amounts are based on a student’s expected family contribution as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students qualifying for the grant will receive a

minimum of \$300 at a two-year college or \$1,500 at a four-year public or independent college or university.

Last year, about 51,000 students received an Access Missouri Grant.

## Bright Flight Scholarship fully funded again for top students

### MISSOURI’S BRIGHT FLIGHT

Scholarship will be fully funded for the state’s top-scoring students again this year. Students earning a score in the top 3 percent on the ACT or SAT test are eligible to receive \$3,000, the maximum scholarship amount, to attend a Missouri college or university.

Last year, the scholarship was fully funded for students in the top 3 percent for the first time since 2009.

To qualify for the scholarship, a student must be a Missouri resident, earn a composite ACT score of 31 or higher or a score of 800 in both critical reading and math on the SAT and enroll

at an approved postsecondary school for the academic year immediately following high school graduation.

About 6,300 students received the Bright Flight Scholarship in 2014-2015.



**FIND OUT MORE** about Missouri’s student financial aid programs.

# Dual credit

## State higher education board strengthens policy to ensure high-quality instruction

**THE COORDINATING BOARD** for Higher Education has revised the state's policy for dual-credit programs that give students an opportunity to earn college credit while attending high school.

Higher education officials say the changes strengthen Missouri's guidelines for dual-credit classes to ensure they offer high-

quality, college-level instruction. The classes, taught by instructors approved by the college or university that provides the classes, count for both high school and college credit.

Dual-credit classes are offered by 33 Missouri colleges and universities at about 600 high schools in the state. More than 40,000 students enroll in dual-credit classes each year.

"Dual-credit programs can help students successfully transition from high school to college and allow them to save time and money as they work toward a degree," said Rusty Monhollon, assistant commissioner for academic affairs at the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

The changes to the dual-credit policy include stricter guidelines for instructors

teaching the classes. In most cases, instructors must have a degree relevant to the subject they are teaching that is at least one level above the level at which they teach.

The new guidelines also align the state's dual-credit policy with national guidelines established by the National

David Russell, Missouri commissioner of higher education, said dual-credit programs are an important tool to help the state achieve its goal of increasing educational attainment.

The revised policy also establishes an Early College Advisory Board that will assist the department with monitoring

Missouri's dual-credit programs to assure the integrity of the programs. The board will be composed of 13 members representing public and private two- and four-year colleges and universities that offer dual-credit programs and one at-large member.

The policy was developed by officials from the Department of Higher Education, the Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education, and public and private colleges and universities in Missouri. The new policy will become effective Jan.1, 2016.



Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships and the Higher Learning Commission.

"One of the primary purposes of the revised policy is to ensure that higher education institutions across the state deliver quality, college-level instruction in innovative ways that will help prepare more students to succeed in college," Monhollon said.



**READ THE DEPARTMENT** of Higher Education's new dual credit policy.

# Dual-credit programs receive national accreditation

## NACEP sets standards for concurrent enrollment partnerships

**FIVE MISSOURI UNIVERSITIES** have received national accreditation for dual-credit programs they provide at participating high schools in the state.

The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships accredited dual-credit programs offered by Central Methodist University, Northwest Missouri State University and Saint Louis University and re-accredited programs at Missouri Baptist University and the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

The programs provide courses, taught by university-approved teachers, that allow students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously.

The NACEP maintains national standards for accrediting dual-credit programs to ensure course content and expectations for student work in high schools match the standards of the college or university sponsoring the course.

“We are proud that five programs in Missouri received accreditation from NACEP,” said Rusty Monhollon, assistant commissioner of academic affairs at the Missouri Department of Higher Education. “Missouri’s dual-credit policy reflects a commitment to high quality and integrity. There is no better way to ensure that a program is abiding by these principles than to earn NACEP accreditation.”



The department’s dual credit policy recommends that Missouri colleges and universities offering dual-credit classes obtain NACEP accreditation.

Other Missouri colleges that have been accredited by NACEP include Central Methodist University, University of Missouri-St. Louis and Crowder College.

Missouri has a long history of providing high school students with an opportunity to earn college credit through concurrent enrollment.

St. Louis University has been providing dual-credit courses since 1959, making its program the second

oldest in the country. The university was a founding member of NACEP.

NACEP offers the only national set of quality standards for concurrent enrollment partnerships between higher education institutions and high schools. To earn NACEP accreditation, dual-credit programs conduct a self-study, document how their programs adhere to the organization’s 17 standards and undergo a rigorous peer-review process conducted by reviewers from NACEP accredited programs.

# Mathematics ‘pathways’

## New report recommends alternatives to algebra for some college degrees

### MANY STUDENTS

would benefit from taking mathematics courses aligned to their specific field of study instead of college algebra, according to a new report from the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Higher education officials say courses such as statistics and quantitative reasoning would be better suited for degrees that are not directly related to math or science – degrees in history, English, business and other disciplines.

“College algebra is a barrier to higher education for a number of students, and it is not always the ‘right’ mathematics for every student,” said Rusty Monhollon, the department’s assistant commissioner for academic affairs. “Some students will attempt college algebra several times before passing the course, spending extra time and money on a class that may not benefit them as much as another type of math course.”

Monhollon said students are more likely to take algebra even though some colleges and universities offer other rigorous courses that fulfill the math requirement for a number of

degrees. Students often don’t take alternative math courses because they are concerned the credit won’t meet the math requirement at another college, should they decide to transfer.

The report recommends that more colleges and universities enter into articulation agreements that would ensure specific math courses will meet the institutions’ general education requirements for certain degrees.

“Students working toward a degree in science, technology, engineering or math need a strong foundation in algebra, but providing options that are more relevant to each student’s academic and vocational pursuits will improve math education at Missouri’s college and universities,” Monhollon said.

The report was developed by the department and the [Missouri Mathematics Pathways Task Force](#), a group of 30 math faculty members from the state’s public colleges and universities. The report includes a number of recommendations to help students successfully complete college-level math courses and, ultimately, earn a degree.

### Additional recommendations

The report recommends that the state’s high schools and colleges work more closely to align the content of their math classes to better prepare

high school graduates for college math courses. It also supports the department’s recommendation that students take four years of math in high school to improve their academic performance in college-level math.

Missouri was one of six states selected in 2014 to participate in a grant-funded project to develop alternative mathematics “pathways.” The project is sponsored by Complete College America, a national organization working to increase the number of Americans earning a degree or certificate, and the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas-Austin.

### Missouri Mathematics Summit

The task force was appointed following Missouri’s first Mathematics Summit in September 2014. The summit brought together college math faculty and administrators to discuss postsecondary math requirements and the types of courses necessary to provide students with the skills they need.

The department will host a second Mathematics Summit Oct. 30 to focus on the implementation of the recommendations in the report.



**READ MORE** about the Missouri Mathematics Pathways Report.

# Distance education

## New agreement will increase access and improve oversight for online programs

**MISSOURI HAS ENTERED INTO A MULTI-STATE** agreement that is expected to make distance education programs more accessible to students and increase the state's oversight of online education.

Missouri has been approved by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact to join the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA), a nationwide initiative to improve distance education programs. The Missouri Department of Higher Education will serve as the "portal" agency for SARA.

Once a state joins SARA, accredited degree-granting higher education institutions that offer distance education programs can seek approval from their state to participate in SARA.

Upon receiving approval, colleges and universities are able to offer distance education courses in other participating SARA states without seeking additional authorization from those states.

"This agreement puts important measures in place that will help increase higher education opportunities for Missouri students," said Leroy Wade,

deputy commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education. "SARA will enable Missouri to streamline the process of offering online education and strengthen the oversight of online education."

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact is a nonprofit regional organization assisting Midwestern states in advancing higher education through interstate cooperation and resource sharing.

"SARA will provide a more efficient, effective and uniform system for distance education programs that will be less costly for states, institutions and, ultimately, students," Wade said.

State legislation authorizing Missouri's participation in SARA was approved during the 2014 legislative session.

SARA agreements are overseen by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA). They are being implemented by four regional higher education compacts: the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, the New England Board of Higher Education, the Southern Regional Education Board and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

A total of 28 states have been approved as SARA members.



**LEARN MORE** about the State Authorization Reciprocity Program.



# Apply Missouri 2015

## Program helps students find 'best fit' for higher education

**A PROGRAM TO HELP HIGH SCHOOL** seniors navigate the college application process will be expanded statewide this fall with a new name and the potential to help hundreds more students take the first step toward higher education.

Apply Missouri 2015, set for September and October, will be open to all high schools in the state for the first time. Initially called Missouri College Application Week, the program was offered at a limited number of schools in 2013 and 2014.

Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Higher Education, Apply Missouri promotes the benefits of higher education and assists students with submitting applications to colleges, universities and other postsecondary schools they are interested in attending.

While the program is available to all seniors at participating high schools, it focuses on assisting low-income students and those who would be the first in their families to attend college – students who may be unfamiliar with the college application process.

“Apply Missouri will help students explore a variety of options for education beyond high school and submit applications to schools that are a good fit for them,” said David Russell, Missouri commissioner of higher education. “Counselors also advise

students about submitting FAFSA forms so they will know how much financial aid they could potentially receive.”

The college application process establishes important communication channels between students, guidance counselors and higher education institutions.

Colleges communicate with students who submit applications in the fall an average of five times, providing

The Department of Higher Education will provide training and materials to help schools plan an event.

In 2013, more than 2,000 students at 26 high schools submitted applications during the College Application Week pilot project. Nearly 2,900 students at 55 high schools submitted applications last year.

The Missouri College Advising Corps assisted with the launch of College



**Apply Missouri**

information about degree programs, financial aid, housing options and other details that can help students plan for higher education.

High schools that host an Apply Missouri event are required to provide time and resources during the school day for all seniors interested in submitting an application to one or more higher education institutions. Schools also are encouraged to host assemblies, college fairs, contests and other activities that emphasize the importance of higher education.

Application Week and will participate again in this year's year Apply Missouri program. The advising corps is a group of recent college graduates who work in specific Missouri high schools with a large percentage of students who are less likely to attend college.

High schools can register to participate in Apply Missouri through Aug. 14.



**FIND OUT MORE** about  
Apply Missouri 2015.

# FAFSA Frenzy

2015 events assist more than 1,500 students with financial aid application

**DESPITE INCLEMENT WEATHER**, more than 1,500 students received help filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid during Missouri's 2015 FAFSA Frenzy program.

Winter storms forced the cancellation of events at five FAFSA Frenzy sites, and several events had to be rescheduled. A total of 83 events were held in communities across the state during January, February and March.

More than 700 people registered to serve as volunteers for the FAFSA Frenzy events.

"We thank everyone who gave their time to assist students and families with the FAFSA," said David Russell, Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education. "These events would not be possible without help from Missouri's financial aid professionals, high school counselors and other volunteers. Their efforts are key to helping students qualify for financial aid."

Completing a FAFSA is the first step for applying for most federal and state financial aid. Many grants and scholarships awarded by colleges and universities also require students and families to complete a FAFSA.

Students attending a FAFSA Frenzy event were eligible to enter a statewide drawing for one of 16 scholarships worth \$500 for the fall 2015 semester.



Volunteers welcome students and their families to a FAFSA Frenzy event at Webster University in St. Louis.

The scholarships are provided by the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel (MASFAP).

The Missouri Department of Higher Education has begun planning for next year's FAFSA Frenzy. The main event is set for Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016. Schools

can submit an application to host a FAFSA Frenzy event at [dhe.mo.gov/ppc/fafsafrenzy.php](http://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/fafsafrenzy.php). The registration deadlines is noon, Friday, Aug. 28.



**FIND OUT MORE** about Missouri's FAFSA Frenzy program.

## 2015 FAFSA Frenzy volunteers honored

**THREE FAFSA FRENZY** volunteers were recently recognized by the Missouri Department of Higher Education for their efforts to assist students and families with the financial aid application process.

Awards were presented for FAFSA Frenzy Site Coordinator of the Year and FAFSA Frenzy Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. The recipients were nominated for the honor by their peers.

The awards for Site Coordinator of the Year were presented to Laura Sanchez, postsecondary coach with Kauffman Scholars, Inc., and Terri Benjamin, high school guidance secretary at Eldon High School.

Sanchez served as a site coordinator for FAFSA Frenzy for the first time this year after being involved with the program for the last three years. Her site attracted more than 200 participants – 95 percent were members of at least one target audience group. Sanchez credited the volunteers and community partners for the event's success.

"Our event would not have been a success without the commitment and energy of the many volunteers that



Laura Sanchez, (left) a postsecondary coach with Kauffman Scholars, Inc. receives a FAFSA Frenzy Site Coordinator of the Year award from Lisa Wilson, an outreach services coordinator at the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

participated. They were the backbone of planning, outreach and implementation."

Sanchez and her volunteers conducted a Twitter campaign to promote the event, focusing on seniors at multiple high schools and current college students.

Sanchez has focused on college preparation and retention in urban communities for a number of years.

"My favorite thing is the momentum FAFSA Frenzy creates for students getting ready to start college in the fall," she said. "When students complete the FAFSA at a Frenzy event, that sense of accomplishment goes a long way toward reinforcing their college-going identities."

Sanchez was recognized by her peers as someone who is flexible and hospitable when unforeseen changes needed to be made to meet the needs of the students and families participating in the event.

(continued on page 20)



Terri Benjamin (right), a high school guidance secretary at Eldon High School, receives an award for FAFSA Frenzy Site Coordinator of the Year from Julie Meyer, director of MDHE Access and Success programs.

## FAFSA Frenzy volunteers *(continued from page 19)*

Sanchez's award nomination noted that she worked effectively with community members and that communication and organization were two qualities vital to her success as a FAFSA Frenzy site coordinator.

FAFSA Frenzy 2015 was Terri Benjamin's first year as a site coordinator, but that didn't stop her from making a lasting impression on her peers. One nominator said Benjamin, "went above and beyond to make this event a success."

Benjamin's peers said her enthusiasm was infectious, and her generosity was greatly appreciated by volunteers and participants. She was praised for her organizational skills and the work she did getting the word out to students at her school and schools in the surrounding area.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for families to get the help that so many need," Benjamin said. "Families don't think they have the means to send their kids to college so it is very rewarding to help students and families see their dreams for the future can come true."

Amy Hagar, a financial aid professional at Moberly Area Community College, received the FAFSA Frenzy Outstanding Volunteer award for 2015.

Hagar is no stranger to FAFSA Frenzy events. She has been working in student financial aid for 24 years and has been involved with FAFSA Frenzy events since the programs' inception in Missouri. Hagar has hosted events at her college



Amy Hagar (*left*), a financial aid professional at Moberly Area Community College, receives the FAFSA Frenzy Outstanding Volunteer award from Julie Meyer, director of the Department of Higher Education Access and Success programs.

Hagar's peers applauded her willingness to make herself available to students.

"She has a definite passion for financial aid and helping others, and it shows," the award nomination read.

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**"It is our duty as financial aid professionals to assist students and families, and FAFSA Frenzy is the perfect venue for fulfilling that role."**

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and its branch campuses in the past, but has stepped down from her leadership role as a site coordinator and now volunteers at several sites in her community.

"Financial aid is in my blood," Hagar said. "I love the challenges of the profession and the rewards that come with each student's success. Knowing that we have helped them attain their goals is satisfying."

Hagar says she believes families can be intimidated by the process of filling out the FAFSA and are usually afraid they are going to mess something up.

"It is our duty as financial aid professionals to assist students and families, and FAFSA Frenzy is the perfect venue for fulfilling that role," Hagar said.

# Default prevention

Colleges share strategies to help students make smart financial choices



A larger-than-life *Operation* game (left) and a *Cash Cab* game (above) are two examples of default prevention activities developed by Missouri colleges and universities to increase awareness among students of the importance of repaying student loans and making smart financial decisions. Higher education institutions shared ideas for increasing financial literacy among students during Default Prevention Day, hosted annually by the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

**STAFF FROM MORE THAN 35** higher education institutions in Missouri shared ideas and information to help students avoid defaulting on their student loans and plan for financial success during Default Prevention Day May 1 in Jefferson City.

The event is hosted annually by the Department of Higher Education.

The Default Prevention Grant Program has been helping students make wise borrowing decisions since 2001. The department provides training and grants to postsecondary schools to help establish and sustain debt management programs, financial literacy workshops, student success and retention efforts, and default prevention activities.

The May 1 workshop included a presentation from Bill Emmons and Bryan Noeth, researchers from the Center for Household Financial Stability at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. The pair presented information about young families' debt management and how student loans affect their financial

*(continued on page 22)*

## Default prevention *(continued from page 21)*

decisions. The presentation focused on factors influencing loan balances, repayment habits, earnings and life choices of student loan borrowers.

“Missouri’s cohort default rate remains well below the national average. This is no accident,” said Marilyn Landrum, student assistance associate and director of the Default Prevention Grant Program. “Financial literacy and smart borrowing habits are

being taught on campuses throughout the state. Although we continuously hear about the student loan debt crisis, we know that in reality 87.4 percent of Missouri borrowers are repaying their loans. We also know that number would be much different if it weren’t for the efforts of default prevention specialists spreading the word.”

The event concluded with presentations by default prevention

staff from three schools that received a default prevention grant. The presenters offered advice to their peers about tools and initiatives that can be implemented at no cost to help student borrowers avoid default.

The Default Prevention Grant Program has awarded over \$9 million to 59 Missouri postsecondary schools since its inception.

## Default prevention grants awarded to 30 schools

**THIRTY MISSOURI COLLEGES** and universities will receive grants for the 2015-2016 academic year to promote financial literacy and help prevent students from defaulting on their student loans.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education awarded grants totaling \$826,573 through the Default Prevention Grant Program. This is the 15th year funds have been provided to higher education institutions to help launch initiatives to provide students with information about money management, making smart financial decisions, and understanding how student loans can impact their future.

Missouri’s student loan default rate has decreased in recent years and remains below the national average. The state’s default rate is 12.6 percent, compared to the national average of 13.7 percent.

The following higher education institutions received a default prevention grant:

- Avila University
- Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Center
- Columbia College
- Cox College
- Drury University
- East Central College
- Eden Theological Seminary
- Elaine Steven Beauty College
- Fontbonne University
- Harris-Stowe State University
- Jefferson College
- Lincoln University
- Mineral Area College
- Missouri Southern State University
- Missouri State University
- Missouri State University, West Plains
- Missouri University of Science & Technology

- Missouri Valley College
- Missouri Western State University
- Moberly Area Community College
- North Central Community College
- Ozarks Technical College
- State Fair Community College
- Stephens College
- State Technical College of Missouri
- St. Charles Community College
- Three Rivers Community College
- University of Missouri, Columbia
- Webster University
- Wentworth Military Academy

In addition to awarding grants, the department offers default prevention training to all Missouri higher education institutions. To learn more about default prevention or to schedule a training, visit [dhe.mo.gov/ppc/defaultprevention.php](http://dhe.mo.gov/ppc/defaultprevention.php), or contact Marilyn Landrum at [Marilyn.landrum@dhe.mo.gov](mailto:Marilyn.landrum@dhe.mo.gov) or Sarah Schedler at [sarah.schedler@dhe.mo.gov](mailto:sarah.schedler@dhe.mo.gov).

# Smart About Spending 101

by Marilyn Landrum

Needless to say most students get excited about the prospect of graduating from college, but are they excited about having to begin repaying their student loans? I think not!

Financial aid professionals have information about student loans that future graduates need to hear – over and over again.

Of course, exit counseling is required, but it is not required to be done in person.

Why not consider going the extra mile? Financial aid professionals should consider taking the time to meet face-to-face with students to remind them that very soon they will need to put into practice all the financial savvy they learned in Financial Literacy 101.

Financial aid staff probably feel like they have said it a million times, but students approaching graduation need to be reminded that they have a six-month grace period before they have to make their first loan payment.

They should remind students how important it is to inform their loan servicer of their change of address and what steps they need to take if they still are not employed in six months.

Students need to hear about the numerous repayment plan options. They need to be advised to choose the one that will fit their budget, and that if they choose the wrong one the first time around – they can change it!

They should understand how deferments and forbearances work and the difference between the two. Most importantly, help them to know how to use the National Student Loan Data System ([www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov)) to look up their loans.

Students should understand the consequences of default:

- They could lose their tax refunds.
- Their accounts will be sent to a collection agency.
- They could be subject to administrative wage garnishment.

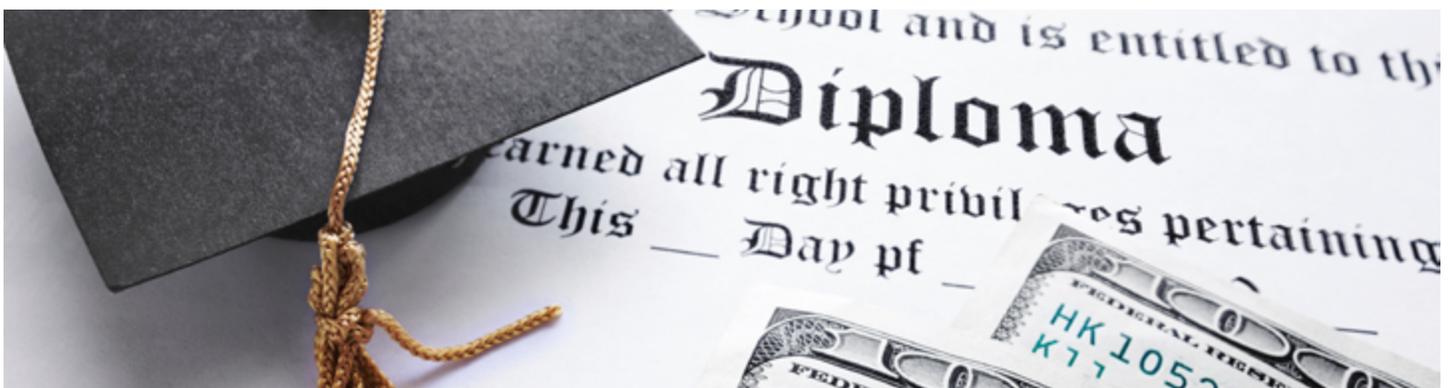
- They will damage their credit score.
- If they decide to return to school at some point, they will not be eligible for financial aid until they take care of their defaulted loans.
- It is much easier to catch up on a two or three month delinquency than to recover from a default.

And the list goes on.

Financial aid professionals should point out the benefits of having loan payments debited directly from their checking accounts and could facilitate their signing up for direct debit payments.

Students should be reminded that loans helped them complete their education, and their success should make them proud. In the end, financial aid staff should assure students that they will always be available any time to answer questions.

*Marilyn Landrum is a default prevention and financial literacy specialist at the Missouri Department of Higher Education.*



## Higher education commissioner announces plans to retire

**MISSOURI COMMISSIONER** of Higher Education David Russell announced his plans to retire during a meeting of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education Wednesday, June 3.

His retirement will become effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Russell became commissioner of higher education in July 2010, following a 19-year career with the University of Missouri System, where he served as a senior associate vice president and chief of staff.

As commissioner, Russell provided leadership for Missouri's higher education system, which serves more than 450,000 students at 13 public four-year universities, 13 public two-year colleges, one two-year technical college, 25 independent colleges and universities and more than 150 proprietary career schools.



David Russell

"David Russell has been an effective advocate for higher education in Missouri and nationwide," said Betty Sims, chair of the coordinating board. "He has worked tirelessly to expand opportunities for students and promote

the importance of higher education to our state."

Sims said the coordinating board will immediately begin a search for Russell's successor.

"Leaders in government, business, education and communities large and small recognize that Missouri's future depends on its ability to produce knowledgeable and skilled citizens," Russell said. "It has been a privilege to serve with so many dedicated public servants who share a commitment to providing a bright future through education opportunity for all."

Prior to his tenure at the University of Missouri, Russell served in the United States Army as a commissioned officer, retiring in 1991 as a lieutenant colonel after a 22-year career, including assignments in infantry, personnel management and public affairs.

## Department names new general counsel

**JEREMY KNEE** has been appointed general counsel for the Missouri Department of Higher Education. He replaces Bill Thornton who became general counsel for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Knee most recently served as associate general counsel for the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Prior to that, he was an assistant attorney general in the

Office of the Missouri Attorney General. He also served as an attorney for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Knee received his law degree from Boston University where he was editor of the Public Interest Law Journal. He earned a master's degree in environmental studies from Brown University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Palm Beach Atlantic University.



Jeremy Knee



International students studying at Missouri colleges and universities and Missouri students who have studied abroad gather for a group photo on the grand staircase at the state capitol during International Education Day at the Capitol in March.

## Capitol cultural exchange

International Education Day brings hundreds of students to Jefferson City

**MORE THAN 300 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** studying at Missouri colleges and universities and Missouri students who have studied abroad gathered in Jefferson City for International Education Day at the Capitol March 31.

The annual event is sponsored by the Study Missouri Consortium, a group of 40 colleges and universities working to promote international education and study abroad programs. The students travel to Missouri’s capital city during the legislative session to listen to debate in the House and Senate chambers, tour the capitol and visit state lawmakers.

According to a report from the Institute of International Education, Missouri ranked 12th in the nation in the number of foreign students studying in the state in 2013. More than 18,000 students were enrolled at the state’s colleges and universities.

About 4,500 Missouri students studied abroad in 2013.



Students from more than 30 countries attended International Education Day at the State Capitol, an annual event sponsored by the Study Missouri Consortium.



**LEARN MORE** about the Study Missouri Consortium.

# STEM Day at the state capitol

**SEVERAL HUNDRED MISSOURI STUDENTS** participated in STEM Day at the state capitol March 4. Elementary, middle and high school students had an opportunity to showcase their own STEM projects, and representatives from higher education institutions, including the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Washington University (below), provided students with information about STEM education and career opportunities in Missouri. STEM Day is hosted annually by the Missouri Mathematics and Science Coalition, a group of organizations, including the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, government agencies, and businesses and community leaders, working to promote the importance of science, technology engineering and math.



**READ MORE** about the Missouri Mathematics and Science Coalition.



## Southeast Missouri State appoints new president

**DR. CARLOS VARGAS-ABURTO** is the new president of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau following the retirement of President Kenneth Dobbins on June 30.

Vargas-Aburto was the acting president at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Vargas-Aburto has served in several positions including at Kutztown University, including provost and vice president for academic and student affairs and chief academic

advisor. Prior to his time at Kutztown, Vargas served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Central State University in Ohio. He also held several positions at Kent State University.

Vargas-Aburto holds a doctorate in physics and aerospace science from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in the same from Michigan. Vargas-Aburto earned his bachelor's degree in physics from the National Autonomous University of Mexico.



Dr. Carlos Vargas-Aburto

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## St. Louis Community College names new chancellor

**JEFF PITTMAN** is the new chancellor of St. Louis Community College.

Pittman began his duties at the college on July 1. He previously served as the statewide vice president of corporate college services and online education at Ivy Tech Community College in Indiana.

Pittman has held a variety of academic leadership roles for Ivy Tech

over the past 27 years, and in four geographic regions.

He received his doctorate in educational leadership, administration, and foundations from Indiana State University. He holds a master's degree in human resource development from Indiana State University and a bachelor's degree in business from Indiana University.



Dr. Jeff Pittman

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## New president chosen for Cottey College

**DR. DORIS A. TEGART** was selected as the new president of Cottey College following the retirement of Dr. Judy Rogers.

Dr. Tegart served as executive vice president and provost at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ken.

During her 20-year tenure at Bellarmine, Dr. Tegart served in a number of senior-level positions including vice president for academic

affairs, vice president and executive assistant to the president, and vice president for enrollment management.

Dr. Tegart received her doctorate from Indiana University with concentrations in women's studies/administration and a post-doctorate leadership certificate from Harvard University. She earned her master's of science in education from Indiana University Southeast.



Dr. Doris A Tegart

## Westminster College selects new president

**DR. BENJAMIN OLA. AKANDE** was recently named the 21st president of Westminster College in Fulton, Mo. Akande replaces Dr. George Forsythe who retired July 1 after seven years as college president.

Akande is a Nigerian-born American citizen who has served most recently as a professor of economics and dean of the George Herbert Walker School of Business and Technology at Webster University in St. Louis. He also leads Webster's global Office of Corporate Partnerships.

Akande is a globally recognized consultant to Fortune 500 companies

in the areas of corporate strategy and responsibility, leadership development and market positioning. He serves as an economic and policy commentator on local, regional and national media outlets and is a former consultant to the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program.

Raised in Nigeria, Akande came to the U.S. to attend Wayland Baptist University in Texas, where he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration. He earned his doctorate in economics from the University of Oklahoma and completed his post-doctoral studies at Harvard and Oxford.



Benjamin Ola. Akande

## Dixon settles in as new leader of community college association



Rob Dixon

**AS A GRADUATE** of St. Charles Community College, Rob Dixon knows first hand the positive impact a community college degree can have on a person's life. In his new role as leader of the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA), he now promotes the role of community colleges in the state's higher education system.

"Missouri's community colleges are united and speak with one voice," Dixon said. "It is an honor to be a part of this effort. It is an effort that makes peoples' lives better through education, and that powers Missouri's economic engine – our workforce."

Dixon became executive director of the organization last December. He

replaced Zora Mulligan who took a position with the University of Missouri.

Dixon came to MCCA from the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce where he had served as executive vice president since July 2013.

He is a former U.S. Marine and adjunct instructor at Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield. He also served as the Springfield Chamber's vice president of business assistance and executive director of the Hollister Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dixon earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Missouri–Saint Louis and a master's degree in public administration from Missouri State University in Springfield.

## Claycomb receives Pioneer in Education award

**DON CLAYCOMB**, president of State Technical College of Missouri, was selected by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to receive a Pioneer in Education award.

The award is presented to teachers, school administrators, citizens and lawmakers for their contributions to public education in Missouri.

Claycomb began teaching agriculture in 1965 in Tabor, Iowa. His work in

education included stops at Trenton High School, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri and Washington High School.

In 1993, Claycomb became president of State Technical College of Missouri, formerly Linn State Technical College. Earlier this year, Claycomb announced his plans to retire June 30, 2016.

The 2015 Pioneer in Education awards were presented July 27 in Columbia.



Don Claycomb

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## Metropolitan Community College celebrates 100 anniversary

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY** College is celebrating 100 years of providing higher education to students in the Kansas City area.

The school was founded as the Kansas City Polytechnic Institute, one of the first schools in the nation to offer an

associate degree when it opened its doors in 1915.

MCC has become the largest higher education provider in Kansas City and the third largest in Missouri. With five campuses located throughout the metropolitan area, MCC serves more

than 37,000 students each year.

The college is hosting activities throughout 2015 to mark its centennial anniversary, including the 100 for 100 scholarship initiative. The campaign's goal is to raise funds to underwrite 100 associate degrees.

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## Mineral Area College marks 50 years

**2015 MARKS THE 50TH** anniversary of Mineral Area College in Park Hills.

The school originated in 1922 as Flat River Junior College. Mineral Area College was established in April 1965.

The college currently offers 35 career and technical education programs and required general education courses.

Anniversary events have included reunions for college alumni and former

employees and special tours of the college campus. Personalized pavers to line the walks of the campus will be sold at several events throughout the year to commemorate the 50th anniversary.

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## Lincoln observes 125th anniversary of second Morrill Act

**IN APRIL, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY** celebrated the 125th anniversary of the passage of the second Morrill Act, establishing what now are considered historically black universities.

Located in Jefferson City, Lincoln University commemorated the

anniversary in conjunction with a national celebration in Washington, D.C.

Lincoln University began as Lincoln Institute and was designed for the benefit of freed African-Americans. Lincoln Institute was formally established in January 1866, opening

its doors the following September.

The school officially became a state institution in 1879. Under the second Morrill Act of 1890, Lincoln was designated as a land grant institution, adding industrial and agricultural courses to its curriculum.

## Springfield receives grant to increase college completion

**THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD** has received a grant from the Lumina Foundation to help boost college completion rates.

Springfield was one of 20 cities selected to receive the award. The cities will work closely with Lumina to develop customized plans focused on increasing high-quality credentials for their residents.

A two-year planning grant of \$120,000 will help local leaders develop and execute a plan to help more Springfield students gain the skills required to meet workforce needs.

The grant will support partnerships between local employers and educational institutions to enhance existing programs that develop the skills needed for current and future employees.

Initial goals for Springfield include increasing the number of high school juniors and seniors who:

- Take the ACT, college-readiness exam, more than once a year
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA
- Graduate from high school with college credits

- Start college or technical programs that lead to certificate during the same year the student graduates from high school.

Initial goals at the college level include:

- Keeping current students on track from one year to the next
  - Increasing the number of students who graduate "on time" from college
  - Recruiting adults with some college credits to enroll and complete a certificate
- Feedback from students and adults with some college will be sought to develop steps to achieve these goals.

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## Southeast Missouri State participating in K-12 teaching study

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE** University is participating in a national study to help transform K-12 and higher education through innovative technology and teaching methods.

The study, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, pairs up SEMO's College of Education with the Regional Professional Development Center to work with local school systems to implement the Collaborative Regional Education (CORE) initiative model. CORE is comprised of

partnership building, technology, professional development, project-based learning, classroom support and dual enrollment.

Alabama's Jacksonville State University was first awarded a \$12 million grant to establish the CORE Initiative, now in its second year. The initiative was expanded to include seven regional universities, including Southeast Missouri State University. SEMO will work to expand the CORE model and implement a research study

of classrooms in 8th-12th grades. A total of 40 classrooms will be included in the study nationwide.

Other partners selected to participate in the national study include: Fayetteville State University, North Carolina; Savannah State University, Georgia; Tarleton State University, Texas; University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Arkansas; University of North Carolina at Wilmington, North Carolina; and West Texas A&M University, Texas.

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## College Advising Corps receives AmeriCorps grant

**THE MISSOURI COLLEGE ADVISING** Corps will receive more than \$500,000 for AmeriCorps civil service volunteers in Missouri.

The advising corps is a group of recent college graduates who work

in specific Missouri high schools to encourage students to consider attending college. The members work at schools with a large percentage of students who are less likely to attend college.

The funding is part of a \$4 million grant to support AmeriCorps civil service volunteers throughout Missouri. Other grant recipients include Big Brothers Big Sisters and Teach for America.