

MU sets enrollment record with black and Hispanic freshmen

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

The University of Missouri set an enrollment record this year for black and Hispanic freshmen.

The university joins a national trend, experts said, reaping the fruits of at least a decade of work by recruitment and admissions officers toward more diverse schools.

Other factors include high schools striving to close achievement gaps, more need-based scholarships, the new ramped-up G.I. Bill and the increase of the federal Pell Grant to cover an additional 800,000 students nationally.

Although MU's overall freshman count of 5,620 is 192 below 2008's largest incoming class, the new school year begins with 484 African-American freshmen, up 14.7 percent, and 152 Hispanic freshmen, up 16 percent.

"Increasing the diversity on our campus has been our goal for several years," said Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management. "We are thrilled at this growth."

Keeping the students on campus and seeing them graduate is equally important, she said.

"The focus across campus has been on ensuring student success, which is reflected in the record retention rate of 85.4 percent of our 5,800 freshmen who enrolled last year."

Schools such as Florida State, Rutgers, University of North Texas, University of California at Riverside and University of Tennessee also enjoy similar success, said David Shulenburg at the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities in Washington.

Donald Gilliam, 19, of Chicago originally planned to attend North Carolina A&T, a historically black college, but last fall was attracted to Mizzou by a diversity scholarship.

He has been on the Columbia campus one week. "We can tell the difference; there are a lot more minority students on campus. It is visible. I think it is a great thing."

At the University of Missouri-Kansas City, black enrollment is up nearly 10 percent and the number of Hispanic students shot up 19.2 percent.

"But I'm not sure if it is just because of the bang-up job we did with recruiting this year or if it also has something to do with the new way we have to record minority enrollments," said Jennifer DeHaemers, director of admissions.

UMKC began a year early collecting information about students' race and ethnicity differently for new definitions required by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, which keeps national data on schools. A multi-racial category has been added to the ethnic categories on admission forms.

The trend has been building for years, however. Last year, the University of Kansas had the most racially diverse student body in school history.

This year's tallies are not known yet. The Kansas Board of Regents forbids its six universities from revealing enrollment numbers until 20 days after classes start.

"This year we went to the homes of potential students in Topeka, Lawrence and the Kansas City metro area," said Lisa Pinanonti Kress, director of admissions and scholarship.

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St. Louis Business Journal

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Mizzou diversity enrollment breaks records

St. Louis Business Journal

The **University of Missouri** said it welcomed a record number of black and Hispanic students when classes started Monday.

MU officials welcomed 484 African-American freshmen, up nearly 15 percent from 422 last year, and 152 Hispanic freshmen, up 16 percent from 131 last year.

This year's freshman enrollment is the second-highest in MU's history, with 5,620 students, 192 less students than last year's record-breaking class, but 593 more than two years ago.

Overall, the university's first-day enrollment totals 30,831, while the number of undergraduates is 23,659. Both total and undergraduate enrollment numbers are the highest in the history of the university.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU journalism institute aims for growth, self-sufficiency

By Ben Wieder

August 26, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – The \$15 million in additional funding secured by the Reynolds Journalism Institute was the fruit of nearly two years of discussions with the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, said Roger Gafke, RJI director of program development.

The institute makes regular progress reports to the foundation, Gafke said, but formal discussions about an extension of funding began in late 2007.

An evaluation of RJI activities in the first five years of its existence culminated in a presentation to the foundation in May 2009 by Dean Mills, dean of the Journalism School, and Pam Johnson, RJI executive director.

The \$15 million will be distributed evenly over five years, beginning July 1, 2010, and will support staff salaries and program costs, foundation president Steve Anderson said Friday.

The new funding, announced formally on Tuesday, will replenish the original \$31 million gift from the foundation that established RJI in 2004. The initial gift provided funding of staff and program costs for six years.

Had funding not been renewed, the institute would have continued operations, albeit on a smaller scale, Johnson said. "We would have to ratchet down."

Johnson identified an expansion of corporate partners as one of the major goals for RJI. To date, RJI has worked with Apple, Adobe and AT&T, among others, according to the MU News Bureau. Such partnerships allow opportunities for student participation, Mills said, but are also a source of revenue.

"We're going to be doing our darnedest to bring in projects that help with the bottom line," Mills said. He said self-sufficiency is "certainly one of the things that we're aiming for."

Still, RJI leaders hope for future support from the Reynolds Foundation. "Our hope is that at some-point they would consider additional funding," Mills said.

If RJI programming continues to grow, Gafke thinks that future support will be available.

"There's always the expectation that if we're doing good work, other people will join us," he said.

At the morning announcement in Reynolds Journalism Institute, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said the new money makes the Reynolds Foundation MU's largest contributor, with \$60 million in donations since 1987.



Open Column

'Pepper & Friends' cancellation is missed opportunity for MU

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Editor, the Tribune: I attended the town hall meeting regarding "Pepper & Friends" earlier this month. KOMU cited a \$74,000 loss in the production of the show as a reason for cancellation. It was shown in that meeting that "Pepper & Friends" could break even with a slight increase in advertising rates. Two advertisers there agreed it was possible.

What occurred to me was that the cancellation had more to do with KOMU's ability to squeeze more money out of that hour by running a popular syndicated show. The show is a dying breed that other stations canceled years ago.

But Jackie Jones' letter to the group clearly stated that KOMU's first mission is education: In effect, KOMU is a lab. Mission One requires the University of Missouri to consider using "Pepper & Friends" as a workshop and perhaps breaking even on production costs.

Is it worth losing not just 250 hours of broadcast time (and community service time, which the FCC loves) but thousands of workshop hours that go into this show? Because at the end of the budget year, KOMU is still a lab.

Having worked in and out of broadcasting, I have hired my share of green talent and prefer those who know their way around a control board. Although "Pepper & Friends" might be a dying format, it affects real people with real causes, and it offers an unprecedented lab situation where students can learn the nuts and bolts of the business. That makes "Pepper" an asset to MU.

Tom Harris821 Center

Fulton



Police plan sobriety check in city limits

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Advertisement

The Columbia Police Department will conduct a sobriety checkpoint in the city this weekend.

The checkpoint is part of the statewide "You Drink & Drive, You Lose" enforcement campaign, which kicked off Wednesday.

The sobriety checkpoint will start at 11 p.m. and conclude about 3 a.m. one night this weekend, according to a news release from Columbia police.

The date and location were not disclosed.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department, University of Missouri Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol will assist Columbia police with the checkpoint.