The provost at the University of Missouri-Columbia is retiring at the start of next year.

The university announced Wednesday that Provost Brian Foster will retire Jan. 1 after serving in the position for more than eight years.

The university says Foster was instrumental in developing the Mizzou Advantage initiative, which promotes collaboration among staff and students in different programs to address "real-world needs and problems." The university's efforts currently are focused on four areas - food, health, energy and the media.

Before taking the provost job in Columbia in 2005, Foster served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of New Mexico.

Deputy Provost Ken Dean will serve as interim provost until a permanent replacement is chosen.
University of Missouri-Columbia provost to retire

By Tim Barker tbarker@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8350

The University of Missouri-Columbia said Wednesday its provost, Brian Foster, will retire at the start of 2014.

Mizzou's chancellor, Brady Deaton, cited Foster's work in a range of areas, including economic development, hiring quality faculty and increasing enrollment. “His national perspective and knowledge of higher education have proven invaluable to our campus," Deaton said.

Foster has been provost since 2005.

Among his accomplishments on campus is the 2010 creation of Mizzou Advantage, which brings together several university specialties, including health sciences, media, sustainable energy and agriculture.

He received a bachelor's degree in history from Northern Illinois University in 1967. He has a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Michigan.

He was a member of the anthropology faculty at the State University of New York – Binghamton and has held administrative posts at Arizona State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of New Mexico.

“Higher education opened a rich and rewarding life that I could not have imagined,” Foster said.
Brian Foster, MU provost, will retire at end of December

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 | 5:41 p.m. CDT; updated 7:50 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, September 18, 2013

COLUMBIA — After eight years at MU, Provost Brian Foster plans to retire at the end of December, less than two months after Chancellor Brady Deaton retires on Nov. 15.

Simultaneous vacancies in MU's top two spots aren't as big a deal as people might think, Foster said, because of the university's employee infrastructure. Seven vice provosts and a deputy provost work under Foster.

"This is a very big, robust, high-quality organization that's well-positioned in higher ed," Foster said. "It seems to me, there's a huge amount of momentum that a big organization like this has, and nobody's going to come in and make big, fundamental changes. I just don't see that happening."

As provost, Foster worked from his Jesse Hall office to heighten the university's statewide presence and drive its economic development.

"It's the big picture, seeing how the pieces fit together and trying to align them," he said.

Foster said in his time at MU, the university strengthened its relationship with community colleges. He also created a new position, vice provost for economic development, to maximize the university’s economic presence.

"The university is a main driver of economic development in so many different ways," Foster said. "I appointed a vice provost for economic development ... who’s really developed a very impressive statewide presence and statewide agenda."

Deaton praised Foster's work and achievements in an email he sent to faculty and staff Tuesday.

Foster's leadership "significantly advanced the worldwide academic reputation of the University of Missouri," according to the email. "MU's record growth in enrollment, research and commercialization has been on his watch, and I commend him."

When Foster retires in a few months, Deputy Provost Ken Dean will serve as interim provost until a successor is named, Foster said.
"He (Dean) has been deputy provost for a year or so longer than I’ve been here," Foster said. "He's very much engaged with almost anything of importance that happens in academic affairs."

Dean's core job is to manage academic human resource issues, including hiring, promotion and tenure, Foster said. "He's involved in pretty much everything at some level, so he brings an incredible amount of background to provide continuity."

Foster said he assumes there won’t be a search for the provost's position until the new chancellor is on board. "That means not just appointed, but actually physically in place, that's my understanding," he said.

Dean won't be in the candidate pool for the permanent position, according to an email from Deaton.

Foster's age, 74, and family situation contributed to his decision to retire, he said.

"My wife has some health issues, and I have to spend more time with her," he said.

Facilities infrastructure, faculty-to-student ratios and faculty salary remain some of the issues Foster's successor will face.

"We have some challenging facilities issues," he said. "Providing adequate IT infrastructure. There's a bunch of infrastructure issues that range widely."

"The other thing is that over the last 10 years, we haven't kept our faculty-student ratios, it would be good if we could hire some additional faculty," he said.

"Also, we haven't kept pace with salaries," he said. "This is well-known, and we need to find ways to make our salaries more competitive."

Foster's work as a provost for 14 years, including about six years at the University of New Mexico, makes him an anomaly among his peers, most of whom last only four or five years, he said.

"I'm one of the longer serving ones around in the provost role," he said.

Foster said the Mizzou Advantage, an interdisciplinary initiative that focuses on four of Mizzou's key strengths — food, media, health and energy — was in the top three of his greatest accomplishments.

"We compete with the very best — the UCLAs, Wisconsins, Berkleys and Michigans for faculty, students and grants," Foster said. "We have to choose the areas where we're going to be able to take on the very best — the Berkleys and Michigans and Wisconsins — and win, but the only way we're going to do that is if we have some focus on the areas where we have particular strength. That was the underlying idea for Mizzou Advantage."
Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
Second top MU academic official announces retirement

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri Provost Brian Foster announced Wednesday he will retire effective Jan. 1.

Foster, who spearheaded the effort to create Mizzou Advantage, an initiative to promote interdisciplinary research and boost MU’s strengths, has been provost since August 2005.

"We are extremely grateful for Brian Foster's leadership that has significantly advanced the worldwide academic reputation of the University of Missouri," MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a statement.

Deaton said Ken Dean, deputy provost and a member of the law faculty, will serve as interim provost.

The announcement by Foster, the second-highest academic officer on the Columbia campus, follows the June announcement that Deaton will retire Nov. 15.

Foster initiated Mizzou Advantage with four content areas: Food for the Future, Sustainable Energy, Media of the Future and One Health/One Medicine. Since the creation of the program, funding has been awarded for nearly 100 seed and network projects involving about 400 faculty members.

Recent projects are: creating biomedical engineering solutions for medical patients, discussing solutions to providing healthy and affordable food, studying childhood obesity, monitoring livestock health, exploring technology available to journalists, and engaging in best practices for sustainability, MU said in a release.
"I absolutely love this university," Foster said in a statement. "While I'm stepping away from the Provost's office, I hope to stay connected and to continue to make contributions that would be useful to the University of Missouri."

Foster has served higher education for more than 40 years, including as a member of the anthropology faculty at the State University of New York–Binghamton, graduate dean at Arizona State University, dean of arts and sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of New Mexico.

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Posted in Education on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 2:00 pm.
MU program honors six biomedical research projects

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 | 4:55 p.m. CDT
BY Madalyne Bird

COLUMBIA — Six biomedical research projects were recognized for their work with the MU Coulter Translational Partnership Program on Wednesday, a collaboration that has netted those projects close to $600,000 in grants, according to a press release from the MU News Bureau.

The projects were recognized at a ceremony in the Mark Twain Ballroom by Brady Deaton, MU chancellor, along with members of the MU faculty and representatives from the Coulter program. Four projects have been awarded funding for the coming year, and two projects that received funding last year are continuing their work with the Coulter program, director Rebecca Rone said.

The money the research teams received transitions their work from the research stage to a form more useful for the public. Coulter funding serves as a bridge in a technology’s entrance into the marketplace, where it can later be used by mainstream health services.

"It's been shown that the Coulter process has a large impact in the success of moving technology across this transitional gap," Rone said. "Whenever they receive the Coulter award, they receive more than money. They receive assistance in concerns that you would have in the medical device arena."

Robert Duncan, MU’s vice chancellor for research, talked about the collaboration between the School of Medicine and the College of Engineering.

"We can prepare discoveries for the next step in the innovation process, when industry can invest in them to create new technologies to save and improve the lives of patients," he said.

The four new projects awarded funding are:

- Sherif El-Gizawy of the College of Engineering and Raja Gopaladas of the School of Medicine are creating a surgical device that lowers the risk of stroke during a minimally-invasive aortic valve replacement.
- James Stannard of the School of Medicine and Ferris Pfeiffer of the Department of Bioengineering are working to improve the success rates of cartilage transplants in patients with certain types of diseased joints.
Matthew Smith of the School of Medicine and Ferris Pfeiffer of the Department of Bioengineering are working on a project to repair rotator cuff shoulder injuries with minimally-invasive surgery through the transplant of tendon tissue and replacement bone.

John Pardalos of the School of Medicine and Shramik Sengupta of the Department of Bioengineering are developing a faster way to diagnose and treat infection through blood tests.

**The two continuing projects are:**

- Sheila Grant of the Department of Bioengineering and Richard White of the School of Medicine are working to improve the success of anterior cruciate ligament, more commonly called ACL, reconstruction surgeries. Grant and White were awarded funding in 2012 and are continuing their work but have not received additional funding, Rone said.

- Raghuraman Kannan of the Department of Bioengineering and Gerald Arthur of the School of Medicine are using nanotechnology to detect if certain cancers can be treated with therapies that would target certain tumors. Kannan and Arthur were also awarded funding in 2012 and are continuing their work but have not received additional funding, Rone said.

Gopaldas said he thinks the award will have tremendous impact on the work he and El-Gizawy are doing.

"Coulter has positioned our university in a unique way, because now we know that as long as we demonstrate a good idea with a solid pile of data, we have a good chance of getting the money to help us translate to the next phase," Gopaldas said. "Coulter has eliminated (the funding) headache so that we can actually get to work and focus on the science and engineering rather than trying to get money."
MU police offer advice in case of campus threat

By Karyn Spory

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Police Department would like people to remember an acronym when they are confronted with a threat, such as a shooter, on campus: TIGER.

Yesterday, as part of Safe Mizzou week, MUPD Officer James Young broke down the acronym for the nearly 30 participants in the class about how to respond to an active threat. "TIGER stands for: Tell police, Inform, Get secure, Evacuate and Resist," Young said.

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"Traditionally, it was policy to call administration and say, 'Hey, bad stuff is happening,' " Young said. "The chancellor is a great guy, but I don't think he's going to be able to do much."

Young said calling 911 is more effective. He said when talking to police, it's important to be very specific about what's happening. "The example we use here is, 'Gunman in 219 Jesse Hall.' That tells us everything," he said.

MUPD Lt. April Colvin said the "I" — or inform — includes how the police alert the public as to what's happening. She said that information would be delivered through the MU Alert System.

Young said the last three letters, "G", "E" and "R," depend on the situation.
Young said if it's safe, you should always evacuate the building. However, if escape is impossible, then you should secure the room you're in by locking and barricading the doors. "Shutting, locking and barricading doors, it's a time barrier; it creates time for you to do something else," he said.

Young said if a shooter is coming in, you have to prepare to resist. "Instead of sitting in a corner, hoping he/she won't see you — because they will — take the fight to them," Young said.

Young said the best way to resist is to move around because a moving target is much harder to hit than a stationary one. Young also suggested throwing things at the attacker. "How many people have book bags that have 500 pounds of books in them? If you chuck" a book "at somebody's face, they're going to react, and it will make it harder for them to shoot effectively," he said.

Lastly, Young said to try to immobilize the attacker. "The average person has five limbs — two arms, two legs, one head. Controlling those limbs is the key to immobilizing someone," Young said.

Colvin demonstrated this tactic by wrapping her arms around Young's bicep and using her body weight to pull Young toward the ground. Colvin said once a shooter is immobilized, a person should stay put until police come.

Colvin also warned when engaging a shooter be cautious where the muzzle is pointed, and if he/she becomes unarmed, don't pick up the weapon because you may be mistaken as the assailant.

Joey Greenstein, a senior marketing major and director of student activities at MU, said he has a lot of staff that work events all across campus and felt the information would be good to relay.

"It's important to me that while we're working events that we make sure the students at our events, and our staff, are safe and know how to handle a situation," Greenstein said.
A new book accusing Missouri’s athletic tutoring program of nurturing a sexually-charged environment was released to bookstores Tuesday.

“The System: The Glory and Scandal of Big-Time College Football” contains a chapter about former Missouri running back Derrick Washington’s 2010 sexual assault conviction. The victim was his tutor.

Chapter 12, entitled “The Tutor: Friends with benefits,” reveals details about the assault of Teresa Braeckel, who tutored Washington. Braeckel worked with Missouri’s Total Person Program, which provides tutoring to Missouri athletes.

The program declined The Maneater’s request for comment on the issue or the book, citing a Sept. 12 statement from Mizzou Athletics that called the book’s allegations “unfortunate”.

In the 20-page chapter, the book provides evidence that the environment around the program was “a hotbed for hooking up.”

“Girls who got into tutoring for the wrong reasons played along, flirting and dressing provocatively for tutoring sessions,” authors Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian wrote in the book.

Missouri’s tutoring environment was not unique, the book says, and similar programs exist at universities across the nation.

On June 18, 2010, Braeckel said she awoke to unwanted sexual contact with Washington, who was with her roommate Lauren Gavin before the assault.

Braeckel originally wanted to agree to a plea bargain instead of taking the case to court. If Washington pleaded guilty to misdemeanor sexual assault, he could play his senior season for Missouri and Braeckel would not have had to testify. Trial lawyer Christopher Slusher did not want any criminal charges on Washington’s record, even a misdemeanor, which could hurt Washington’s chances at getting into the NFL, the book said. The plea deal fell through.

Slusher declined comment to The Maneater on Tuesday without the consent of his client.
When Washington was formally charged with sexual assault Aug. 30, 2010, Missouri coach Gary Pinkel permanently suspended Washington from the football squad, per team policy that prohibits student-athletes charged with a felony from competing.

The book quotes Washington’s mother, Sarah, as saying that Pinkel fought with Missouri’s trustees and curators to keep Washington on the team.

Washington was convicted of felony sexual assault in 2011 and was sentenced to five years in prison. Because he was a first time offender, Washington was eligible to participate in an early release program after 120 days. He also had to register as a sex offender.

Last year, Washington played for the Tuskegee University football team in Alabama. He helped his team to a 10-1 record, rushing for 1,494 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Washington was not selected in the NFL Draft.

“The System’s” authors and publishers claim to have contacted the athletic department for comment and to inform the department the book and chapter would be released this week.

“Mizzou Athletics administration was not contacted by the book’s authors,” the athletic department said in its Sept. 12 statement.

Benedict claimed in an interview with the Columbia Tribune that he and Keteyian “reached out to everybody.”
Missouri University of Science and Technology is reporting record enrollment, including record numbers of female and minority students.

The Rolla campus of the University of Missouri system released the figures Wednesday from the first four weeks of the fall semester.

Registrar Deanne Jackson says total enrollment stands at a record 8,130 students, up 6.3 percent from September 2012.

Female enrollment is at an all-time high, with 1,839 women attending. And the number of minority students rose 9.6 percent from last year, to an all-time high of 881.