Jefferson City • Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon said Monday he will propose a significant funding boost next year for colleges and universities and new resources for financial aid and scholarship programs.

Nixon did not specify the amount of additional money he will recommend for the 2015 budget he presents in January but said he wants "to be aggressive with the funding." He said the proposal will call for institutions to receive the extra money based on performance.

Speaking to higher education leaders in an office building ballroom across the street from the Governor's Mansion, Nixon said post-secondary education is not a luxury for a few but a necessary option for many. He said an affordable higher education should be within reach for all students and that education is the best economic development tool available.

The Democratic governor said he wants to put more dollars in the hands of more students while refining assistance programs. He said he is working on a proposal to enhance the Bright Flight academic scholarship with the goal of ensuring that the best students remain in Missouri for college and their lives after that.

Nixon also is proposing an initiative focused on training mental health professionals to fill needs in fields such as psychiatry, specialty nursing and applied behavioral analysis.

"By helping our most vulnerable citizens live up to their God-given potential and providing better job opportunities for our students, this initiative will change lives and strengthen our economy," he said.

He said of Missouri's 114 counties, 72 lack a licensed psychiatrist and 90 have no licensed behavioral analyst.

After several years of budget cuts, the current year's state budget gave public colleges and universities an additional $25 million that was distributed based on how the schools perform in such areas as student retention and graduation rates.
Nixon immediately froze $34 million from higher education after the budget took effect in July because of concerns the Republican-led Legislature would override his veto of an income tax cut. The governor released the money after the veto override attempt failed in September.

In all, Nixon froze $400 million of spending and released more than half of it after his veto was sustained.

Republican lawmakers criticized the budget restrictions as unjustified. Supporters of the tax-cut measure have said they will try again with new legislation.

Nixon thanked education officials Monday for supporting his veto of the tax measure.
Missouri Gov. Nixon pledges more money for public higher education

By Zachary Matson

October 21, 2013 | 7:23 p.m. CDT

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Jay Nixon promised a room full of leaders from public universities and colleges across the state Monday that he would increase funding for higher education in his next budget.

“My fiscal year 2015 budget will increase funding for public colleges and universities — and increase it substantially,” Nixon said.

Nixon declined to put a specific number on the increase. He said his administration would consider the economy's performance and revenue projections before developing a specific proposal.

“We want to be aggressive with that funding this year,” Nixon said. “(The schools) have all over the past few years had to deal with managing their various responsibilities with extremely tight resources.”

Nixon also promised changes to financial aid and scholarship programs, with an eye toward retaining Missouri’s best students in the hope that they would work and live in the state after graduating.

**MU Provost Brian Foster said he was pleased that the governor emphasized the importance of higher education, but he said the conversation was from a "20,000 feet perspective" and more specifics were needed.**

“His commitment — assuming it all comes true — means we’ll see improvement in our fiscal state,” Foster said. “We still need to see the details. ... It's been a while since we've been able to have a positive view, so it's good news.”
At the meeting, Nixon also said that increased resources would bring increased responsibilities, highlighting the need for colleges and universities to keep tuition costs down and to meet performance measures developed by each institution.

The governor took the opportunity to thank the audience of higher education officials for their support of his push to sustain his veto of HB 253, a tax cut bill. Opponents of the bill said it would have stripped funding from public schools. Nixon warned that similar battles likely lay ahead.

*Supervising editor is* Gary Castor.*
Help on the way for some Missouri students applying for college

October 21, 2013 6:30 am • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. • Some Missouri high school students will be getting some one-on-one help this week applying for colleges.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education says the state is participating for the first time in what's known as "College Application Week." Similar events are held each fall in 24 other states.

Members of the Missouri College Advising Corps will be available to help students at 26 high schools in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas and parts of rural Missouri.

The goal is to increase the number of college applications coming from students in low-income families and from those who would be the first in their families to attend college.

The advisers are recent University of Missouri graduates. The university got a $1 million grant in 2007 to launch the adviser corps.
COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri is creating a program to train doctors specializing in emergency medicine.

The university's School of Medicine plans to recruit six to eight residents for the program's first class. It is to begin training those physicians next July.

Residency programs provide clinical training for physicians after they graduate from medical school. The Missouri program was granted approval last month from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Marc Borenstein is the chairman of the medical school's Department of Emergency Medicine. He says most emergency room doctors historically were trained in other specialties like internal or family medicine. But he says specialized training in emergency medicine has become more important as technology has advanced.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU creating emergency medicine residency

By The Associated Press

October 22, 2013 | 7:28 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU is creating a program to train doctors specializing in emergency medicine.

The university’s School of Medicine plans to recruit six to eight residents for the program’s first class. It is to begin training those physicians next July.

Residency programs provide clinical training for physicians after they graduate from medical school. The Missouri program was granted approval last month from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Marc Borenstein is the chairman of the medical school’s Department of Emergency Medicine. He says most emergency room doctors historically were trained in other specialties like internal or family medicine. But he says specialized training in emergency medicine has become more important as technology has advanced.