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## Missouri Southern State University Proposed Statewide Mission Change

Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
September 13, 2023

### BACKGROUND

A statewide mission designation is integrally related to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education's (CBHE) responsibility for statewide planning, requiring identification of the needs of the state, an examination of the ways educational resources can best respond, and an examination of the mission and purpose of institutions in light of identified state needs.

In 1995, the General Assembly passed SB 340, which provides the framework the CBHE currently uses for evaluating requests for statewide missions. Section 173.030(8), RSMo, charges the CBHE with providing a report to the General Assembly if the Board determines a public institution has qualified for a mission change based on criteria outlined in Section 173.030(9), RSMo. The statute requires submission of an application and implementation plan based on that criteria. Any proposed statewide mission or change of statewide mission designation approved by the CBHE must be approved by concurrent resolution of the General Assembly before the revised statewide mission may become effective.

### CURRENT STATUS

In 1995, Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) received a statewide mission in International / Global Education. In July 2023, the University submitted an application to expand its statewide mission to include Health and Life Sciences and Immersive Learning Experiences. After review of the initial proposal, department staff requested and received additional information regarding the number of students from specific populations enrolled from outside of the school's historic service region and the programs in which those students are enrolled; the licensure exam pass rates and job placement rates for health sciences program graduates; and, the number of students who participate in immersive learning experiences at the institution. The complete proposal is included as Attachment A.

The proposal was posted for a twenty day public comment period and received two comments (Attachment B), one from Metropolitan Community College (MCC) and one from Missouri State University (MSU). Missouri Southern State University provided a response (Attachment C) to each comment.

An analysis of staff findings related to each statutory criterion is provided in Attachment D.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend approval of Missouri Southern State University's request to expand its statewide mission to include Health and Life Sciences and Immersive Learning Experiences.

### ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: Missouri Southern State University's Proposal for Statewide Mission Designation
- Attachment B: Public Comments on Proposal
- Attachment C: MSSU Response to Public Comments
- Attachment D: Criteria for Statewide Mission Designation