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UM System presidential search comes to conclusion

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Saturday, December 10, 2011

ST. LOUIS — After screening businessmen, academics and politicians interested in heading the University of Missouri System, the Board of Curators is expected to name a new president next week.

The announcement is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Reynolds Alumni Center, Curator Craig Van Matre said.

The board's presidential committee unanimously approved the recommended hire in a closed session Thursday in St. Louis, Chairman Warren Erdman said. The board still had to approve that recommendation, but it's essentially guaranteed — the presidential committee was composed of all curators plus the board's nonvoting representative, Laura Confer, who was granted voting power.

Erdman and Curator David Bradley — elected yesterday to be the board's next chairman — said they whittled an initial pool of 100 candidates down to 40 people with whom curators individually spoke via telephone.

"We got to know a larger pool of candidates by having small conversations," Erdman said. "That led to narrowing the field."

Bradley said that field included "candidates from all areas — academic backgrounds, non-academic backgrounds, political people."

Ultimately, curators interviewed four candidates, two of whom were called back for second interviews.

Erdman declined to comment when asked whether Missourians might already be familiar with the incoming president.

Curators met two days after a presidential advisory committee — composed of faculty, student and alumni representatives from the four UM campuses — met the candidate at Mizzou Arena. That group met few times during the presidential search process and only once to review an actual candidate.

Next week's announcement will cap a nearly yearlong search after Gary Forsee resigned in January after his wife was diagnosed with cancer. Steve Owens, the system's general counsel, stepped in as interim president.

Forsee's unforeseen departure was one of two university happenings that threw the system a curveball this year, Erdman said, outlining his yearlong term as head of the board. Also complicating UM business was the decision to shift MU from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference.

As chairman and a Kansas City businessman, Erdman felt the brunt of opposition to the change. Western Missouri, he said, has a deeper connection with the traditions of the Big 6-turned-Big 8-turned-Big 12, in part because of the longtime rivalry with the University of Kansas.

Kansas City, especially, is worried about the potential loss of the yearly basketball and football tournaments. MU, Erdman said, would be happy to continue those rivalries in a nonconference or pre-season setting.

"But it takes two teams to play," he said, referring to KU's supposed unwillingness to play Missouri after MU is in the SEC.

During public comments yesterday, Bradley put it more bluntly, saying he wishes "KU would grow up."

Missouri prepares to name new university president

COLUMBIA, Mo. | The University of Missouri is on the verge of hiring a new president and expects to publicly unveil its choice within days.

After a yearlong search, university curators have identified a preferred candidate, chairman Warren Erdman said Friday after a two-day meeting of the governing board at the system's St. Louis campus. Erdman said the formal hiring and announcement is contingent on finalizing contract negotiations.

"I would hope we might be able to make an announcement next week," said Erdman, who will step down as chairman in 2012 but remain on the board. His successor is vice chairman David Bradley, publisher of the St. Joseph News-Press.

The university is seeking a replacement for Gary Forsee, who stepped down as president in January to care for his wife as she battles cancer. Interim president Steve Owens has said he is not a candidate for the permanent job and plans to resume his duties as general counsel.

Erdman and Bradley declined to discuss the background or qualifications of the confidential search's remaining finalist from a pool of 100 candidates considered by the board, which summoned four of those candidates for interviews. Applicants came "from all walks of life," Bradley said, including business, academic and politics.

Only one of those finalists was interviewed by a 20-member curators' advisory panel made of professors, students, campus workers and alumni from the four Missouri system campuses. That group quizzed the curators' first choice for president during a Tuesday meeting in Columbia.

The unnamed candidate received the nod of all curators, including student representative Laura Confer, who normally isn't allotted a vote.

In the previous presidential search four years ago, Forsee was chosen after New Jersey businessman Terry Sutter emerged as the preferred candidate to replace Elson Floyd, and was publicly identified in media reports. Sutter instead opted to become chief operating officer of a Florida steel manufacturer. Former U.S. Rep. Kenny Hulshof, a Columbia Republican, was a finalist during that search but was not offered the job.

In other business, curators discussed a 3 percent proposed tuition increase for the next academic year, needed in part to cover a budget shortfall of more than \$78 million, half of which is aside for delayed campus building maintenance and repairs. Tuition rates won't be set for several more months and are contingent on state funding once legislators return to Jefferson City next month.

The governing board also considered a proposal to offer discounted tuition to out-of-state students who live in the 55 counties bordering Missouri in communities such as Quincy, Ill., and northern Arkansas.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Missouri prepares to name new university president

Associated Press | Posted: Friday, December 9, 2011 11:13 am |

The University of Missouri is on the verge of hiring a new president.

Board chairman Warren Erdman says that university curators have identified a preferred candidate and hope to announce the new hire next week after finalizing contract negotiations. The governing board of the four-campus system met Thursday and Friday in St. Louis.

The university is seeking a replacement for Gary Forsee, who stepped down as president in January to care for his wife as she battles cancer. Interim president Steve Owens has said he is not a candidate for the permanent job and will resume his duties as general counsel.

Erdman declined to discuss the background or qualifications of the confidential search's remaining finalist from a group of four candidates interviewed by the board.

Board of Curators hopes to announce new UM System president next week

By Zach Murdock

December 9, 2011 | 11:31 a.m. CST

ST. LOUIS – The UM System Board of Curators hopes to announce a new UM System president sometime next week.

The presidential search committee met in executive session at the University of Missouri-St. Louis Thursday, and board Chairman Warren Erdman said Friday that the committee has completed its work and chosen a new system president.

Erdman said curators must still work out employee agreement details before the new president can be named, but he said he is confident those agreements will be made promptly.

"I'm confident, but it ain't done 'til it's done," he said. Erdman said he could not speculate on the person or name of the candidate because the hiring has not officially concluded.

The search committee's vote to approve the finalist was unanimous, Erdman said, including a vote from student curator Laura Confer.

The final employee agreement requires ratification by the Board of Curators before any announcement can be made.

Erdman said the search came down to four interviews with candidates, second interviews and telephone follow-ups before the search committee settled on a single finalist. The final candidate was present and interviewed Tuesday at a presidential search advisory committee meeting at Mizzou Arena.

If a president is announced next week, it would conclude a nearly year-long search comprised of dozens of hours spent in private meetings speaking to and reviewing potential candidates.

The search began in January after former President Gary Forsee stepped down to care for his ill wife. Steve Owens has served as interim president since January and has said he plans to return to his former position as system general counsel when a new president is named.



UM sets stage for tuition hike with bleak budget

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Published December 9, 2011 at 9:33 a.m.

Updated December 9, 2011 at 1:24 p.m.

ST. LOUIS — A University of Missouri System curator yesterday accused administrators of bloating budget numbers to make the financial picture look worse than reality.

“When we talk about these budget gaps, we lose credibility,” said Don Downing, a board member from Webster Groves.

The fiscal year 2013 budget picture aimed to set the stage for talk of a proposed tuition increase of at least the consumer price index, expected to be 3 percent this year. Nikki Krawitz, UM vice president of finance and administration, painted a gloomy fiscal forecast that shows the university experiencing a \$78.3 million gap without tuition increases, even accounting for \$7.9 million more generated from enrollment growth.

But Downing challenged a \$39 million piece of the total that is earmarked for building maintenance and repairs. That is money lawmakers know university administrators have no intention of spending in the coming fiscal year, he said.

“If they look at our numbers, they’re going to know they’re inflated by \$39 million,” Downing said, adding lawmakers would then be suspicious of other numbers.

Krawitz defended the figure by saying the system must allocate for expenses it has — and make sure lawmakers understand there are unmet needs.

The budget forecast shows an additional \$20 million for a 3 percent increase to the salary pool. Benefits are expected to be up another \$11.2 million.

Administrators are asking curators to approve tuition and fee increases at a later meeting. A 3 percent increase would amount to roughly \$13.2 million in extra funding for the system. MU would see about \$6.9 million, budget director Tim Rooney said.

State law requires tuition and fee increases charged to all in-state undergraduate students be subject to state review if they exceed inflation. Colleges that fail to get a waiver face a state funding penalty.

But fees charged to students in certain programs or schools aren’t subject to state approval, and several MU programs are seeking fee increases.

MU also wants curators to consider a border rate that would discount tuition for out-of-state students living in one of 55 counties that border Missouri. Krawitz assured the board such a change would generate additional revenue by enticing more students.

The UM budget models assume state funding for higher education will be held at the same rate budgeted this year. If that's not the case, Krawitz said curators might see a different proposal at their February meeting. She said Missouri Department of Higher Education officials have warned the state could be facing a \$789 million gap because federal funding used this year won't be available next year.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said he is working to get the next major fund-raising campaign under way. The campaign will seek "well above" the \$1 billion raised in the For All We Call Mizzou campaign a few years ago, but he said a committee will determine the final amount. Unlike the last campaign, which solicited dollars for buildings, the next fundraiser will ask donors to support endowments to pay for professorships and scholarships.



Funding plan gets state OK

Schools would quantify success.

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Friday, December 9, 2011

ST. LOUIS — How universities and colleges perform in terms of ensuring student success could determine how much additional funding they get from the state.

The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education yesterday approved a performance funding plan that would encourage state lawmakers to dole out funding increases based on whether schools meet specific goals.

Nikki Krawitz, the University of Missouri's vice president of finance and administration, attended part of that morning meeting in Jefferson City before presenting the information to the UM System Board of Curators yesterday afternoon.

Four-year institutions would have to meet one of several criteria in four broad areas, and each school sets a fifth target that reflects its mission. For the UM System, which will encompass all four campuses in this process, that extra goal will center on how much federal research funding is brought into Missouri.

Universities will have to track retention rates, degree attainment and quality of learning and show financial responsibility and efficiency.

The latter is not about keeping tuition down, said Paul Wagner, deputy commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

"They really speak to focusing resources on the core functions of the institution," Wagner said in an email, adding university representatives are still working on details.

Wagner acknowledged gauging quality of learning will be tricky. Schools have the option of using general education assessments, assessments in major academic fields or professional and occupational licensure. UM is leaning toward the latter, Krawitz said.

Wagner said that option makes sense for the system because the campuses offer programs — health occupations, for instance — that require professional exams. He also stressed performance funding will account for a small portion of an institute's total funding, "so it doesn't make sense to expect the measures to cover everything."

The goal is to implement performance funding for fiscal year 2014, which starts in summer 2013. Under the plan, higher education department would determine which targets institutions met and use that information to base funding increase recommendations that then go to the governor.

Columbia Rep. Chris Kelly, a Democrat, has repeatedly indicated lawmakers won't like the idea of performance funding. And ultimately, it's up to them, Wagner said.

"The General Assembly does whatever it wants to after" the governor recommends a budget, he said, "and they may or may not follow or even pay any attention to what either the department or governor wants."

Alternate funding, tuition dominate December Board of Curators meetings

By Zach Murdock

December 9, 2011 | 1:15 p.m. CST

ST. LOUIS – Money is the name of the game for the UM System Board of Curators.

At the board's December meeting at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, curators spent nearly all of Thursday afternoon and Friday morning discussing system finances and the threat of continued drops in state funding for higher education.

"The issue of where new revenues come from is the challenge of this time, and I think it's what we've really got to focus on," board Chairman Warren Erdman said.

During a Thursday finance committee presentation, Nikki Krawitz, UM System vice president of finance and administration, talked about the system's financial planning and the effects of declining state funding.

"From a pessimistic perspective, each of our campuses is looking at a potential for a decrease in state funding and support," Krawitz said Thursday.

During a chancellor's panel about changing times in higher education Friday morning, Leo Morton, chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, said that when he meets with legislators next week, he wants to emphasize that legislators in Jefferson City are investors in higher education, too.

Morton said that even in his own office, visiting legislators have told him there is a disconnect between college graduates and jobs in Missouri. He said he wants the system to focus on how it markets the value of higher education to its investors, including private donors and legislators.

Morton and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton emphasized that private donors should not be supplementing state funding but providing additional resources for programs to get to the

next level. Deaton said several donors he has spoken with have said they will not continue to give to MU if state support keeps dwindling, specifically because they don't want their money filling a funding gap created by the state.

"That's something I think we all know we have to focus on; the 'other revenues' piece of the pie is going to have to grow," curator Don Downing said Thursday. "I think all of us are going to have to focus on more creative ways to increase revenue."

Thursday the board discussed a proposal to raise the 2012-13 tuition at three UM campuses — MU, UMKC and UMSL — at the rate of inflation, which is estimated to be about 3 percent.

The Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla proposed an increase at the rate of inflation plus an additional 2 percent increase to provide more funding for need-based scholarships.

The proposal includes increases in some course fees with an average increase of \$7.25 in 10 fee increases across the four system campuses.

However, curators could approve an increase above the rate of inflation depending on the amount of state appropriations for higher education in the governor's next budget, Steve Owens, interim president for the UM System, said Friday.

The board only discussed tuition increases at its meeting in St. Louis but will vote on finalized proposals at its February board meeting at in Kansas City.

Also on Friday, the board moved to elect a new chairman to succeed Warren Erdman, whose term expires Dec. 31.

The board unanimously voted to elect current vice chairman David Bradley to become the 2012 chairman and unanimously elected curator Wayne Goodeto succeed Bradley as vice chairman for 2012. Board chair and vice chair positions are one-year terms.

In his remarks Friday morning, Bradley thanked Erdman for working through what Bradley called one of the most tumultuous years the curators have had — including the resignation of former system President Gary Forsee, the hire of MU men's basketball coach Frank Haith and the approval of a move for MU to join the Southeastern Conference.

"That said, it's been a great year," Erdman said. "In spite of all of those unforeseen challenges, I really feel good about the year and what (the curators) were able to do as a team."



Financial problems take toll on families

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Saturday, December 10, 2011

Financial problems are taking a toll on family relationships, even among people in higher income brackets, a University of Missouri researcher says.

Gustavo Carlo, a professor in the MU Department of Human Development and Family Studies, found parents who experience financial problems and depression are less likely to feel connected to their children. And those children are less likely to engage in positive social behaviors, such as volunteering.

"The study serves as a reminder that children's behaviors are affected by issues beyond their immediate surroundings," Carlo said in a statement. "Families' economic situations are affected by broader factors in our society, and those financial problems can lead to depression that hurts parent-child relationships."

Unlike previous studies that have focused on high-risk, low-income families, Carlo and his colleagues studied middle- to upper-middle-class families. Parents and children answered questions about economic stress, depression and how connected parents and children feel. A year later, the children reported how often they engage in positive social behaviors toward family members, friends and strangers.

"Even middle-class families are having financial difficulties, and it's affecting their ability to be effective parents," Carlo said. "When parents are depressed, it affects their relationships with their kids."

Carlo suggests depressed parents seek treatment from a mental health professional, if possible, or seek help from friends, churches or other community agencies.

Parents also need to balance efforts to help them spend quality time with their children.

"Raising kids is tough as it is," he said. "When you have the added layers of financial difficulty and depression, it makes raising children even more challenging."

Carlo collaborated with researchers from Brigham Young University for the study, which was published in the Journal of Research on Adolescence earlier this year.

MU researchers discover protein to help plants fight diseases

By [Jade Earle](#)

December 9, 2011 | 2:36 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – MU scientists have found a protein that helps plants fight diseases and pathogens.

The researchers studied the weed Arabidopsis and discovered a protein within it called EDS1, also known as Enhanced Disease Susceptibility 1, which resists plant diseases and can help strengthen them against future pathogens.

Walter Gassman, an MU plant sciences professor and researcher at the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center, said in a press release that the protein detects disease agents as they attack its host plant. Ultimately, this triggers an immune response.

Plants with the protein, such as the Arabidopsis, are resistant to infections, but the protein doesn't fight the infection or disease alone. Sentinels acting as plant immune receptors or sensors, guard the protein and trigger an alarm once it's under attack. The alarm results in a plant defense response.

This protein could have applications for agriculture.

"If we can identify the actual targets in the plant, like EDS1, and manipulate these genes in key crops, we could extend the planting cycles for a longer period of time," Gassman said in the release.

When a plant lacks enough EDS1 or does not have the protein at all, a disease agent can attack and repress the plant's weak immune system long enough to spread and kill it.

Gassman said further study is needed to help researchers discover ways to add the protein to crops or strengthen the defense response of plants that already have the protein.

"We're still a long way from application in the field," he said. "However, this addition could ultimately produce more food."

Drought taking financial toll on Missouri agriculture

By The Associated Press

December 9, 2011 | 8:59 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — A drought across parts of Missouri this year could prove costly for farmers.

The MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources said the drought could cost the state's soybean producers \$300 million this year.

The drought lasted less than six months, but university experts said it dried the soil down to 5 feet below the surface — the depth where the roots of mature plants often seek moisture and nutrition.

MU soil science professor Randall Miles said it will take persistent rains for many weeks or months to replenish the moisture in the soil. He said the 2012 Missouri corn crop could experience the greatest effects because corn is planted earlier than soybeans or winter wheat.

Farmers benefit from broadband

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Sunday, December 11, 2011

Without his high-speed home Internet connection, Mark Mahnken's formula for healthy, tasty grass-fed beef might not have turned into the booming business it is today.

Mark Mahnken uses mobile applications and a website as part of his Missouri Legacy Beef operation.

Mahnken and his wife, Susie, upgraded the connection to their Salisbury-area farm five years ago because they needed to improve the accounting system for their cattle company and family farm.

But the timing couldn't have been better. A year later, Mark came up with the perfect blend of supplements and grass to create a healthy beef product. By taking advantage of the technology that links them to the world, the Mahnkens have been able to transform that product from a hobby into Missouri Legacy Beef, a company that has seen sales double in each of the past three years.

Not all Missouri farmers are hooked up to broadband Internet, though, and the gap between the haves and the have-nots is growing, according to a University of Missouri study. Even though traditionalists might not realize it, those gaps have serious implications for farmers as they face the future, said Tom Johnson, an agricultural economics professor at MU who co-authored the report.

"If you don't have it, it doesn't open up the opportunities you would have otherwise to change your business or to market your products," he said. "Once you have it, then it allows you to expand your demand."

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Johnson is director of the Community Policy Analysis Center in the Truman School of Public Affairs at MU. He and co-authors released the study, "The Benefits of Expanded Broadband for Missouri Farms and Agribusiness," this fall.

It came on the heels of a report released earlier this year by researchers in North Carolina about the impact broadband Internet has on U.S. agriculture. In that report, researchers found that counties that received U.S. of Agriculture loans to install broadband Internet saw a net increase in farm profits of 3 percent.

That might not sound like a lot, Johnson said, but that's the average within counties where some farms might not be hooked up yet.

"Some of the farmers who had broadband probably made a lot more money," he said.

Looking at farm data for Missouri, Johnson in his study found that farmers with high-speed access see higher profits and that growth in profits has been higher in counties with above-average rates of high-speed Internet adoption.

There are many benefits to farmers who have access to high-speed connections, Johnson's report says. Topping the list is having the ability to link to the outside world and increase a customer base while remaining on the farm.

Susie Mahnken uses a plethora of online applications to get the Missouri Legacy Beef name out. The company sells products to customers across the country through a website, which allows for online orders and payments.

But just having an online presence helps, too.

A family from Kansas City recently found Missouri Legacy Beef while searching for grass-fed products online. They loaded up coolers on a Saturday in November and drove to the Columbia Farmers Market, where they spent about \$600 on beef, Susie said.

And she doesn't just use the Internet to attract new customers. Susie also makes sure she keeps them coming back. She has about 450 people who subscribe to her email newsletter, which advertises special deals and events. And those not on the list can check out coupons and specials on the company's Facebook page.

"It would be very difficult to do what we do without high-speed Internet," Susie said.

Specialty farms, perhaps, have the most to gain from broadband because it allows farmers to expand markets, the report says.

"In today's global market place, timely and accurate information is the key to competing in commodity markets. But information is even more important for producers in higher value niche markets where value is determined by reliability, punctuality, customer services and lower transaction costs," it says.

Liz Graznak needs her high-speed access to more efficiently operate her community-supported agricultural business, Happy Hollow Farm. Although her company website isn't set up to take online payments, visitors can read up on the crop share program and can subscribe through the site.

Happy Hollow Farm had about 55 families this summer and has roughly 35 this winter who receive weekly boxes of organic produce from Graznak's Jamestown-area farm. Because the produce isn't always the same and is sometimes unfamiliar, she relies on technology to educate her customers without having to take time to field dozens of phone calls.

During the third week of November, for instance, members got a rough-looking root in their weekly crop boxes. Through an electronic newsletter, which is emailed and posted on her website and Facebook page, Graznak was able to tell everyone at once not to be put off by the appearance of celery root. Instead, the newsletter instructed customers to soak and cut it to find celeriac inside. A recipe for cornbread-and-celeriac stuffing was included in case people still weren't sure what to do with it.

"I got a bunch of emails about celery root from people who had eaten it for the first time and loved it," Graznak said. "It's a wonderful celery-tasting vegetable, very crunchy, so for those who never had it before and emailed me, that was really great."

Graznak's farm didn't have access to high-speed Internet until January 2010. She can't imagine trying to efficiently run the business using a dial-up connection.

"We consider ourselves very lucky that we got high-speed Internet," she said. "The way we're farming, it's very important."

Johnson's study found that farmers go online mostly for email and banking, but they also use it for research.

"A lot of people don't realize how much agriculture has changed over the recent years, how technological and scientific it has become," Johnson said. "As a result, there's an enormous amount of data that they need."

Those data include real-time weather tracking, futures market information and live auction prices. Mark Mahnken gets all of that and the latest farming trends through a subscription-based website, www.telvent.com.

"They're constantly updating it," Mark said, giving a demonstration of the program last month on his laptop and Android-powered smartphone. "I check it three or four times a day."

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Agribusiness will be left in the dust unless federal policymakers make an effort to improve technology in rural communities that support farmers, Johnson said.

His study suggests a federal initiative could complement the state's MoBroadband Now initiative, which has invested more than \$311 million to increasing the number of high-speed connections in the state.

Missouri is especially vulnerable. The gap between the percentages of Show-Me State farms with Internet access has nearly doubled compared with farms in other states over the past five years. And 60 percent of agribusinesses surveyed for a MoBroadbandNow study showed 60 percent are dissatisfied with their current connections.

"Missouri has done a lot, but other states have done even more," Johnson said. "Our agriculture will be less competitive and evolve slower because opportunities are not there for them."

The problem is dynamic as technology improves. Providers looking at cash flow are eager to meet demands for even higher-speed connections in metropolitan areas.

"Meanwhile, people in that particular industry, agriculture and rural communities, are falling farther and farther behind, in some sense," Johnson said.

And when towns lack infrastructure, they start to dry up.

Johnson's next paper will look at the impact of high-speed access in rural communities.

“We didn’t focus much on that in this paper, but that’s where we need to go,” he said. “The quality of life in rural areas for farmers is more dependent on all other things going on in the community. Farmers depend more on their rural community than their rural community depends on farmers, so we, for the sake of farmers and other residents, have to look broadly at the whole mix of services available in rural areas.”



Paquin, Bear Creek to get free Wi-Fi

By Andrew Denney

Columbia Daily Tribune Sunday, December 11, 2011

MU MENTION PAGE 2

In an increasingly connected society, those without Internet access can get left behind. But residents at two Columbia Housing Authority facilities might soon get a chance to catch up.

On Dec. 5, the Columbia Housing Authority Board of Commissioners approved resolutions to allow CEO Phil Steinhaus to request permission from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to enter into lease agreements that would provide wireless Internet access to Paquin Tower and the Bear Creek Family Site.

Full Stream LLC, which would provide Wi-Fi to Paquin Tower, is proposing to lease space on the building's roof for a tower. The company would pay the Columbia Housing Authority \$1,500 per month and provide Wi-Fi to residents for free.

BlueBird Media Network, which will provide service to the authority's Bear Creek site, was previously awarded federal stimulus money. The firm is leasing CHA property to build a communications transmission facility near the Bear Creek site and will provide free Wi-Fi to residents there.

Steinhaus said the agreements could help CHA residents bridge a "digital divide" that often separates low-income individuals and families from a society that is dependent upon communications technology.

Jeff Shirley, president of the Paquin Tower Residents' Association, said free wireless access for residents at the facility could make it easier for them to reach out to social services and make it easier for residents who do not get around well take care of everyday tasks, such as paying bills or keeping track of their bank accounts.

Shirley said he already pays for Internet service from CenturyLink and he likely would keep paying for it even after free wireless is provided, just in case the new network ever has any problems.

"I couldn't imagine being without Internet," Shirley said.

Steinhaus said residents at Paquin Tower, which is designated for people with disabilities and seniors, have shown to be more tech-savvy than residents at other CHA facilities as disabled residents have found more practical uses for the Internet in their everyday lives. He said roughly 20 percent of Paquin Tower residents have Internet access.

But at the Bear Creek Family Site, which caters to low-income families, Steinhaus said CHA staffers estimate that only about 5 percent of residents have access to a computer and it is unknown how many have access to the Internet.

Tom Johnson, director of the Community Policy Analysis Center at the University of Missouri's Truman School of Public Affairs, recently co-authored a study on the digital divide faced by residents of Missouri's rural communities, which found better Internet access has the potential to improve health care and educational opportunities.

Johnson said as more employers are publishing job postings and employment applications online, and as more employers demand employees whose skill sets include proficiency with computers, job seekers are done a disservice if they have limited access to the Web.

"If you're looking for a job, you're just disadvantaged if you're not using all the options you possibly can," Johnson said.



Universities block triple-X domain names

Universities have gotten into an unlikely business: buying .xxx website addresses.

New .xxx addresses became available to the public last week, but some schools didn't wait that long to secure important addresses, as a way to prevent adult content providers from profiting off them.

Beginning two months ago, ICM Registry gave trademark holders an opportunity to pay \$200 per address for a one-time blocking charge to ensure that it not be used for adult content. At that time, the University of Kansas purchased the rights to several addresses including [kansas.xxx](#) and [rockchalkjayhawk.xxx](#) and [jayhawks.xxx](#).

Then, last week when the public sale began, the college bought several more—including [kustore.xxx](#), [kugirls.xxx](#) and [jayhawk.xxx](#)—bringing its total to nearly two dozen. "We settled on the ones that we thought it would be reasonable for us to protect," says Paul Vander Tuig, the university's trademark licensing director. "It's truly a preventative blocking measure, blocking others from doing it."

Across the country, other colleges including Michigan, Penn State, Purdue, Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon and Indiana did the same thing. **The University of Missouri secured the addresses [missouri.xxx](#), [missouritigers.xx](#) and [mizzou.xxx](#). "I think it's a smart thing to do," says Terry Robb of the university's information technology department.**

Internet domain group Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers approved the .xxx domain earlier this year; ICM Registry originally submitted a proposal in 2000.

What is confusing is that current adult content sites are not required to move from .com or .net addresses, says ICANN's Brad White. "Half the porn industry likes it and half doesn't."

What the .xxx domain does do "is to clearly signpost adult entertainment on the Net. For those people who want to find adult content, they can easily find it," says ICM Registry CEO Stuart Lawley. ", and for those who wish to avoid this kind of content, not only can you see that it has the .xxx as a suffix visibly ... parents can set their browser settings at home and on mobile devices to filter this content out automatically."

Also before putting .xxx addresses up for sale, certain key addresses were sold, most notably gay.xxx for \$500,000 to the gay film production studio Corbin Fisher.

As with universities, other trademark holders such as companies took advantage of the "defensive registrations," Lawley says. "A lot of famous brands did that."

Along with www.kansas.com, addresses such as www.disney.xxx and www.marvel.xxx indicate they have been reserved.

Acquiring the addresses as a defensive move makes perfect sense, says Barbara Brooks, co-senior partner at The Strategy Group. "It's to preclude anybody else from using their good name in an inappropriate way."

Once addresses become available to the public, cyber squatters can snatch them up and hold the sites for high-dollar ransom. "It's an unfortunate part of what one does today in order to do business and maintain the integrity of the institutional name, the brand name, the organization, the students, whatever it is that one has built the equity in that what we have to do in this digital age."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Gov. Nixon announces million-dollar grant to help nursing students across Missouri

By Allison Seibel

December 9, 2011 | 5:15 p.m. CST

ST. LOUIS – Gov. Jay Nixon announced Friday he will designate \$1 million in grants for Missouri colleges and universities toward educating nurses.

The grants, which come as part of the Caring for Missourians initiative, will be given for the 2012, 2013 and 2014 fiscal years for schools to hire faculty, purchase educational equipment and offer scholarships. Money for the grants came from revenue generated from nursing license fees collected by the Missouri State Board of Nursing.

The board selected grant recipients, including public and private colleges. They could receive up to \$150,000 per year.

The state Board of Nursing approved these grants for fiscal year 2012, according to a news release:

- Cox College (Springfield) - \$149,978
- Mineral Area College (Park Hills) - \$149,950
- Ozarks Technical Community College (Springfield) - \$150,000
- **MU - \$149,540**
- University of Missouri - Kansas City - \$83,596
- University of Missouri - St. Louis - \$149,996
- William Jewell College (Liberty) - \$149,750

Cheap Independence Bowl tickets sell out in 45 minutes

By Andrew Wagaman, Kaylen Ralph

December 9, 2011 | 3:07 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The initial reactions of students who lined up for tickets to the Independence Bowl were all similar. The price was a typo. A joke. A misunderstanding.

But it wasn't. **With the Missouri Athletics Department's support, Tiger's Lair sold student tickets for \$9.99 Friday morning at the MU Student Center. The ticket covers transportation to Shreveport, La., entry into the Missouri football game against North Carolina, a one-night hotel stay and a breakfast.**

The bus leaves Columbia for Shreveport at 12:01 a.m. Dec. 26. The game is the same day at 4 p.m. The students who go will have to return to campus on Christmas to make it on the bus.

For students who live a few hours away, it is still a deal.

"I've never been to a bowl game before, and I've never been to Louisiana," freshman Kiley Findley said. "I figured at \$10, it was pretty much a steal. So why not go?"

Findley, who is from Lawson, about two hours from Columbia, said she had to sweet-talk her mom into letting her go. Findley was first in line after arriving with her roommate at 3 a.m. She figured the sale would attract many students.

The next group, including junior Travis McCartney, didn't arrive until 5 a.m. By 9 a.m., when the tickets went on sale, Greg Loeffler, Tiger's Lair travel coordinator, estimated there were 70 to 75 people in line. The 53 available tickets sold out in 45 minutes.

McCartney said he didn't find out about the deal until his father, who saw it on Facebook, alerted him.

"He told me, 'You're going,'" McCartney said.

McCartney, from Cameron, said his family is usually done with its Christmas festivities by 10:30 in the morning. He plans on driving back to Columbia around 5 or 6 p.m. to catch the bus.

Rather than returning to Columbia the morning after the game, McCartney said he plans to rent a car and drive five hours to Houston to visit relatives.

After paying \$10 for the bowl game trip, he would pay \$135 for the rental car.

The athletics department helped to lower the cost by paying for the game tickets and the bus, Loeffler said. The bus cost the athletics department about \$5,000.

Ticket sales were open to all students, and each student had the option of bringing one guest at an inflated rate of \$29.99.

Senior Mackensie Murphy of Columbia stood in line with his father, but Tim Murphy wasn't there for the guest ticket. Both father and son are seniors at MU, studying English and biology, respectively.

Tim Murphy, 53, works at Learfield Sports and updates the college football scoreboard on Saturdays, so he hasn't attended a Missouri football game all season. Mackensie Murphy, 21, told him about the bowl game deal, and after they got permission from Mackensie's mom, they decided to go.

"It's one of those experiences I've not done," Tim Murphy said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Women's and Children's Hospital hosts Winter Wonderland Toy Drive

By Brie Daniels

December 11, 2011 | 4:09 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – Transformers action figures, Mr. Potato Heads, Candyland, baby dolls and basketballs lined the front of a conference room at the Women's and Children's Hospital on Sunday. The hospital hosted its second annual Winter Wonderland Toy Drive. Organizations from Jefferson City, Fulton and Columbia were all represented.

Around two dozen volunteers from The Jefferson City Jaycees, a leadership development organization, came dressed in winter gear and blue Santa hats to drop off their donations. The organization chooses two places each year to donate toys to. Books were sent into the hospital from Fulton, and Sigma Sigma Sigma – an MU sorority – donated toys that members collected from their chapter.

“I came up with the idea because I was in the hospital as a kid so I know how it feels to be in a hospital room when your friends are at home getting presents,” Tri-Sigma’s philanthropy chair Brittney Friedman said. “It became something bigger just by making a few phone calls.”

The Winter Wonderland Toy Drive itself was the result of people calling into the hospital on a regular basis wondering how they could donate. Everything the toy drive collects is distributed under the direction of The Child Life staff at the hospital.

“To begin with, we make a bag of toys for the kids who we know will be here on Christmas,” said Michelle Kemp, coordinator of Children’s Miracle Network and Special Events. “It’s really two-fold because the younger kids are always worried that Santa won’t find them and then some of the parents who have children under extended care haven’t had time to go out and shop.” The remainder of the toys are set aside for children who will be in the hospital on their birthday, put in the play rooms on the different floors of the hospital and given as prizes to any child who is set to have an unpleasant procedure. So even though the toy drive is held at Christmas, the hospital uses the donations throughout the year. “This is by far our biggest collection,” Kemp said.