



Missouri Department of Higher Education

Higher Education Headlines

March 28, 2016

Note: A link will no longer provide access to some news stories. Those stories appear in their entirety at the end of this document, as indicated.

College tuition cap proposed for some Mo veterans, March 26

Mizzou: A lesson for higher ed, March 24

Students should feel like 'equal partners,' says Missouri's first chief diversity officer, March 24

McCaskill says Missouri A+ scholarship should be a model for the nation, March 24

Sen. Claire McCaskill calls for loan refinancing, transparency, March 24

McCaskill sites student debt as looming 'crisis,' March 24

The college graduation gap is still growing, March 23

University of Missouri hires system diversity officer, March 23

Willard internship program sends teen to work, March 23

Sen. Claire McCaskill stops in Nixa, listens to student debt concerns, March 23

At KC forum, Sen. Claire McCaskill discusses college spending and borrowing woes, March 22
(see story below)

McCaskill embarks on statewide college affordability tour, March 21

Kansas City Star – March 22

At KC forum, Sen. Claire McCaskill discusses college spending and borrowing woes

McCaskill met with students at Lincoln College Preparatory Academy

She supports refinancing of student loans and more access to grants for college costs

But the Missouri Democrat said a proposal for free college tuition at public colleges is unrealistic



Sen. Claire McCaskill met Tuesday with students, educators and parents at Lincoln College Preparatory Academy in Kansas City. Joe Ledford jledford@kcstar.com

By Dave Helling

Sen. Claire McCaskill held a Kansas City forum Tuesday designed to explore the huge increase in college costs.

But the 90-minute discussion with students and administrators touched only briefly on specific federal programs aimed at reducing the cost crunch.

Instead, the students — at least one in tears — described their frustration and anger at the difficulty in paying for higher education and in understanding how to manage their college expenses.

“There’s no guidance. There’s no road map,” said Jason Proctor, a student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Others described working full-time jobs while pursuing full-time studies and struggling to balance the two.

Parents aren’t always helpful, the students told McCaskill, and counseling can be sporadic. Many students overborrow for college, they said, then graduate with unmanageable debt.

The Missouri Democrat blamed the federal government for extending too much credit to some students.

“Everyone is borrowing as much as they can borrow,” she said. “Financial literacy is a part of this.”

Administrators said they need to do a better job of offering college-level courses to high school students at a low cost. McCaskill decried cuts to higher education by state lawmakers, particularly in Missouri.

The senator supports legislation that would allow students to refinance college debt at lower interest rates. She also supports expanded federal grants for lower-income college students and opposes higher tuition costs for children of undocumented immigrants.

But Sen. Bernie Sanders’ proposal for tuition-free public colleges and universities is unrealistic, she said.

“Let’s give everyone a free car. Let’s buy a home for everyone,” she said. “It’s very difficult to do that and afford it.”

McCaskill has endorsed Hillary Clinton’s presidential candidacy. Clinton has proposed free tuition at community colleges, as has President Barack Obama.

As the session at Lincoln College Preparatory Academy ended, student Chelsea Hopson-Rimpson tearfully told McCaskill she didn't think she could afford housing at a college outside the Kansas City area. She would have to live at home while studying, she said, but she would find a way to make it work.

"Don't give up," McCaskill told her. "You're going to do fine."