



Missouri Department of Higher Education

Higher Education Headlines

September 28, 2015

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.

Gov. Jay Nixon's deal is a win for Missouri's colleges and students, Sept. 27
(see story below)

What happens to Pell Grant recipients after they enroll, Sept. 27

Lab space: MU Life Science Incubator prepares expansion, Sept. 25

Are they learning? Sept. 25

Screening criminal offenders who want to attend Missouri State in Springfield, Sept. 25

Fact check: Missouri tuition isn't cheap but Nixon is right about holding down increases, Sept. 24

Republican budget maker: long way to go for Missouri governor's college funding increase, Sept. 24

Missouri lottery ticket sales outpacing last year, Sept. 24

New data shows poor students are still struggling to graduate college, Sept. 24

Missouri higher ed funding proposal draws mix of optimism, concern, Sept. 23

With the passing of a new bill, students can hold protest all throughout campus, Sept. 23

Missouri's colleges would freeze tuition for funding hike, Sept. 22

Study: 23 percent of women sexually assaulted in college, Sept. 22

Workforce readiness test pitched for economic development, Sept. 22

Undocumented college students rally against higher tuition bills, Sept. 22

Nixon proposes \$55.7M increase for colleges, Sept. 22

University of Missouri professor sues over gun prohibition on campus, Sept. 21

Nixon proposes funding boost, tuition freeze for Missouri universities, Sept. 21 (*see story below*)

Kansas City Star editorial 9-27-15

Gov. Jay Nixon's deal is a win for Missouri's colleges and students

A few strings are attached to Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's agreement with the state's public colleges and universities to freeze next year's tuition in exchange for an overall \$55.7 million funding increase.

The Republican-controlled General Assembly must agree to spend the money, and college and university boards must sign off on the tuition part.

But to oppose the Democratic governor's proposal would be foolish. Nixon's agreement with higher education leaders signals great news for students and their families and for Missouri, too.

Holding down tuition has been a signature achievement of Nixon's administration. The freeze being proposed would be the fourth since he became governor in 2009.

Tuition had skyrocketed in the years before Nixon took office, making Missouri's public universities among the priciest in the Midwest.

Since 2009, however, tuition and required fees have gone up only 7 percent. That's the [smallest increase](#) in the nation, according to [data](#) from the College Board. The average increase nationally over that period was 29 percent.

Tuition at Missouri's universities, while still onerous for many families and ranking around the middle of the 50 states, is now more in line with neighboring states. Full-time in-state students at the University of Missouri's Columbia campus [are paying](#) \$10,586 in tuition and fees this year. Their peers at the University of Kansas [pay](#) tuition and fees totaling \$10,448.

The new money offered in Nixon's agreement will be awarded to schools through performance funding, which is another positive higher education development ushered in during his tenure.

To fully qualify for a funding increase under state law, schools must meet five performance indicators, having in general to do with student success, attainment of degrees or certificates, and fiscal responsibility. A fifth of the available amount will be withheld for every indicator not met.

The state embraced performance funding in 2011, when higher education commissioner David Russell convened a task force to decide how to measure progress at public four-year colleges and two-year schools. The system has been in place for three years, and most four-year schools are close to attaining all five metrics.

Two-year schools, which are more affected by economic trends, are having a tougher time. Some students dropped out when the job market improved, affecting completion and certificate rates, for instance.

But Russell said performance funding is pushing community colleges to move students more quickly through remedial courses that cost money but don't result in college credits.

"I've always felt that it is an excellent way to push state priorities for all of higher education," he said. "If we didn't have performance funding we would need to invent it."

One more plus for Nixon's proposed deal with colleges and universities: The schools have agreed to use almost \$10 million of the anticipated \$55.7 million increase for programs related to science, technology, engineering and math. Those are job-rich areas where employers are pleading for well-trained and educated graduates.

Missouri has made progress under the leadership of Nixon and Russell in making higher education more affordable and more relevant to a changing workforce. Those changes will help Missouri retain and recruit bright young people and pump more dollars into the state's economy. As with Nixon's proposed deal, everyone stands to win.

<http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/editorials/article36628659.html>

Undocumented college students rally against higher tuition bills

By KAMEEL STANLEY • SEP 22, 2015

Immigration advocates say some colleges and universities in Missouri are discriminating against undocumented students by charging them higher tuition.

Students and organizers rallied Monday outside St. Louis Community College's downtown office, demanding officials reverse course.

Organizer David Nehrt-Flores, of Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates, said technically the schools don't have to raise tuition, but are doing so because they are worried about state funding.

"We want these universities and colleges to show the leadership of building more access to higher education for these students so that they can continue their education," Nehrt-Flores said.

But the community college's general counsel, Mary Nelson, said officials have no choice.

Earlier this year, [lawmakers added language to a bill that says undocumented students who live in Missouri must pay the same higher tuition rates as international students](#). The students used to qualify for in-state tuition if they were classified as DACA students (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

The college isn't willing to jeopardize its funding by going against what the law says, Nelson said.

"I do understand," Nelson said Monday as the rally organizers handed over a petition with more than 300 signatures. "The college has taken a very aggressive position to provide scholarships to address that very gap."

St. Louis Community College student Naomi Carranza, 18, gave a similar batch of petitions to Gov. Jay Nixon's office earlier this summer, after the bill was first approved.

At the time, [the governor's office said the language in the education bill was not enforceable](#). Spokesman Scott Holste told St. Louis Public Radio on Monday that the administration's stance hasn't changed.

Despite that, schools including the University of Missouri and St. Louis Community College have notified students that their bills would be higher.

Nelson said there are about 56 DACA students who are subject to the higher rates.

Carranza, who is studying nursing, is one of those. She said the higher rates are prohibitive for many students.

Compared to other schools, STLCC is still very affordable, Nelson said.

Tuition for St. Louis area and Missouri students ranges from \$100 to \$150 a credit hour, according to the college's website. The rate for international students is \$215 a credit hour.

Nehrt-Flores said students will continue to rally, and hope to start a statewide conversation about the issue starts.