

Inside Missouri HIGHER EDUCATION

News from the Missouri Department of Higher Education | Spring 2016



Preparing Missourians to Succeed

A new coordinated plan for higher education

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Inside Missouri Higher Education



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A message from Leroy Wade

Interim commissioner of higher education

For my first column as interim commissioner, I have found it harder than I anticipated to decide where to begin. Not only are another academic year and another legislative session ending, but change is also coming to state leadership, with the election of a new Governor in November, and higher education, with the search for a new commissioner of higher education. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education is welcoming new members as it embarks on the implementation phase of its new coordinated plan for higher education.

Though change is always challenging, it provides opportunities for growth and progress.

As many of you know, Commissioner David Russell retired from the Department of Higher Education on Feb. 29. His accomplishments as commissioner were many, including the completion of the new coordinated plan, *Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education*. His impact will be felt in Missouri higher education well into the future.

With his departure, the Coordinating Board asked and I agreed to serve as the interim commissioner while the

board moves through the search and hiring process for a new commissioner of higher education. While there are unique challenges to serving as the interim, I am excited about the opportunities that exist for the department to continue to advocate for both change within and broader support for higher education.

We recently welcomed two new members to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. Samuel Murphey and Mike Thomson were appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Missouri Senate to serve on the board.

Mr. Murphy is an external affairs lead for the Monsanto Company. He serves as the CBHE member from the First Congressional District. Mr. Thomson, a former state representative from Maryville, currently is the marketing and development director of the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri. He serves as the CBHE member from the Sixth Congressional District. We appreciate their interest in Missouri higher education and look forward to working with them.

Some would suggest we should wait until the dust settles from these changes before we take our next steps.

However, I think the Coordinating Board's adoption of the new coordinated plan in January establishes a solid foundation from which to pursue needed change over the next several years.

While much has been accomplished in recent years, including a reduction in the proportion of students in need of remedial education and improving transfer pathways between higher education institutions, much work remains to be done.

The goals and strategies contained in the coordinated plan address some of the most pressing issues in higher education today. Whether we are talking about educational attainment, developing a skilled and relevant workforce, the affordability of postsecondary education, or the need for greater collaboration with business and industry, the Blueprint offers an outline for action.

Ultimately, we must ensure our citizens have access to a strong and innovative educational system that prepares them for success in the workplace, communities, and beyond.

We cannot afford to wait.

June

9: Meeting of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July

4: Independence Day Holiday, state offices closed
20: Registration Deadline for Journey to College Day
26: Journey to College Day

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

August

2: Joint meeting: Coordinating Board for Higher Education and State Board of Education
4: Governing Board Forum
12: Registration deadline for Journey to College programs

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			

Preparing Missourians to Succeed

Coordinating Board approves new plan for higher education

THE COORDINATING BOARD for Higher Education approved a new coordinated plan for higher education in January.

The plan, *Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education*, will guide the work of the board and the Missouri Department of Higher Education for the next five years.

State law calls for the board to develop a coordinated plan for higher education in Missouri. The last plan was adopted in 2008.

A 36-member steering committee assisted the board and the department with the development of the plan. Nine public hearings were held across the state to gather information for the development of the plan.

“When we began this process, we knew we needed to hear from Missourians about the state’s higher education system,” said Leroy Wade, interim commissioner of higher education. “The steering committee and the public provided many valuable viewpoints about Missouri’s higher education needs.”

The plan focuses on the need to increase higher education attainment in Missouri.

By 2018, approximately 60 percent of the jobs in Missouri will require a postsecondary credential. Currently, about 50.6 percent of working-age adults in the state have a two- or four-year degree or professional certificate.

“More Missourians than ever before have a college degree or certificate, but we must continue our efforts to increase higher education attainment in our state,” said Brian Fogle, chair of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. “Students who complete a postsecondary education program benefit from more employment opportunities, increased earning power and a greater connection to their community.”

The new plan focuses on five goals:

Goal 1: Attainment

Missouri will increase the proportion of working-age adults with high-quality, affordable postsecondary credentials to 60 percent by 2025.

Goal 2: Affordability

Missouri will rank among the 10 most affordable states in which to obtain a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2025.

Goal 3: Quality

Missouri will produce graduates with high quality postsecondary degrees and certificates that are valuable and relevant to individuals, employers, communities and the state.

Goal 4: Research and innovation

Missouri will be a top 10 state for investment in academic research by 2025.

Goal 5: Investment, advocacy and partnerships

Missouri will promote greater investment in a culture of postsecondary education through increased advocacy and powerful partnerships with education, business, government and communities.

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ATTAINMENT



AFFORDABILITY



QUALITY



RESEARCH & INNOVATION



INVESTMENT, ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIPS

New coordinated plan *(continued from page 5)*

The plan states, “These five goals will guide the board and the department as they seek to fulfill their mission for Missouri’s higher-education system. The goals form the foundation for conversation and collaboration with elected officials, government agencies, community and business leaders, as well as providers and consumers of higher education about the kind of state Missouri needs to build for future generations.”

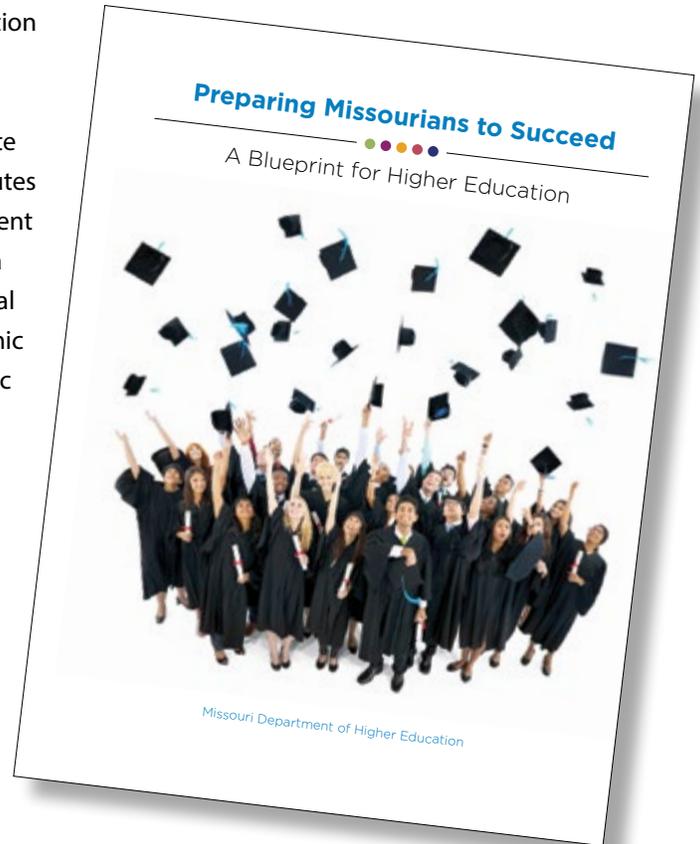
The five goals and supporting strategies reflect a set of guiding principles adopted by the board during the development of the plan. The guiding principles address:

- The responsibility of higher education to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a global economy and instill in them a commitment to lifelong learning and social responsibility.
- The growing need for more Missourians to access, afford and complete postsecondary education at a higher education institution that best fits their educational needs, goals and potential.
- The importance of basic and applied research and the creation of knowledge to solve problems as essential functions of the

state’s higher education institutions.

- The value of higher education as a private benefit that contributes to personal enrichment and prosperity and a public good, essential to increased economic opportunity and civic engagement.

“Higher education is a benefit to every citizen of Missouri – those who attend college and those who don’t,” Fogle said. “A knowledgeable and skilled workforce contributes to a strong economy and improves the quality of life for all Missourians.”



Board adopts new vision, mission statements

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education adopted new vision and mission statements during the development of the *Blueprint for Higher Education*:

Vision

Missouri will be a national leader in providing high-quality postsecondary education that will equip Missourians with the personal and professional skills to succeed in the 21st century.

Mission

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Missouri Department of Higher Education will collaborate with stakeholders to deliver a coordinated postsecondary education system that provides accessible, affordable and innovative education that supports economic growth, enhances civic engagement and improves the quality of life for all Missourians.



READ MORE about the *Blueprint for Higher Education*.

Commissioner retires

Russell reflects on work to expand opportunities for Missouri students

Dr. David Russell, Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education since 2010, retired on Feb. 29. Russell became commissioner following a 19-year career with the University of Missouri System, serving as senior associate vice president, chief of staff and director of university relations. Prior to his tenure at the University of Missouri, he served 22 years in the United States Army as a commissioned officer, retiring in 1991 as a lieutenant colonel. In the following Q&A, Russell reflects on his career and offers his thoughts about higher education in Missouri.

What was the greatest challenge for higher education in Missouri during your time as commissioner?

The tone for my administration was set by a battered and fundamentally altered economy, which was just beginning to emerge from the Great Recession in 2010. Many industries disappeared or retrenched and many people lost their jobs. They returned to college in record numbers to retool and start new careers when it became clear many of the old jobs wouldn't be returning. As the changed economy began to grow again, the demand for more technically competent employees outstripped our ability to provide more graduates in the right skill areas. New academic programs were started to keep pace with the growing demand for new age skills.

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Dr. David Russell

Commissioner *(continued from page 7)*

Universities didn't have the resources to adapt as quickly as they wanted, but they did adapt, became more efficient, and held the line on tuition hikes to keep college affordable. Unfortunately, many students still struggled to stay in school and many dropped out without completing their degrees or certificates and saddled with loan debt.

Given the rising cost of postsecondary education and the premise that not all students need go to college in order to lead successful and satisfying lives, a new national debate has ensued about the very value of a college education. Now we commonly assert that a college education is both a private benefit and a public good. We continue to struggle with this dynamic today.

What do you believe are the greatest strengths of Missouri's higher education system?

Missouri is fortunate to have a diverse set of large and small, four- and two-year public, independent and proprietary institutions. They offer undergraduate, graduate and professional programs of uniformly high quality and a choice of price points, scholarship and internship opportunities. Students can do research alongside outstanding faculty, learn how to become entrepreneurs, and gain a broader world view by becoming acquainted with international students, cultures, and diverse opinions.



Betty Sims, former chair of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, presents Dr. David Russell with a proclamation from Gov. Jay Nixon honoring Russell for his service as Commissioner of Higher Education.

All this adds up to a synergy that redounds to the benefit of every student as well as our society as a whole. Now it's up to us to evolve along with the rest of our society. We should never again allow ourselves to get too comfortable with the status quo, because the status quo is going to change ever more rapidly and we must be out in front of change.

What do you think were your most important contributions to the Department of Higher Education and Missouri's higher education system?

The process of implementing our agenda will be continued by others, but I think the foundation has been laid for a stronger system of higher education. A few milestones that the coordinating board, the department and our colleges and universities have achieved together:

- Missouri has become known throughout the nation as a leader in adopting changes that make it easier for students to complete their degrees and career and technical certificates on-time or in less time and at less cost. Initiatives

(continued on page 9)

Commissioner *(continued from page 8)*

that we either adopted or continue to explore as part of the completion agenda with the help of great legislative sponsors include: reform of remedial education, online programs, business-education partnerships, intrusive advising, academic mapping, and 15-to-Finish programs that encourage students to stay on schedule to graduate. We also lobbied hard for

student advising, including using recent college grads as in-school advisors; and providing grants for students interested in earning college credit while still enrolled in high school.

- The department is aggressively reaching out to Missourians as part of a major goal to have an educated citizenry that can sustain a robust and growing economy

- Finally, I cannot overemphasize the importance of the new strategic plan, *Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education*, adopted by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in January. I consider it perhaps my best contribution as commissioner, as it takes what we learned from six years of hard work and points us toward a promising

“The department is aggressively reaching out to Missourians as part of a major goal to have an educated citizenry that can sustain a robust and growing economy and enjoy an excellent quality of life.”

increasing financial aid funds to cover more students and provide increased award amounts.

- The relationship between the departments of elementary and secondary education and higher education has never been better. We have promoted a holistic approach to education that emphasizes the importance of working together to achieve our mutual goals. This approach has contributed to stronger continuing dialogue about teacher preparation and standards, measuring student learning outcomes and expanding early college opportunities; committing more resources to

and enjoy an excellent quality of life. We have disadvantaged students, returning veterans, and those adults with some college under their belts but no degrees. We have organized separate go-to-college initiatives for high school seniors—Apply Missouri, FAFSA Frenzy and Decision Day—under the umbrella of “Journey to College” to encourage all students, but especially disadvantaged students, to take the key steps toward a post-secondary degree or certificate. Our next goal is to get them to campus, keep them enrolled and provide the support needed for them to be successful.

future. The plan is built around five key goals: Attainment; Affordability; Quality; Research and Innovation; and Investment, Advocacy and Partnerships. These five goals form the foundation for conversation and collaboration with elected officials, government agencies, community and business leaders, as well as providers and consumers of higher education about the kind of state Missourians need to build for future generations. What could be more important than that? I hope candidates for governor will use the plan as a template for their own education agendas.

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Commissioner *(continued from page 9)*

What advice would you give to families who are thinking about higher education for their children?

Parents should not be intimidated by the stories about the cost of postsecondary education. College and career/technical training have always come with a price tag, so take positive baby steps to deal with it. Start Missouri 529 savings plans for every one of the children soon after they are born, and begin regularly contributing small amounts through automatic

let them avoid taking tough courses in high school, especially those that can provide them options when the light goes on and they zero in on a profession or career that requires more math and science preparation (Tip—That’s going to be the vast majority of all the jobs out there in the future). You can no longer wait until you’re a senior to decide to become a nurse practitioner. It becomes nearly impossible to catch up with the prerequisite courses you need to achieve the goal.

doing some teaching and lecturing and I’ve been invited to serve on a college governing board, which will be enormously satisfying. I also plan to write op-eds and articles directed to the public and policy makers about the challenges and opportunities facing higher education. I’m particularly eager to support the Coordinating Board as it seeks to implement the provisions of our new strategic plan for higher education, and that may mean becoming more active in the

“I’m particularly eager to support the Coordinating Board as it seeks to implement the provisions of our new strategic plan for higher education...”

deductions. Parents won’t miss the money and the power of tax-free contributions and compounding will work wonders to build a corpus that can be used for college or career training, not to mention giving parents a sense of well-being about their kids’ future.

Grandparents can do this, too. My wife, Lee, and I have started savings plans for all of our grandchildren and encourage our family members to contribute to them to celebrate special occasions.

I also urge parents to begin thinking about postsecondary education or training while their children are still in elementary school. Give them ample opportunities to explore careers and alternate vocations along the way. Don’t

Today’s students often arrive on college and career technical school campuses woefully unprepared to do the work and without a clear idea about the career path they wish to travel. Students should make better use of their junior and senior years to double down on challenging courses, take internships with businesses, check out unfamiliar topics, enroll in online courses and grab chances to do college-level research on a near-by campus. They will be amazed by how much the future opens up to them. And they will save time and money!

What are your plans for retirement?

Professionally, I intend to remain engaged in higher education by

political discourse that will shape future legislation affecting education.

Personally, I’m looking forward to taking up some neglected hobbies like photography and chess. I’ve been renewing old acquaintances among the alumni, faculty and friends of the university. We have a lot to talk about these days. Lee and I are continuing to travel—we are about to depart for a river cruise through central Europe, and a family trip to the Florida beaches is coming up soon. I also want to try some new stuff. Lee bought me a new telescope. I think she figures I’ll be able to find my way home if I know how to navigate by observing the paths of the stars and planets across the night sky. I hope she’s right!

Two new members appointed to Coordinating Board

GOV. JAY NIXON appointed two new members to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in April. The members were confirmed by the Missouri Senate in May.

Samuel Murphey, St. Louis, was selected to serve from the First Congressional District. Murphey currently is the external affairs lead, chemistry, for the Monsanto Company in St. Louis and was previously a senior manager on the company's executive communications team.

Murphey serves on the boards of DOORWAYS Interfaith Residence and PROMO, Missouri's statewide organization advocating for LGBT equality.

Mike Thomson, Maryville, was selected to serve from the Sixth Congressional District. Thomson represented the 1st District in the Missouri House of Representatives from 2007 to 2014, where he was a member of several education committees and



Samuel Murphey and Mike Thomson

served as chair of the Higher Education Committee for four years.

Thomson currently is marketing and development director for the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri. He previously worked in

the admissions office and was an instructor of psychology at Northwest Missouri State University and was a commissioner for the Midwest Higher Education Compact from 2011-2014.

Wade serving as interim commissioner of higher education

WITH THE SEARCH for a new commissioner of higher education underway, Deputy Commissioner Leroy Wade is currently serving as interim commissioner.

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education hopes to select a new commissioner by fall.

Wade was appointed interim commissioner by the Coordinating

Board, effective March 1. Prior to becoming deputy commissioner, Wade served as assistant commissioner for Financial Assistance, Outreach and Proprietary School Certification. He has been a member of the Department of Higher Education staff since 1986.

Wade is a member of the executive committee of the National Council

for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, board of directors of the Missouri Scholarship and Loan Foundation, board of directors of the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel, board of directors of Kids Chance of Missouri, and Missouri School College Relations Commission.

Missouri sees 19 percent increase in international students

THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL students studying at Missouri colleges and universities increased by 19 percent during the 2014-2015 academic year.

The increase allowed Missouri to maintain its rank of 12th in the nation for the number of foreign students enrolled at the state's higher education institutions. Missouri ranked 16th in 2010.

A 2015 report from the Institute of International Education shows Missouri's international enrollment grew by more than 3,400 students – from 18,205 students in 2013-2014 to 21,703 students in 2014-2015. Nationwide, the number of international students increased 10 percent, the highest rate of growth in 35 years, according to the Open Doors Report.

"We are excited and honored that more international students are choosing Missouri as their home for higher education," said Karla McCollum, chair of the Study Missouri Consortium. "The international students on our campuses increase cultural awareness and help foster a global view."

Students from China made up the greatest percentage of international students in Missouri. Other countries with large numbers of students studying in the state include India, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Brazil.

Missouri universities enrolling the greatest number of international students are:

- University of Missouri in Columbia, 2,879
- Washington University, 2,664
- University of Central Missouri, 2,205
- University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1,950
- Missouri State University, 1,748

The Open Doors Report also examined the economic impact of international education. Foreign students are estimated to have contributed approximately \$615 million to Missouri's economy, an increase from \$509.3 million during the 2013-2014 academic year.

The number of Missouri students studying abroad also increased, from 4,497 in 2012-2013 to 4,951 students in 2013-2014.



Statewide consortium promotes international, study abroad education

A group of 40 public and private colleges and universities in Missouri promote international education and study abroad opportunities.

The Study Missouri Consortium was established in 2009 with assistance from the Missouri Department of Higher Education. The group is funded by an annual membership fee.

Study Missouri participates in several events each year. The group sponsors a booth and a reception at the annual NAFSA Convention and Expo to promote Missouri as a destination for higher education. Study Missouri members distribute information about the state's colleges and universities to thousands of educators and international education representatives attending the conference.

Study Missouri also hosts International Education Day at the State Capital in Jefferson City every year to provide an opportunity for international students to learn more about state government. About 400 students attend the event each year. Students tour the State Capitol and other sites in Jefferson City, listen to debate in the House and Senate and meet with lawmakers.

An annual photography contest, sponsored by Study Missouri attracts hundreds of entries each year and allows students to share their international education experiences.

Study Missouri also maintains a website and Facebook page to provide information about international education opportunities in Missouri.



[READ MORE](#) about the Study Missouri Consortium.

Access Missouri

New FAFSA 'priority deadline' set for grant eligibility

THE DEADLINE FOR STUDENTS

to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for the Access Missouri Grant will change for the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Department of Higher Education has set a priority deadline for Feb. 1, 2017 for the grant program. The final Access Missouri FAFSA deadline will be April 1, 2017.

The department added the priority deadline in response to changes made by the U.S. Department of Education to the FAFSA filing process. The changes will enable students to file a FAFSA earlier.

Students who will attend college during the 2017-2018 academic year, can file their FAFSA beginning Oct. 1, 2016, and will use 2015 tax information.

The two-tiered Access Missouri Grant deadline will help provide some predictability about financial aid for students and help the department better determine grant award amounts.

Students who meet all Access Missouri requirements and file their FAFSA by the Feb. 1 deadline will be guaranteed a grant award. If sufficient funding is available, students who apply after the Feb. 1 deadline but before the April 1 deadline will be eligible to receive a grant award.

Funding for the program is set annually by the General Assembly and fluctuates from year to year.

Grant awards are largely determined by the available funding and the number of students eligible to receive a grant. Specific award amounts are based on each student's expected family contribution as determined by the FAFSA and the type of college the student attends (public two year or four year or private). The amount also may be affected by other financial aid the student receives.

As in years past, students will be able to make corrections to their FAFSA until July 31, 2017, and final awards will be made in mid-August 2017.

Access Missouri is the state's largest student financial aid program and is the only one based on financial need. During the 2015-2016 academic year, about 51,200 students received approximately \$67.5 million in Access Missouri grants.



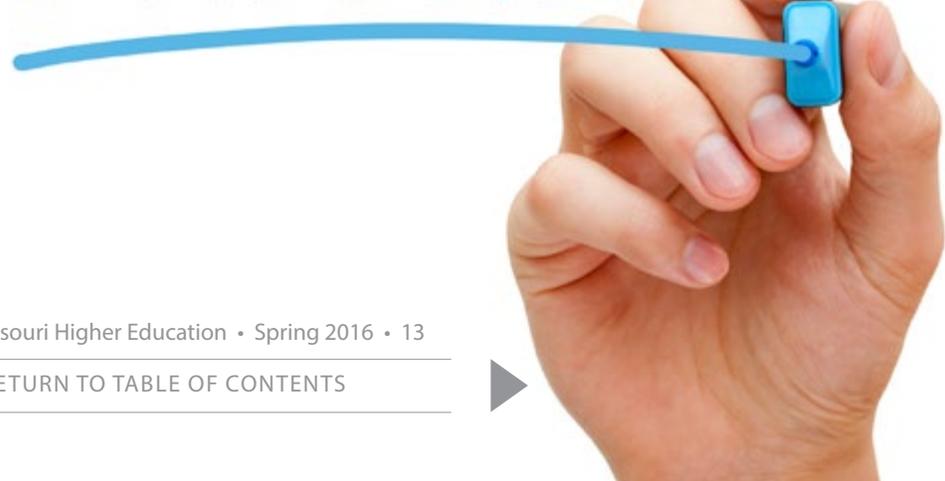
LEARN MORE about the Access Missouri Grant.

Grant awards for the 2017-2018 academic year initially will be estimated at the minimum levels set in state statute – \$300 per year for students attending a public two-year college, and \$1,500 per year for students attending a public four-year university, State Technical College of Missouri or a private college or university.

To provide as much predictability as possible for students, MDHE plans to revise the estimates in July as more information about available funding and the number of eligible students becomes known.

The department will monitor the impact of the new Access Missouri Grant deadline over the next few years to ensure it is set appropriately.

PRIORITY



Changes ahead for the FAFSA

MDHE preparing for earlier filing start date, 'prior-prior' year tax information

THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT of Higher Education is preparing for upcoming changes in the way students and families will be filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Beginning with the 2017-2018 FAFSA, students will be able to submit the financial aid application as early as Oct. 1. Previously, students could not submit the FAFSA until Jan. 1 for the following academic year.

Because the FAFSA filing date was moved up several months, students and their parents will use income information from an earlier tax year to complete the form.

Information about the changes in FAFSA filing will be included in publications produced by the department to help students and their families plan for college.

The department also will use social media and electronic publications,

including the *Monthly Student Reminder* to inform students and parents about the changes.

The department's FAFSA Frenzy program, which provides free help with filling out the FAFSA, has been moved up to accommodate the new start date. Beginning in 2016, FAFSA Frenzy events will be held November through January.

The changes were made to the FAFSA to improve college planning for families. The process will be better aligned with many college admission deadlines, and families will not need to use estimated income tax information. This will give families more time to explore financial aid options.

In the past the FAFSA application cycle was not aligned with college application deadlines, which typically occur in the fall or deadlines for state student financial aid, which can be as early as March. As a result, some

 **READ MORE** about the changes to the FAFSA.

students did not meet the deadlines and missed out on some federal, state and/or institutional financial aid.

Under the new FAFSA requirements, applicants will provide income information from what is called the "prior-prior" tax year.

This means that the 2017–2018 FAFSA will collect 2015 income information. The change in tax-year information will allow more students and families to complete the FAFSA using income information imported electronically from the IRS, using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) rather than submitting applications with income estimates that may need correcting, or waiting until the previous year's tax return has been filed.

Changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid		
When a student is attending college (school year)	When a student can submit a FAFSA	Which year's information is required
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019	2016

Making math more relevant

Missouri chosen for national mathematics project



**MISSOURI
HAS BEEN
SELECTED** to

participate in a national project to develop alternatives to college algebra at the state's higher education institutions.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education and more than two dozen Missouri colleges and universities are involved in the three-year initiative.

Higher education officials say courses such as statistics or quantitative reasoning are more relevant than algebra for a number of degrees, such as business, English and history.

"College algebra is not always the 'right' math course for every student," said Rusty Monhollon, the department's assistant commissioner for academic affairs. "Students working toward a degree in a science, technology, engineering or math field need a strong foundation in algebra, but other options are more appropriate for a number of students, depending on their academic and vocational pursuits."

Eliminating the algebra requirement for certain degrees is expected to help

improve college completion rates. Some students 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 mathematics.

Missouri's state team will consist of officials from Moberly Area Community College, Northwest Missouri State University, the University of Missouri and MDHE.

The project is an initiative of the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Other states chosen to participate in the project include Michigan, Oklahoma, Washington and Arkansas.

"This initiative is based on the work of practicing mathematicians and their desire to improve the quality of mathematics education in the state and the nation," Monhollon said. "We're not looking to make math courses easier. We want them to be more relevant to each student's field of study and more appropriate for the 21st century economy."

Monhollon said even though some colleges and universities in Missouri offer other courses that fulfill the math requirement for certain degrees, many students continue to take algebra. The students are concerned that alternative math courses won't meet the math

requirement at other colleges, should they decide to transfer to a different school.

In June 2015, Missouri's Coordinating Board for Higher Education approved a new report calling for the development of alternative math courses at Missouri's colleges and universities.

The report also directs the department to create a process for collecting information to determine the success of the alternative courses and establish statewide agreements to ensure the transfer of math courses from one higher education institution in the state to another.

The department hosted Mathematics Summits in 2014 and 2015 to begin work on developing new math courses for Missouri students. The events were attended by several hundred administrators and math faculty from colleges and universities across the state.

For more information about building math pathways into programs of study, visit dhe.mo.gov/documents/MathPathwaysReport.pdf.



LEARN MORE about the Missouri Mathematics Pathways initiative.

Three Missouri colleges receive dual-credit accreditation

National accreditation recommended for state's dual-credit programs

THREE MORE MISSOURI COLLEGES

have received national accreditation for the dual-credit classes they provide to high school students.

Dual-credit programs at Jefferson College, Moberly Area Community College and North Central College were accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships.

"We are pleased that three more Missouri colleges have received this important designation. NACEP accreditation helps ensure the academic quality of dual-credit classes," said Rusty Monhollon, assistant commissioner for Academic Affairs at the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

"Dual-credit classes are one way we can help students succeed in college while reducing the cost of higher education to families."

The department's policy for dual-credit programs recommends that Missouri colleges and universities obtain NACEP accreditation. A total of 10 public and private higher education institutions in the state have been accredited by the organization.

NACEP's standards call for the course content and expectations for student work in dual-credit classes to match those on the campus of the sponsoring college or university.

To earn accreditation, higher education institutions offering dual-



credit programs conduct a self-study, document how their programs adhere to the NACEP's 17 standards, and undergo a rigorous peer-review process conducted by a team of representatives from NACEP-accredited programs and a review by the accreditation commission.

"Policymakers are increasingly looking toward dual and concurrent enrollment as a fundamental way to improve a student's chance for college success while reducing the cost of college to families," said NACEP Executive Director Adam Lowe. "If students are to fully realize the benefits of concurrent enrollment, institutions must devote adequate resources and develop

effective systems to oversee the academic quality of these courses."

Lowe said NACEP's standards were developed and refined over many years and are implemented by a wide range of higher education institutions.

Other higher education institutions in Missouri that have received NACEP accreditation include:

- Central Methodist University
- Crowder College,
- Missouri Baptist University
- Northwest Missouri State University
- Saint Louis University
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- University of Missouri-St. Louis



READ MORE about the Department of Higher Education's dual-credit policy.

Journey to College

MDHE initiative includes access programs, publications, presentations and social media

INCREASING COLLEGE ACCESS for Missouri high school students is the goal of the Department of Higher Education's Journey to College initiative.

The department has expanded its existing college outreach efforts and added a new program to provide more opportunities to Missouri students.

Three Journey to College outreach programs help high school counselors and college access personnel assist Missouri students with their plans for postsecondary education. The programs – Apply Missouri, FAFSA Frenzy and Decision Day – can help high school counselors and college access

personnel guide students through the process of completing and submitting college applications, applying for financial aid, and finalizing their plans for higher education.

High schools can participate in one or more of the Journey to College programs.

Apply Missouri

The Apply Missouri program helps students find the “best fit” for higher education and provides time during the school day for seniors to submit college applications. To learn more, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/applymissouri.

FAFSA Frenzy

The FAFSA Frenzy program provides free one-on-one professional assistance to help students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. FAFSA Frenzy events can be hosted by postsecondary institutions or college access organizations in addition to high schools. To learn more, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/fafsafrenzy.php.

will be provided to high schools hosting Journey to College events.

Journey to College also offers training, opportunities for networking and collaboration, correspondence, and college access updates.

Registration for the Journey to College programs is now open at <https://surveys.mo.gov/index.php/325679>.

Postsecondary organizations, community groups and college access organizations can use the same form

to register to host a 2016-2017 FAFSA Frenzy event.

More information about the programs will be presented during Journey to College Day July 26 in Jefferson City.



Decision Day

The Decision Day program, new in 2016, encourages seniors to finalize their plans for the future and celebrates their decision to attend college or enter military service. It also assists students who have yet to make plans for college. To learn more, visit dhe.mo.gov/ppc/decisionday.php.

Support materials and promotional items are provided and shipped to participating schools free of charge. A year-end program participation report

The event is free, but space is limited, so schools should register early at <https://surveys.mo.gov/index.php/197481>.

The Journey to College initiative also includes a variety of college-planning publications, social media sites, and presentations and training for high school counselors and community groups planning college fairs and financial aid events.



REGISTER NOW for Journey to College Day July 26 in Jefferson City.

Apply Missouri

More schools, more students participate in program to find 'best fit' for higher education

NINETY HIGH SCHOOLS participated in the Apply Missouri program in 2015, providing time during the school day for seniors to submit college applications to schools they are interested in attending.

Nearly 5,000 students submitted more than 5,200 college applications.

Apply Missouri, sponsored by the Department of Higher Education, helps students find the "best fit" for higher education.

The program, previously called Missouri College Application Week, was renamed last year, expanded to two months and opened to all Missouri high schools.

Participation in the program has more than doubled since it was piloted in 2013 in 26 high schools with help from the Missouri College Advising Corps. The program grew to include 55 schools in 2014.

School staff, assisted by volunteers with college advising and admissions experience, work one-on-one with students to help them complete applications to one or more higher education institutions.

The primary goal of Apply Missouri is to increase the number of applications submitted by all students, with particular emphasis on low-income and minority students and those who would be the first in their families to attend college.

Participating high schools provide time and resources during the school day for all seniors interested in completing college applications.

Many participating high schools host assemblies and other activities and offer individual college advising to provide students with information about higher education opportunities.

Higher education officials say the college application process establishes important communication channels between students, guidance counselors and postsecondary institutions.

Colleges communicate with students



LEARN MORE about the Apply Missouri program.

who submit applications in the fall an average of five times to provide information about degree programs, financial aid, housing options and other details that can help students plan for college.

Apply Missouri will see some changes in 2016 and will be held in conjunction with the department's FAFSA Frenzy program.



FAFSA Frenzy

More than 90 events help students and families with financial aid application

MORE THAN 1,500 students and their families received free professional assistance with filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid at 93 FAFSA Frenzy events throughout the state this year.

Events were offered in 47 counties during January, February and March. Nearly 650 volunteers provided assistance.

“Completing the FAFSA often is the first step students must take to apply for financial aid for college,” said Leroy Wade, interim commissioner for higher education. “We don’t want the FAFSA to be a barrier for anyone planning to attend college.”

Now in its 13th year, FAFSA Frenzy is sponsored annually by the Missouri Department of Higher Education in partnership with the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel, the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, USA Funds and the National College Access Network.

Students attending a FAFSA Frenzy event were eligible for a drawing to receive a \$500 scholarship for the fall 2016 term. Scholarship winners participated in a FAFSA Frenzy at the following sites:

- Bolivar High School
- Boonville High School
- Columbia Area Career Center
- Drury University, Cabool campus



A FAFSA Frenzy volunteer assists students with filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at Lincoln University.

- Gateway STEM High School
- Herndon Career Center (two)
- Jennings High School (two)
- Missouri Western State University
- North Central Missouri College
- Northwest Missouri State University
- Ozarks Technical College (two)
- Ozarks Technical College, Waynesville campus
- Springfield Public Schools, Kraft Administrative Center

FAFSA frenzy events are open to all students, including high school seniors, current college students and nontraditional students.

Students can receive assistance at any of the FAFSA Frenzy events throughout the state, no matter where they live and go to school or where they plan to attend college.

More than 14,000 Missouri students have received assistance during FAFSA Frenzy since the program began in 2004.

For 2016-2017, FAFSA Frenzy events will be held November through January.



READ MORE about Missouri’s FAFSA Frenzy program.

Decision Day

New program recognizes high school seniors' plans for college, military service

High schools across the state celebrated their seniors' plans for higher education or military service during Decision Day, a new statewide program sponsored by the Department of Higher Education.

Decision Day events are held nationwide on or around May 1 – the date by which most high school seniors must notify a college of their plans to enroll. Decision Day was inspired by the NCAA's National Signing Day when student athletes sign a letter of intent to play sports at a specific college.

In addition to recognizing students who have finalized their plans for

education and training beyond high school, the program also provides information to assist seniors who are still considering higher education but have not applied to college or enrolled in classes.

For younger students, Decision Day emphasizes the importance of planning for higher education.

"Students who plan ahead often have more options for higher education and are ready to make a decision by May, which gives them sufficient time to arrange for housing and transportation and take care of other details essential



LEARN MORE about Missouri Decision Day.

to completing a certificate or degree," said Leroy Wade, interim commissioner for higher education. "Decision Day is one way we can encourage students to finalize and follow through on their plans to pursue higher education."

More than 60 high schools hosted Decision Day events. Activities varied at each school but included assemblies, guest speakers and social media events.



Missouri Department of Higher Education staff don T-shirts and sweatshirts from the college they or their children attended to celebrate Decision Day May 1. The department launched the Decision Day program in Missouri this year to recognize high school seniors' plans to attend college.

Default Prevention Day

Schools share strategies and success stories at annual event



STAFF FROM 30 MISSOURI higher education institutions gathered in Jefferson City in April for the Department of Higher Education's annual Default Prevention Day.

The half-day workshop included presentations from several speakers focusing on topics related to student loan default prevention and financial literacy.

Dr. Rusty Monhollon, assistant commissioner for academic affairs at the Department of Higher Education discussed the co-requisite model for remedial education and open enrollment and the potential impact on retention and default prevention.

David Bartlett, training officer for the U.S. Department of Education, joined the meeting via webcast to provide information about using professional judgment when awarding student financial aid.

Financial aid staff from three Missouri schools shared advice with their peers about campus-wide collaboration to implement default management plans. Staff from the Department of Higher Education provided information and answered questions about the Fiscal Year 2017 Default Prevention Grant process.

The department has awarded approximately \$10 million to 59 Missouri postsecondary schools through the



Leroy Wade (above), interim commissioner of higher education, plays a round of life-size *Monopoly* - the default prevention edition. The game, renamed *Gorlokanopoly* in honor of the Webster University mascot, the Gorlok, was designed by university staff. The game was on display during Default Prevention Day, hosted by the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Default Prevention Grant Program since its inception in 2001.

Default Prevention Day is open to all Missouri higher education institutions, regardless of participation in the grant program.

The percentage of Missourians defaulting on their student loans continues to decline. The state's three-year default rate dropped from 12.6 percent in 2011 to 11.3 percent in 2012. Missouri's default rate remains lower than the national average of 11.8 percent.



READ MORE about Missouri's Default Prevention Day.

Smart About Spending 101

by Marilyn Landrum

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES across Missouri prove every day that there are many ways to promote financial literacy among college students. Here are just few examples:

- North Central Missouri College provides high school seniors visiting their campus with information about the cost of attendance and tips on smart borrowing. Their default prevention team partners with various groups and organizations on campus during the first four weeks of the semester to promote financial literacy through "Minute-to-Win-it" games. During financial literacy month in April North Central focuses on Money Madness Monday and Thrifty Thursday. They also host a graduate pancake breakfast where borrowers are encouraged to complete exit counseling and are provided with information about the different loan repayment options as well as the consequences of defaulting on their loans.
- State Technical College of Missouri offers a prize to students who complete a financial literacy quiz. They also encourage students to be cautious when borrowing and offer one-on-one counseling and urge students to be cautious when borrowing money to pay for their education.
- Columbia College uses Inceptia's Financial Avenue tool. Eye-catching fliers encourage students to complete various courses.
- Jefferson College uses a Cash Cab to attract student attention and draw them in to discuss financial topics.
- Missouri Science & Technology uses events such as pumpkin painting to discuss budgeting. Peer counselors plan a variety of M3 (Miner Money Management) events.
- Stephens College conducts a cookie decorating event to promote financial literacy. Students create posters/collages about their dreams while discussing needs versus wants and being a responsible student loan borrower.
 - Students who stop by the default prevention table on Missouri Southern State University's campus can spin a wheel and answer money management questions to win a prize.
 - Cox College educates nursing students about student loans with a life-size *Operation* game.
- Fontbonne University uses activity hoops to challenge students in creating or reconstructing a financial literacy directed obstacle, such as applying for grants and scholarships, participating in work-study programs, establishing eligibility for federal and state aid and navigating the financial aid process.

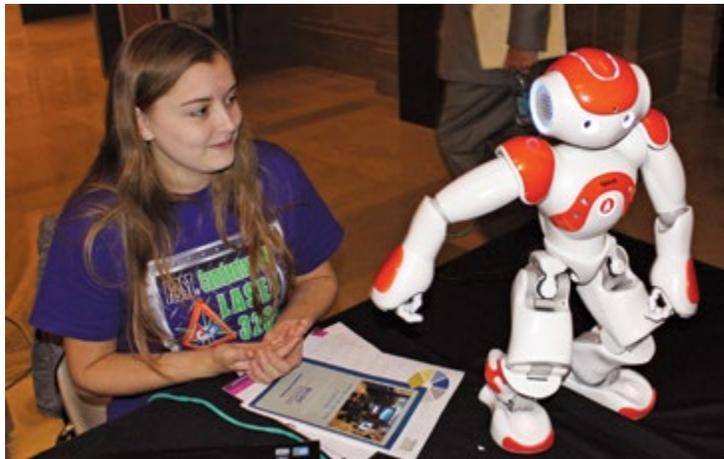


You can see there is no right way or wrong way to improve financial literacy on campus. Tap into your creativity and go for it!



LEARN MORE about Missouri's Default Prevention Program.

STEM Day at the Missouri Capitol



Robotic creations, chemistry demonstrations and computer simulations were on display during STEM Day at the Missouri Capitol in March. The annual event attracts hundreds of students from across the state. Participants show off their own science skills and learn more about STEM-related opportunities in Missouri. This year's event highlighted the importance of encouraging women to pursue STEM careers. 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. Colleges and universities participating in STEM Day this year included State Fair Community College, Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University and Missouri University of Science and Technology.



VIEW A VIDEO about STEM Day at the Missouri Capitol.

International Education Day



More than 400 international students and students who have studied abroad from 26 Missouri colleges and universities traveled to Jefferson City for International Education Day in April. The students, who were invited to wear their native dress, toured the state capitol, listened to debate in the House and Senate and gathered for a luncheon. The event is hosted annually by the Study Missouri Consortium, a group of 40 higher education institutions that work to promote international education in Missouri. Joy Stevenson (below, left), a member of the Study Missouri Executive Committee, presents a Study Missouri T-shirt to Sen. David Pearce, who is completing his final year in the Missouri Senate. Pearce spoke during the luncheon and was recognized by the group for his long-time support of international education in Missouri. More than 22,000 international students attend Missouri colleges and universities.



East Central president is new chair of community college association



Dr. Jon Bauer

AS THE NEW CHAIR of the Missouri Community College Association, Dr. Jon Bauer, is working on a variety of issues that impact Missouri's community colleges: equity funding for increased funding for all of Missouri's public colleges and universities, funding for the A+ scholarship program and support for workforce training.

Bauer, president of East Central College in Union, Mo., succeeds Dr. Ron Chesbrough, president of St. Charles Community College.

Bauer has been a member of the association's governing board since

he became president of East Central College in July 2012. He is a product of Missouri's community college system, graduating in 1984 from Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo. He holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and an MBA from Fontbonne University. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Bauer recently served as a member of the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education steering committee for the development of a new coordinated plan for higher education.

Sen. Pearce leading Midwestern Higher Education Compact

IN HIS FINAL YEAR IN THE MISSOURI SENATE where he serves as chair of the Education Committee, Sen. David Pearce is also serving as commission chair of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC).

Pearce previously served as the organization's vice chair in 2014 and treasurer in 2013. He was initially appointed a MHEC commissioner in 2003 when he was a Missouri state representative.

One of four regional higher education compacts in the United States, MHEC is a nonprofit regional organization assisting its 12 member Midwestern states in advancing higher education through interstate cooperation and resource sharing. Missouri has been a member of the Compact since May 1990.

Missouri higher education institutions, school districts, state and local governments, and students and families have saved more than \$82 million by using MHEC's cost-saving programs and services and student exchange program.

In addition to Sen. Pearce, current Missouri MHEC Commissioners are: Rep. Allen Andrews; Dr. Kenneth W. Dobbins, former president of Southeast Missouri State



MHEC Chair Sen. David Pearce and outgoing MHEC Chair Suzanne Morris, a member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

University; Dr. John M. McGuire, leadership coach for Achieving the Dream; and Mark W. Smith, associate vice chancellor and director of career planning and placement at Washington University in St. Louis.

State Technical College names new president

DR. SHAWN D. STRONG will become the president of State Technical College of Missouri on July 1. Strong will replace retiring longtime president Dr. Don Claycomb.

Strong comes to State Tech from Bemidji State University/Northwest Technical College in Minnesota where he is currently the dean of business technology and communication. He previously spent 14 years at Missouri State University where he worked as the department head of technology and construction management and in a similar capacity with the Department of Fashion and Interior Design.

Prior to his time in higher education, Strong worked as maintenance technician for Packerland Packing in Hospers, Iowa and a maintenance manager at Heritage Industries in Wayne, Nebraska.

Strong holds an associate of applied science degree in mechanical construction technology from Northwest Iowa Technical College, a bachelor's degree in industrial management from Wayne State College, a master's in business administration from Wayne State and his doctorate in industrial education and technology from Iowa State University.



Dr Shawn D. Strong

New president begins at Park University

DR. GREG GUNDERSON became the 17th president of Park University in January. He replaces Jeff Ehrlich, Ed.D., who has served as interim president since July 1.

Ehrlich was appointed interim president to replace David Fowler, who assumed the role of president in July 2014 for a one-year term.

Before joining Park University, Gunderson served nearly five years as the vice president and chief financial officer of Webster University in St. Louis. Prior to his service at Webster, Gunderson spent nine years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Gunderson also has experience in the private sector, previously serving

at ConAgra Inc., at APAC Customer Services in Omaha, Neb.; senior revenue accountant and tax accountant at Cray Research Inc., Eagan, Minn.; and tax accountant at Arthur Anderson and Co., St. Paul, Minn.

Gunderson earned his doctoral degree in educational leadership in higher education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, Minn.) and a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.



Dr. Greg Gunderson

Drury University announces new president

DR. J. TIMOTHY CLOYD will become Drury University's 18th president on July 1.

Cloyd previously served as president of Hendrix College, a liberal arts school in Conway, Ark.

Prior to Cloyd's presidency at Hendrix College, he was vice president for advancement at the college. He returned to the classroom to teach politics and international relations in 2015 following a sabbatical.

Cloyd previously worked as the executive director of advancement at the University of Arkansas – Little Rock and as a political science teacher at Vanderbilt University.

Cloyd has a master's and doctorate in political science from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and bachelor's degrees in philosophy and political science from Emory and Henry College.



Dr. J. Timothy Cloyd

UCM breaks ground for new Innovation Campus facility

LEADERS FROM K-12 SCHOOLS in the Kansas City area, Metropolitan Community College (MCC), the University of Central Missouri (UCM) and area businesses gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony in March for the Missouri Innovation Campus – a facility where students will earn degrees in high-demand fields in less time and with less debt.

The Missouri Innovation Campus program, launched in 2012, began as a collaboration among the Lee's Summit R-7 School District, the Summit Technology Academy, UCM, MCC and more than 40 business partners.

Students enroll in the Missouri Innovation Campus program after they complete their sophomore year in high school. They take dual credit and dual enrollment courses at MCC and UCM with the goal of receiving an associate

degree when they graduate from high school or shortly thereafter. The students can then complete a bachelor's degree at UCM two years later.

Students can earn a degree in: systems engineering technology, drafting and design technology, computer science – software design, and computer science – cyber security.

A key component of the program is student participation in internships and on-the-job education programs at partnering businesses that include Cerner, DST, Black & Veach, Burns & McDonnell and Honeywell.

Legislation approved in 2013 defined an innovation campus as a partnership of high schools, businesses, community colleges and four-year higher education institutions

In April 2015, voters in the Lee's Summit R-7 school district approved a

bond issue that includes \$17.5 million to build a new state-of-the-art facility to house the Missouri Innovation Campus.

Additional innovation campus programs are underway at locations across the state including St. Joseph, Springfield, St. Charles, Cape Girardeau and Joplin. The programs include partnerships among dozens of high schools, community colleges, state universities and businesses.

The innovation campuses have approached the development of their programs in a variety of ways, but they share one common characteristic. They are all partnerships driven by the needs of area business and industry. This pipeline focus is intended to eliminate barriers that sometimes make it difficult for the education community to quickly respond to changing workforce needs.

Summit will focus on using data to improve education in Missouri

A MISSOURI EDUCATION DATA

Summit will consider how data can be used to further improve education in the state.

The free event will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, June 10 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia.

The summit is being hosted by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation with support from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

The event will provide a forum for exploring ideas for the use of publicly available Missouri education data.

Attendees will have an opportunity to:

- Learn more about how data can be used to inform continuous improvement.
- Consider how to use data to communicate with multiple audiences.
- Develop ideas for better use of education data at the local, regional and state levels.
- Network with other education leaders from across Missouri
- Discuss major issues facing schools throughout the state and the data that exists to address these concerns.



REGISTER NOW for the Missouri Education Data Summit.

University of Missouri joins national center to improve STEM instruction

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI has joined the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL), an organization that works to improve teaching skills and increase the diversity of future university faculty in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

“New professors often face their first classes of students with little preparation in teaching. Our goal is to develop great researchers who also are great teachers,” said Kitch Barnicle, executive director of the CIRTL Network.

CIRTL stresses the use of successful, evidence-based strategies proven to promote active learning and to help STEM students from all backgrounds succeed and complete their degrees.

Teaching strategies include: connecting classroom topics to real-world situations, promoting inclusive learning, encouraging teamwork through shared projects and study groups, continually assessing student progress and using research skills to advance effective teaching practices.

Peter Motavalli, a professor in the Department of Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences in the School of Natural Resources at MU, will serve as MU’s director of CIRTL. Motavalli says signing on with this one-of-a-kind national learning community provides each member institution great value.

“According to research, students often leave STEM degree programs due to ineffective teaching,” Motavalli said.

“CIRTL learning communities can target the next generation of STEM faculty members in graduate school because 80 percent of PhDs are granted by just 100 research universities.”

The CIRTL network includes 46 graduate universities. Network members commit to developing local learning communities that promote proven teaching and mentoring techniques for STEM graduate students.

The project, established in 2003, is operated within the Wisconsin Center for Education Research at the UW–Madison School of Education and supported by the National Science Foundation, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation and Affiliates, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.