Missouri awards $1M in grants to educate more nurses

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. -- Seven Missouri colleges will share nearly $1 million in state grants to educate more nursing students.

The grants range from $124,000 to $150,000 and are funded by state licensing fees paid by current nurses. Universities may use the money to hire faculty, buy equipment and offer scholarships.

The recipients, announced Thursday, are the University of Missouri campuses in Columbia and St. Louis, Lincoln University, Missouri State University, Research College of Nursing in Kansas City, the University of Central Missouri and Truman State University.
MU Sinclair School of Nursing adds faculty to serve students

By Lexie Cartee
September 20, 2012 | 9:41 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU's Sinclair School of Nursing has hired faculty in an effort to address the need for health professions in Missouri and across the country.

Eighty percent of Missouri is a designated health professions shortage area, according to the Missouri Foundation for Health. Nevertheless, students are being turned away from nursing schools.

Each semester, 80 to 160 MU students apply to the Sinclair School of Nursing, competing for 55 available spots.

"Qualified students are not being admitted because we don't have enough faculty and enough space," Judith Fitzgerald Miller, dean of the nursing school, said. The faculty had to do some "creative planning" to increase the number of clinical classes offered to students.

In clinical classes, students work with patients in a real health care setting such as a hospital, Miller said.

To serve more students, the school administration made two changes: It added two full-time and one part-time teaching positions, and it added summer and evening clinical classes. This brings the school's faculty to 46 full-time and 14 part-time members, said Shoshana Herndon, director of communications at the nursing school.

The school also received a $150,000 grant through Gov. Jay Nixon's Caring for Missourians program Thursday. More than $96,000 will be used to provide scholarships for doctoral students who will become teachers of nursing and must commit to teach in Missouri for three years, Miller said. The rest of the money will be invested in a clinical lab and equipment.

The nursing school needs to maintain a 10-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, which is half the size of the ratio for MU in general.
"These students are working with very ill patients," Miller said, and keeping the student-faculty ratio low "allows for patient safety to be a top priority."

**Nurse shortage in state, country**

Other nursing schools across the country are struggling to accommodate more students.

More than 75,500 qualified applicants to nursing programs in the U.S. were denied admission in 2011 due to lack of faculty and space, according to the 2011 American Associates of Colleges of Nursing Survey.

The uptick in demand for nurses stems from factors such as the aging of the nurse workforce and of the population in general, Miller said.

"As the baby boomers age, there is a greater need for health care, a greater need for health care workers," said Tracy Greever-Rice, interim director of the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis.

People 65 or older represented 12.4 percent of the U.S. population in 2000, but are expected to grow to 19 percent of the population by 2030, according to the Administration on Aging website.

The Sinclair School of Nursing has a job placement rate after graduation of 100 percent, Miller said. And it might stay that way.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2010, the number of available jobs for registered nurses are expected to continue to grow until 2018.

*Missourian reporter Dandan Zou contributed to this article.*

*Supervising editor is Simina Misteanau.*
NRC sends inspectors to campus

**Pickard Hall radiation request under review.**

By Janese Silvey

Inspectors from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be on the University of Missouri campus next week making sure radiation at Pickard Hall is being properly monitored.

The NRC is still reviewing MU's request to indefinitely postpone cleanup in the building, spokeswoman Prema Chandrathil said. The inspection is routine, she said, and will help the commission decide whether to grant the university's request.

Under regulations that went into effect in 2007, the NRC requires buildings where naturally occurring radioactive material is found to be cleaned within two years. In 2009, the agency notified MU that Pickard's radiation levels exceeded those regulations.

MU asked for an indefinite extension in the cleanup timeline, and the two entities have since been trying to agree on a plan to decommission the building — or get it off the NRC watch list.

Peter Ashbrook has retired as director of MU's Environmental Health and Safety office, but last year he told the Tribune a two-year cleanup wasn't feasible. The contamination is under floor tiles and in pipes and ductwork in the building, which houses the Museum of Art and Archaeology.

Cleanup would require relocating some significant and large artifacts and pieces of artwork, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Pickard Hall — which was built in 1892 and is on the National Register of Historic Places — previously served as MU's chemistry building. The radiation is believed to have come from the lab of noted chemistry Professor Herman Schlundt, who extracted radioactive materials from natural ores for research purposes.

The two NRC inspectors next week will conduct radiation surveys and read reports from personal dosimeters, Chandrathil said. Those are the devices some employees with access to radioactive areas wear to measure exposure.

Access is limited to areas of the building where radiation levels are high, Basi said.

"They're either not being used at all or are have controlled access," he said.
MU also posted more signs in the building at the request of the NRC.

"The safety on this campus is No. 1," Basi said. "We are constantly monitoring the situation to make sure employees and the public is safe. Our understanding is the NRC and certainly our folks on campus believe the building is safe."

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
MU starts tapping into wind power

By Gwendolyn Girsdansky
September 21, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Wind is being added to the list of renewable energy sources at MU. Installation of a 100-foot-tall wind turbine is set to begin Wednesday at the old Beef Barn off Stadium Boulevard.

"Columbia is progressive in this way; it's showing itself to be a leader," Troy Rule, an associate professor at the MU School of Law, said. Rule's research focuses on renewable energy.

The energy from the turbine will be fed into the 17,300-square-foot Beef Barn, said Karlan Seville, communications manager at MU Campus Facilities. The barn, built in 1922, is used as storage for the campus and serves as the Campus Facilities operations shops. The $360,000 turbine, with its 16-foot-long blades, will be located in front of the building facing Stadium Boulevard.

Any electricity that isn't used by the storage building will go into the campus power grid. Campus Facilities estimates the turbine will produce about 25,000 kilowatt-hours each year based on wind patterns, Seville said in an email. The average home used 11,496 kwh in 2010, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The turbine will be open to students and faculty for research, and Campus Facilities will provide data such as energy created and wind speeds. The College of Engineering has already expressed interest, Seville said.

"They will have access to all of our data that we collect," Seville said. "Professors are welcome to come over with classes and see how the wind turbine operates."

There will also be a website available which will allow people to see how much energy is being produced by the wind turbine and how much is being used.

A similar system, Mizzou Dashboard, is already in place for MU residence halls. Dashboard tracks how much energy each residence hall uses. Part of the goal of the program is to help students realize how much energy they are using as a way to reduce consumption.
"We're setting up a real-time energy usage meter on our website so you can see how much the turbine is producing," Seville said.

The MU Climate Action Plan calls for a 30 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2016 from the 2008 levels, according to the 2012 MU Campus Master Plan and Climate Action Plan presentation.

One of the six boilers at the MU Power Plant is designed to burn wood waste as part of an overall goal to reduce fossil fuel consumption on campus by 25 percent.

"The campus is doing a pretty great job. It's pretty impressive that we have the boiler and now this," Rule said.

The city of Columbia had its own renewable energy goals approved by 78 percent of voters in 2004.

By the end of this year, 5 percent of the city's energy has to come from renewable sources. The city reached that level in 2011, with 5.4 percent of its energy coming from renewable sources, according to the 2012 Renewable Energy Report.

The goal is to have 15 percent of energy coming from renewable resources by December 2022. As of July, 9.1 percent of the city's energy was coming from renewable resources: 5.5 percent was wind and 3.1 percent was landfill gas, said Connie Kacprowicz, the utilities services specialist for Columbia Water and Light.

The manufacturing of machinery to help harness wind energy has helped the economy and job outlook in Missouri, Rule said. While most of the wind industry in Missouri consists of manufacturing, there is a growing number of wind turbines in use.

"The state heavily relies on coal, so it's great," Rule said. "We want to gradually wean ourselves away from coal."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Marching Mizzou takes to the road for SEC football games

By Tess Malone
September 21, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Rebecca Phillips knows what it takes for a band to get in tune with the Southeastern Conference.

Phillips, who earned her doctorate at SEC school Louisiana State University, was hired as the band director at the University of South Carolina two seasons ago to help its marching band — the Mighty Sound of the Southeast — get in step with the SEC's core values of size, spectacle and Southern hospitality.

Traveling to away football games is common among marching bands in the SEC, and this fall marks the first time Marching Mizzou will have a presence at every away conference game.

"It's becoming a matter of pride," Phillips said. "There's an expectation they'll have a band at away games."

At 10 p.m. Thursday, 52 members of Marching Mizzou planned to board a bus for the 15-hour drive to Columbia, S.C., for Missouri's first away conference game as a member of the SEC. As they cross state lines, they will also be crossing into new marching band territory and its unwritten rules.

Previously, Marching Mizzou only traveled for one to two games a season along with bowl games. Now that MU has joined the SEC, Marching Mizzou's directors plan to send a pep band to play in the stands for every away conference game.

The athletics department has budgeted $100,000 for Marching Mizzou's travel going toward buses, hotels, food and game tickets, assistant director Chris Baumgartner said.

MU Missouri Athletics Director "Mike Alden knows what an important part of the package the band is," said Brad Snow, Marching Mizzou director.
Unwritten rules

Now that Marching Mizzou is a part of the SEC, Phillips said there are a couple new traditions to watch out for.

SEC bands usually have 320 to 420 members. Bands need to be big and have a substantial brass section to fill the capacity of the stadium, Phillips said.

The marching band should involve the crowd throughout the game, Phillips said. The pregame is designed to be interactive. For South Carolina, this means the band members salute each corner of the stadium to get the crowd cheering along.

The band can lift the crowd's spirits any way it wants as long as it stays between the 45-yard line and their team's end zone — one of the few official rules of the conference.

This impacts the shape of the band's tunnel — the band divides into five rows on each side of the locker room and creates a tunnel for the team to run through as the band plays their fight song, Baumgartner said. As long as the tunnel doesn't cross the 45-yard line, the band is in regulation.

It's a courtesy to not play over the home band's pregame routine, Phillips said. It's also expected that a visiting band will play its school's fight song as its team runs out.

When the game starts, another official rule kicks in: no house music between downs.

"Between downs, you cannot pump in music, so the band does some sort of cheer to get the audience involved," Phillips said.

Both home and visiting bands need to have an extensive repertoire to ensure they can keep playing live music. At South Carolina, this meant redesigning the songbook, Phillips said.

"I designed music that fit the mood and flow of the game," she said.

For the first down, South Carolina band members play a peppy tune to celebrate. The music gets darker and more imposing for the second and third downs.

Phillips said both bands are encouraged to play simultaneously during games. Obviously, there is a size difference between Marching Mizzou's 52-member pep band and South Carolina's 325-member full marching band, but this doesn't necessarily mean Marching Mizzou will be drowned out.
According to Phillips, visiting bands are placed right in the middle of their fans to make sure they can hear their band.

"This is why it's so important to have a band at every game," she said

CBS will have microphones positioned so television viewers can hear the visiting band as well, Phillips said.

"There's nothing better than being able to hear your fans and your band making an impact on that game," she said.

The visiting band also has the advantage of not having to adhere to marketing breaks. When there is a timeout for a commercial, the marketing department might tell the home band it cannot play during the advertisement, but the visiting band members don't have to follow this and can play as they please, Phillips said.

The home band is also expected to have a new halftime show for every game. Each year, Phillips finds 15 new songs to play in the stands, 21 to play at halftime and six for the pregame. Although songs can carry over from the year before, the rough total for South Carolina is 62 songs a year, with at least 36 of them being new.

There's also a third-quarter tradition, when the band plays its most popular song from the pregame while in the stands.

The SEC doesn't permit the visiting band to play more than two songs at the end of the game for security reasons, Phillips said. The goal is to clear out the stadium as quickly as possible to prevent an endless victory celebration.

**Hitting the road**

With the promise of travel has come an increase in membership.

Of the 330 members of Marching Mizzou, Baumgartner said 138 are new this year. That puts the band in range of SEC expectations.

Marching Mizzou members said they're excited about traveling. The band directors said they would like everyone who wants to travel to have the opportunity, but it's up to the section leaders to decide who goes to each game. The pep bands will be a mix of freshmen and upperclassmen, Baumgartner said.
Fifth-year trumpet player Glenn Tigas wants to attend all of the away games and is looking forward to the game against the University of Florida the most.

"I want to see the sea of blue as opposed to red or oranges in the stadium," he said.

The band members who travel to Columbia this weekend will get a taste of Southern hospitality when the Marching Mizzou bus parks in South Carolina, Phillips said.

A police escort will take band members from their hotel to the alumni pep rally. From there, police on motorcycles will escort the band to the stadium.

Phillips said Marching Mizzou doesn't have to worry too much about fitting into the SEC. Although there is a rivalry between SEC football teams, the marching band culture isn't competitive in the same way.

"Yes, you want to be the best band in the SEC, of course, but you're not there to hope that someone else fails," Phillips said. "We cheer for the other band. We're there to support each other."

*Supervising editor is John Schneller.*