WASHINGTON • From huge state universities to small colleges and the Ivy League, 55 schools across America are facing federal investigation for the way they handle sexual abuse allegations by students.

For the first time on Thursday, the Education Department revealed its list of colleges under investigation — though no details of the complaints — as the administration of President Barack Obama sought to bring more openness to the issue of sexual violence on and around the nation’s campuses.

The schools range from public universities, including Ohio State, the University of California, Berkeley and Arizona State, to private schools including Knox College in Illinois, Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and Catholic University of America in the District of Columbia. Ivy League schools including Harvard, Princeton and Dartmouth are also on the list.

One other school in Illinois, the University of Chicago, is on the list. Missouri has no schools among the 55.

But after the suicide of a swimmer allegedly raped at the University of Missouri-Columbia, an independent investigation found last month that the university system lacked a policy on reporting sexual assault allegations. The university has announced plans to establish such guidelines.

The government emphasized that the list was about investigations of complaints, not judgments. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said there was “absolutely zero presumption” of guilt.

Few details of individual cases are known, but some are. A case at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor involves complaints about the potential mishandling of the expulsion of Brendan Gibbons, a former placekicker.

A student group examined the school’s student sexual misconduct policy and determined last month that the university failed to explain a years-long delay between the alleged incident and Gibbons’ expulsion in December. Spokesman Rick Fitzgerald says the university has been “fully cooperating.”

Schools on the list were, for the most part, unwilling to talk about specific incidents but said they had been working with the federal department to be more responsive to complaints.

“We are hopeful at the end of this there will be a resolution that will strengthen our internal processes and result in a safer community,” said Dartmouth spokesman Justin Anderson. “There’s always something we can learn and ways to get better.”
The Obama administration’s effort to bring more attention to sexual assaults is not limited to colleges.

MILITARY COMPLAINTS

On Thursday, the Pentagon said that reports of assaults by members of the military had risen 50 percent since the beginning of a campaign to persuade more victims to come forward. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said he was ordering six initiatives to deal with sexual assaults, including efforts to get more male victims to speak up.

TITLE IX

The college investigations are done under Title IX of a U.S. law, which prohibits gender discrimination at schools that receive federal funds. It is the same law that guarantees girls and women equal access to sports, but it also regulates institutions’ handling of sexual violence and increasingly is being used by victims who say their schools failed to protect them.

The agency previously would confirm such Title IX investigations when asked, but students and others were often unaware of them.

Duncan said that there had been “lots of internal debate” about whether to release the list but that transparency was important. “No one probably loves to have their name on that list,” Duncan said at a White House briefing. “But we’ll investigate; we’ll go where the facts are. And where they have done everything perfectly, we’ll be very loud and clear that they’ve done everything perfectly.”

The department can withhold federal funding from a school that doesn’t comply with the law, but it so far has negotiated voluntary resolutions for violators. About half of all states have schools under investigation.

Massachusetts has six, including Harvard College.

Harvard students filed formal complaints in late March to the department saying the college did not respond promptly to reports of sexual violence, that students were subjected to a sexually hostile environment, and that in some cases assault victims were forced to live in the same residence buildings as their alleged assailants.

“Harvard has taken a number of steps to foster prevention efforts and to support students who have experienced sexual misconduct,” spokesman Jeff Neal said. They include appointing a Title IX officer to review policies and procedures.

Pennsylvania had five schools listed. California, Colorado and New York each had four.

Some investigations were prompted by complaints directly to the federal department; others were initiated by the department following compliance reviews triggered by other factors, such as news stories, the department said. Some schools wanted to note what triggered the investigation.

Indiana University-Bloomington, for example, said the federal department had confirmed that it didn’t receive any complaints against the school “that would have triggered an investigation.”
Similarly, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst also said it was being investigated under a standard compliance review and not because of any specific complaints.

At Sarah Lawrence College, a heavily female school on the list, a spokeswoman said the college has taken steps that include putting up posters advising students of what to do if they are sexually assaulted and requiring a “consent and respect online” course for new students starting this summer.

While being on the list might be difficult for schools, Duncan said, it pales in comparison with the difficulty and trauma borne by sexual assault victims on American college campuses.

“In terms of what’s morally right there, the moral compass, whatever we can do to have fewer young women and young men having to go through these types of horrific incidents, we want to do that,” Duncan said.

The White House has said that as many as 1 in 5 female college students is assaulted. Obama has appointed a task force of Cabinet members to review the issue after hearing complaints about poor treatment of campus rape victims and the hidden nature of such crimes.

The task force’s report, released just two days earlier, announced the establishment of a website, notalone.gov, offering resources for victims and information about past enforcement actions on campuses. The task force also made recommendations to schools, such as identifying confidential victims’ advocates and conducting surveys to better gauge the frequency of sexual assault on campuses.

The department publicized guidance on Title IX’s sexual assault provisions in 2011, and complaints by students have increased. Complaints, however, don’t always lead to an investigation.

Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., have said noncompliance under the law is “far too common.” They say a lack of federal resources is partly to blame for that, and they’ve sought more money to ensure timely and proper investigations.

In a statement Thursday, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., praised the release of the list but said the department needed to “thoroughly and rapidly” investigate the complaints.

Another law that campus sexual assault cases fall under is the Clery Act, which requires colleges and universities to report crime statistics on or near their campuses. It also requires schools to develop prevention policies and ensure victims’ basic rights. Investigations under this law are not included in the list that was released.

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A list of the 55 colleges and universities currently facing a sexual abuse investigation under the Title IX law, according to the Education Department:

**State Institution**

AZ Arizona State University
CA Butte-Glenn Community College District
CA Occidental College
CA University of California-Berkeley
CA University of Southern California
CO Regis University
CO University of Colorado at Boulder
CO University of Colorado at Denver
CO University of Denver
CT University of Connecticut
DC Catholic University of America
FL Florida State University
GA Emory University
HI University of Hawaii at Manoa
ID University of Idaho

**ILKnox College**

**IL University of Chicago**

IN Indiana University-Bloomington
IN Vincennes University
MA Amherst College
MA Boston University
MA Emerson College
MA Harvard College
MA Harvard University — Law School
MA University of Massachusetts-Amherst
MD Frostburg State University
MI Michigan State University
MI University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
NC Guilford College
NC University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
ND Minot State University
NH Dartmouth College
NJ Princeton University
NY CUNY Hunter College
NY Hobart and William Smith Colleges
NY Sarah Lawrence College
NY SUNY at Binghamton
OH Denison University
OH Ohio State University
OH Wittenberg University
OK Oklahoma State University
PA Carnegie Mellon University
PA Franklin and Marshall College
PA Pennsylvania State University
PA Swarthmore College
PA Temple University
TN Vanderbilt University
TX Southern Methodist University
TX The University of Texas-Pan American
The Education Department on Thursday revealed the names of 55 colleges and universities facing a Title IX investigation for their responses to sexual abuse and violence on their campuses.

Making the list public was unprecedented, a move fueled by the department's hope that transparency will compel colleges and universities to act to better prevent the crimes and protect victims. Previously, the agency would confirm such investigations when asked, but students and others were often unaware of them.

The schools range from huge public universities, including Ohio State, the University of California, Berkeley and Arizona State, to private schools such as Knox College in Illinois, Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and Catholic University of America in the District of Columbia. Ivy League schools Harvard, Princeton and Dartmouth are also on the list.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan said there is no presumption of guilt. While being on the list might be difficult for schools, he said it pales in comparison to the trauma borne by sexual assault victims.
"In terms of what's morally right there, the moral compass, whatever we can do to have fewer young women and young men having to go through these types of horrific incidents, we want to do that," Duncan said.

Here are five things to know about the department's actions.

TITLE IX

The 1972 law prohibits gender discrimination at schools. It is best known for guaranteeing girls equal access to sports, but it also regulates institutions’ handling of sexual violence and increasingly is being used by victims who say their schools failed to protect them. The department publicized guidance on Title IX's sexual assault provisions in 2011, and complaints by students have since increased. The department can withhold federal funding from a school that doesn't comply with the law, but it so far has not used that power and instead has negotiated voluntary resolutions for violators.

WHY RELEASE THE LIST

Highly engaged victims groups have used social media and other means to build support for government action against schools that they believe have not dealt firmly enough with reports of sexual abuse and violence on campus or provided resources to help those who were injured.

In January, President Barack Obama announced a White House task force would review the issue over a 90-day period. At the time, the White House cited a statistic that 1 in 5 female college students is sexually assaulted. In findings released Tuesday, the task force promised greater transparency, including the creation of a website called notalone.gov with resources about how to file such a complaint.

The next step was releasing the list of schools under investigation. That happened Thursday.

"No one probably loves to have their name on that list," Duncan said. "But we'll investigate; we'll go where the facts are. And where they have done everything perfectly, we'll be very loud and clear that they've done everything perfectly."

WHO INVESTIGATES

The Education Department's Office of Civil Rights is responsible for investigating accusations of Title IX violations. An investigation may be triggered by individual complaints about the handling of sexual abuse cases or by a review of whether the school is complying with the law. That review may be prompted by factors such as a news story, the department said.

Complaints, however, don't always lead to an investigation.

WHAT SCHOOLS ARE SAYING

Colleges named in many cases were reluctant to reveal details related to the investigation, but many describe changes in policy and a willingness to work with the department to bring change. A spokesman for Harvard College, for example, said it had made changes such as appointing a Title IX officer to review policies and procedures. At Sarah Lawrence College, a heavily female school in New York on the list, a
spokeswoman said the college has taken steps that include putting up posters advising students of what to do if they are sexually assaulted and requiring a "consent and respect online" course for new students starting this summer.

Some schools emphasized that the investigation was the result of the compliance review — and not a specific complaint.

Indiana University-Bloomington, for example, said the department had confirmed that it didn't receive any complaints against the school "that would have triggered an investigation."

Similarly, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst also said it was being investigated under a standard compliance review and not because of any specific complaints.

THE NEXT STEP

The department says it will continue to update the list and will make it available to members of the public who ask.

Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., have said that noncompliance under the law is too common and more resources are needed to aid such investigations. Blumenthal said the department needs to "thoroughly and rapidly" investigate the complaints — some of which date as far back as 2010.

It will be up to colleges and universities to decide how to move forward. Some student advocates say they will be watching to see how their campus responds.

WHAT OTHERS SAY: College campuses must be assault-free zones

Thursday, May 1, 2014 | 3:06 p.m. CDT

BY ST. LOUS POST-DISPATCH

The White House is putting some much-welcome muscle into a fight to help make college campuses safer for students in the wake of a series of highly publicized rapes.
Also engaged in the battle is U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, a leader in the fight to reduce sexual assaults in the military. Ms. McCaskill recently launched a survey of 350 colleges and universities to learn how they handle rapes and sexual assaults on campuses.

Ms. McCaskill notes that military and university settings are similarly closed environments where people fear repercussions if they come forward with allegations of sexual violence.

Ms. McCaskill’s survey is specifically focused on how rapes and sexual assaults are reported and investigated and how students are notified about the services that are available to them. It was begun at the same time an independent counsel was studying the case of MU swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who alleged she was sexually assaulted in 2010 and later committed suicide.

The independent report criticized the university for failing to act on information about the alleged assault and never notifying the campus’ Title IX coordinator. Title IX prohibits schools with federal funding from discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment and assault.

In the wake of the report, UM President Tim Wolfe issued stronger sexual assault reporting requirements for university employees.

The White House Task Force on Protecting Students from Sexual Assault says that one in five female college students has been assaulted but that just 12 percent of such attacks are reported. In an effort to turn around those damning statistics, the Task Force released guidelines Monday that urge colleges to:

- Conduct anonymous campus climate surveys to learn more about sexual assault cases on their campuses.

- Adopt anti-assault policies and offer sexual assault training for school administrators.

- Help schools respond effectively when a student reports an assault.

- Better ensure that the reports of such crimes remain confidential.

In addition, the task force has set up a website, Notalone.gov, that will provide such resources to students as a list of their rights, information on how to file a complaint, details about enforcement data and where to find mental health services in their area. The website will also be used to track enforcement of the recommendations.
President Barack Obama formed the task force early this year, and his administration has indicated it is likely to ask Congress to pass measures that would enforce the recommendations and assess penalties for colleges that fail to do so.

Critics were looking for more action from the president’s administration on what is being called a crisis on college campuses and criticized the White House response as being too weak.

Actually, it’s a step in the right direction. Exposing the insularity on college campuses to the light of day is a way to keep sexual assaults from being hidden.

Like the military, where a variety of actions are underway to prevent and crack down on sexual assaults, university and college campuses generally operate without much public scrutiny. A cultural atmosphere based on male dominance plays a key role in sexual violence, and efforts to change that culture must be encouraged.

Letting students know that sexual violence will not be condoned, that victims will be protected if they come forward and that perpetrators will be punished to the fullest extent of the law are the only ways to change the existing culture.

Confidentiality plays a large role in whether students feel safe enough to report a sexual assault, so that is one area in which university leaders must beef up their efforts. Similarly, the White House task force found that many assault-prevention training efforts are not effective and recommended programs already underway on some campuses that train bystanders on how to intervene.

Colleges and universities and local law enforcement authorities have proven themselves largely unable to control sexual assaults on college campuses, which is why the federal government is stepping up its efforts.

Fines, the withholding of federal funds and other punitive measures against schools that fail to respond to the recommendations are reasonable efforts to ensure that they are not ignored.

The only thing students should fear about getting an education is what their grades will be. Sexual violence must not be a part of the college experience.
Missouri governor vetoes income tax cut

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed an income tax cut Thursday for millions of Missouri residents and business owners, warning that the priority measure of the Republican-led Legislature could devastate funding for public schools and services.

Republican lawmakers vowed to attempt a veto override as soon as next week. To overturn the governor's veto, Republicans would have to vote as a block and pick up support from at least one House Democrat.

The legislation would cut Missouri's top individual income tax rate for the first time in nearly a century and make Missouri the third state — following Kansas and Ohio — to enact a special tax break for people who report business income on their personal tax returns.

"This unaffordable, unfair and potentially dangerous legislation will irreparably harm public education and the vital public services upon which Missourians rely," Nixon wrote in a message to lawmakers detailing the reasons for his veto.

Republicans insisted they can both cut taxes and continue to spend more on schools.

"This is why Missourians sent this General Assembly here. To govern in a limited-government, free-market way and to try to return whatever money we can to them while taking care of all essential state services," said House Speaker Tim Jones.

Nixon vetoed a more expansive and complex version of the income tax legislation last year and barnstormed across the state to defend it. Republican support splintered, despite a multimillion-
dollar advertising blitz by supporters, and lawmakers were unable to pull together the two-thirds vote required in both chambers to override the veto.

This year, Republicans appear more unified.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Will Kraus, said he believes there is enough support for an override in his chamber, which is where the vote must begin. House Majority Leader John Diehl said he also believes an override also will succeed. If it doesn't, Diehl said lawmakers will either pass another version of the tax cut or refer it to the statewide ballot.

Missouri's tax cut battle has been among the most intense in what has become a national trend. About a dozen states passed income tax cuts last year as revenues began rebounding from the Great Recession. Several states already have cut income taxes this year, including Democratic-led New York and Republican-led Indiana.

The legislation would gradually reduce Missouri's top individual income tax rate — currently charged on all income over $9,000 — from 6 percent to 5.5 percent. It also would phase in a new 25 percent deduction for business income reported on personal tax returns. The incremental tax cuts would begin in 2017, but only if annual state revenues keep rising by at least $150 million over their high mark from the previous three years.

The legislation also would increase a tax deduction for low-income residents and make annual adjustments to Missouri's tax brackets based on inflation.

**Economists at the University of Missouri-Columbia have estimated that the tax cut legislation will eventually reduce state revenues by $620 million annually.**

But Nixon has raised concerns that it could punch a $4.8 billion annual hole in the state budget. He contends the bill's wording could be interpreted to eliminate taxes on all income over $9,000, though Republican legislative leaders have called that "laughable" and "absurd."

Nearly 2.5 million taxpayers could benefit from the reduction of the top individual income tax rate, according to the Missouri Department of Revenue. The new deduction on so-called pass-through business income could benefit several hundred thousand people whose businesses are structured as sole proprietorships, partnerships and limited liability corporations.

Wealthy business owners would stand to gain the most.

A family of four earning $44,000 annually could get a tax cut of about $32, according to Department of Revenue projections. A family of four with a business owner making $100,000 annually could get a tax cut of more than $1,600. That projected tax break rises to more than $9,100 if that same family has a business earning $500,000 annually.
Nixon said Thursday that the tax cut would "shower windfalls on the well-heeled" and that, because of the business-income deduction, the cut could result in an employee paying higher taxes than his employer — even if they both earned the same amount.

**Missouri House passes capital improvements plan**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Missouri House has passed a budget plan for various projects around the state, including new college buildings and seed money for a possible Republican National Convention.

The House voted 137-9 on Thursday to send the measure to the Senate. It includes funding for new voting machines and campus projects where costs are split evenly between the state and school.

Democrats criticized the bill because it includes $4 million for a Missouri city to host a national political party convention. Kansas City is a finalist to host the Republican gathering in 2016.

The spending plan also includes $38 million for a new engineering facility at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Lawmakers have until May 9 to pass all budget-related bills.

**Consultants hold forum to get ideas for MU provost search**

By Ashley Jost

The outside consulting firm hired by the University of Missouri to help with the MU provost search hosted its first forum Wednesday afternoon to get input from the campus community.
The university announced the hiring of Isaacson, Miller, a Boston-based recruiting company, a few weeks ago to help conduct the search and work with the university's committee to narrow down the candidate pool.

Three representatives from Isaacson, Miller spent the day meeting with different groups and offices that are stakeholders in the provost decision, including the chancellor, multiple vice chancellors, interim Provost Ken Dean, the college deans, the Faculty Council and the Staff Advisory Council. The Isaacson, Miller representatives working with MU are company President Elizabeth Ramos, Vice President Michael Baer and associate Amy Segal.

"Our main mission here on campus the next couple of days is to learn," Ramos said, adding that the trio will be collecting input on the important traits the campus needs in a provost candidate. That information will later be posted online.

During the forum, MU Honors College Director Nancy West said she hopes the provost will be an advocate for faculty the way that MU’s new chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, advocates for students.

"Morale on this campus among faculty right now is dangerously low," she said. "To have someone come in and boost morale, across disciplines, including disciplines that feel under siege, like humanities, is a good thing."

West said the new provost should help create "a culture of general recognition and celebration of what faculty do."

Chris Bouchard, state director for small business and technology development careers with the MU Extension, said he hopes the new provost understands and supports the university's land grant mission through outreach programs created by the Extension. He added that the ideal provost would advocate for research efforts at the university that would benefit Missouri residents.

Several student representatives from the Missouri Student Association relayed their concerns about the provost advocating for student interests, too, and working with students to be more adaptable in creating new interdisciplinary majors and minors.

While they're here, Isaacson, Miller representatives are accepting names of people who would be good candidates. Shortly after the characteristics of the ideal candidate are collected, the team also will start accepting applications. That's when the process gets quiet because candidates are likely currently in other institutions and positions.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin appointed the 15-member search committee, naming Judy Wall, curator's professor of biochemistry, chairwoman.

Wall said she doesn't want to set a timeline for this process and wants it to happen in the time frame necessary so the committee can "get the best candidate for this important position." The campus community will have another chance to get involved in the process when the candidate pool is narrowed and those who remain are brought to campus for forums.
College-Rating System Will Go Forward, Duncan Says

By Mark Keierleber

The U.S. Department of Education plans to continue its push for a college-rating system, even if Congress doesn’t shell out the $10-million the agency is requesting to develop the program and put it in place.

The Obama administration requested $82.3-billion for the department in the 2015 fiscal year, which begins on October 1. The amount is $1.3-billion more than the current year’s budget, an increase that is second only to the Department of Veterans Affairs. A line item in the department’s request says it would use $10-million to support "further development and refinement of a new college-rating system."

When Education Secretary Arne Duncan appeared before a Senate subcommittee that oversees appropriations for education on Wednesday to discuss the department’s proposed budget, Sen. Jerry Moran asked what the agency would do if it didn’t get the money.

"In the absence of that $10-million to be included in our appropriations bill, do you have the money and the authority to pursue this program?," Mr. Moran, a Republican from Kansas, asked during the hearing.

Mr. Duncan responded by saying the department would move forward with the initiative, but the money "would be very, very beneficial."
Last year President Obama directed the Department of Education to create a plan by the 2015-16 academic year to rate colleges based on measures of access, affordability, and student outcomes, and eventually to allocate federal aid based on those ratings.

Under the plan, students attending higher-rated institutions could obtain larger Pell Grants and more-affordable loans. Policy makers and higher-education officials have questioned whether the plan might have unintended consequences.

**Concerns Continue**

Echoing some of those concerns at Wednesday’s hearing, Senator Moran said he worried that the ratings system would discourage students with "difficult backgrounds" from pursuing a college education, and that metrics for colleges based on the income of their graduates could hurt programs that lead to careers in the military, faith-based organizations, or education.

Mr. Duncan responded by saying that, if the department’s plan did not deal with those concerns, "then we would have failed."

The federal government gives about $150-billion in grants and loans to support higher education each year, Mr. Duncan said.

"Virtually all of that is based upon inputs, virtually none of that is based upon outcomes," Mr. Duncan said as a reason to support the college-rating push. "Taxpayers are supporting a massive investment each year and have very little sense of whether they are getting a good return."

On Tuesday, Mr. Duncan testified before the House education committee about the department’s budget and policy priorities for the coming fiscal year. During that hearing, Rep. Virginia Foxx, a Republican from North Carolina, said the department collects "mounds and mounds of data, but from that we get very little information."

"We like transparency, and we don’t think we’re getting a lot of transparency from the department," Ms. Foxx said. As an alternative to the college-rating system, she asked
why the department did not just "put out useful information and let the public make
decisions."

In response, Mr. Duncan said the department wanted to shift some of the annual
investment in federal student aid from colleges with poor outcomes to those that are
doing a good job preparing students for their careers.

"We think that next step is necessary," Mr. Duncan said, "in addition to transparency."

Next Chapter for Affirmative Action

May 2, 2014

BY
Matthew Gaertner

NO MENTION

On April 22 the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in Schuette v. Coalition to Defend
Affirmative Action, upholding Michigan voters’ 2006 decision to ban race-based preferences in
college admissions. Two immediate consequences of this decision are worth clarifying. First, and
most obviously, race-based affirmative action remains prohibited at public universities in
Michigan, a state whose population is over 14 percent black but whose flagship public school –
the University of Michigan – serves a student body that is only 4 percent black. Second, less
obvious and less often emphasized, the Supreme Court opted not to overturn the principle that
racial diversity on a college campus is a compelling interest, as it yields unique educational
benefits.

In legal terms, race-based affirmative action was left untouched by the Schuette decision. In
practical terms, however, the decision could have far-reaching impacts. While there is still
nothing unconstitutional about affirmative action, there is now nothing unconstitutional about
banning it. That means statewide prohibitions in California, Washington, Arizona, and Nebraska
will remain in place and additional challenges to race-conscious admissions are likely to surface.
Moreover, the Court’s decision in the Michigan case follows a pair of well-publicized campaigns
in other states designed to either *chip away* at remaining affirmative action policies or *beat back*
efforts to revive those that have been outlawed.

These legal and political developments leave higher education leaders in a quandary. Most of us, from Chief Justice John Roberts to John Q. Public, agree racial diversity is a good thing, and worth pursuing. But pursuing it explicitly by considering race in admissions seems to be falling out of favor at the *national level* and facing voter opposition in some states.

Fortunately, promising alternatives are gaining traction. While it is self-evident that the best way to achieve racial diversity is to select on race, granting college applicants additional consideration on the basis of socioeconomic hardship may represent the next chapter of affirmative action. Class-based admissions preferences have two particularly attractive features. First, they can cushion the racial blow of an affirmative action ban by capitalizing on the overlap between race and socioeconomic status. Just as important, they can boost college access for disadvantaged students of all races who have overcome obstacles few other college applicants have faced.

Research on class-based affirmative action is still in its infancy, but the results thus far seem promising. In *nine states* where race-conscious policies have been banned and class-based alternatives have taken hold, racial diversity at selective colleges has rebounded after an initial drop. My own research at the University of Colorado demonstrated that class-based admissions considerations – when sufficiently nuanced and faithfully implemented – can *maintain racial diversity* and identify applicants who will *perform much better* in college than their raw academic credentials suggest. Promoting this sort of experimentation seems to be what the Supreme Court has in mind, as last month’s *plurality decision* reiterated that “universities can and should draw on the most promising aspects of race-neutral alternatives as they develop.”

It should also be emphasized that although the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Schuette* homed in on admissions decisions, solutions to the economic and racial divide in higher education need not maintain such a narrow focus. For example, the University of California system has developed robust *outreach programs* to connect with high-achieving low-income middle school students and encourage them to apply to selective universities (nationally, *more than 100,000* such students every year do not apply to selective schools). Like class-based affirmative action, outreach is not a diversity panacea. But without talented low-income applicants, colleges will face a supply problem that no admissions solution – race-based or class-based – can overcome.

I ultimately support considering class and race jointly in admissions as the most obvious, efficient, and logical way to *boost socioeconomic and racial diversity*. But to the extent the *Schuette* ruling emboldens new state-level campaigns to ban traditional affirmative action, university leaders should begin investigating workable alternatives that suit their schools’ missions. Beginning that process now will serve selective colleges well as the political landscape continues to change.

**BIO**

*Matthew Gaertner is a senior research scientist in the Center for College & Career Success at Pearson.*
7 Ways Pets Improve Your Health

By CELIA SHATZMAN

When you come home to a purr or wagging tail at the end of a stressful day, the sudden wave of calm you feel isn't just your imagination. Research suggests that your fluffy friend truly is good for your physical and mental health.

"Pets often provide unconditional acceptance and love and they're always there for you," says Gary A. Christenson, MD, chief medical officer at Boynton Health Service at the University of Minnesota. "There is a bond and companionship that makes a big difference in mental health," not to mention the extra exercise you get from walks and playtime.

Read on to learn the surprising ways your pet can boost your health.

They may lower your cholesterol

If you have a dog, those daily walks are helping to keep your cholesterol in check, says Rebecca A. Johnson, PhD, director of the Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Plus, a survey by the Australian National Heart Foundation revealed that people who own pets, especially men, tend to have lower cholesterol and triglyceride levels.

They help relieve stress

Simply being in the same room as your pet can have a calming effect.

"A powerful neurochemical, oxytocin, is released when we look at our companion animal, which brings feelings of joy," says Johnson. "It's also accompanied by a decrease in cortisol, a stress hormone."

Through her research with veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Johnson has witnessed the powerful effects of animals.

"One veteran couldn't leave his home without his wife until we placed a dog with him and in less than a week he was able to go around his town," she says.
They may reduce your blood pressure

It's a win-win: petting your pooch or kitty brings down blood pressure while pleasing your pet. Researchers at the State University of New York at Buffalo discovered that in people already taking medication for hypertension, their blood pressure response to stress was cut by half if they owned a cat or dog.

They boost your fitness

A dog is the best companion for a stroll—even better than a friend. Johnson—co-author of Walk a Hound, Lose a Pound—led a study at the University of Missouri that found that dog walkers improved their fitness more than people who walked with other people. A separate study found that dog owners walked 300 minutes a week on average, while people who didn’t own dogs walked just 168 minutes a week. And a study in the Journal of Physical Activity & Health found that not only did dog owners walk more than non-owners, they were also 54 percent more likely to meet the recommended levels of physical activity.

They reduce your cardiovascular disease risk

Lower cholesterol, stress, and blood pressure levels combined with increased fitness may add up to a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease. That's a theory supported by the American Heart Association.

In 2013, the AHA reviewed numerous studies examining the effects of pet ownership on cardiovascular disease risk and concluded that having a furry friend, particularly a dog, is associated with a reduction in risk and increased survival among patients.

They may prevent allergies in children

If you had a pet as a kid, you may be in luck. In a study published in Clinical & Experimental Allergy, children who were exposed to pets before they were six months old were less likely to develop allergic diseases, hay fever, and eczema as they got older.

"In the first year of life, babies who are exposed to dogs in the household are more likely not to have allergies, asthma, and fewer upper respiratory infections," says Johnson. "If exposed at an early age to dander and allergens, we may be less reactive to them over time."

And kids who grow up around farm animals, dogs, or cats typically have stronger immune systems and a reduced risk of developing asthma or eczema.
Faculty over the years express interest in maintaining child care services

In 1982, the Student Parent Center was on a “list for review for possible reduction or elimination.” Instead of eliminating the facility, then-Chancellor Barbara Uehling decided to relocate the center from a cottage on Gentry Place to a facility on Hitt Street.

Jung Ha-Brookshire, professor of textile and apparel management, spoke of continuing to fit the center, which will officially close on June 30 for a pending demolition, into the university’s land grant mission.

“It’s not about 29 kids that happen to be there,” Ha-Brookshire said at the April 24 Faculty Council meeting. “It could have been more, if the facility was decent enough. There is a greater need for child care on the campus.”

**Ha-Brookshire said College of Human Environmental Sciences administrators have reached out to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin regarding replacing the center, their concerns mirroring those of various campus groups involved since the inception of the Student Parent Center in the 1970s.**

**Student Parent Center over the years**

The proposal for the Student Parent Center was spurred by a survey conducted during the 1972-73 school year by Virginia Fisher, then chairwoman of the Child and Family Development Department.

Fisher’s survey tracked the number and ages of student-parents’ children.

A planning group — comprised of the Child and Family Development department, Missouri Students Association, and then-existing organizations such as the Center for Student Life and the Association for Women Students — subsequently met to develop and propose a designated teaching lab for children aged one month to 2.5 years, according to official documents found in the University Archives.

Sharon Pope, then the assistant director of Student Development, said in a 1981 Student Services Activity Evaluation that during the center’s first operations during the 1974-75 school year, 135 families visited or used its services.

“This activity exists because it is the only child care service of its type in the Columbia area,” Pope said.

The center, funded by $7,054 in MSA funds until the organization cut funding in 1985, eventually became separately licensed as a designated child care facility for students in 1994. It extended its services to children of faculty in 2012 due to a decrease in the center’s enrollment.
Pope wrote that child care service is expected at a university this size, and that its affordability and role would impact other programs on campus due to increased opportunities for student involvement in the absence of stress from looking for child care.

“University commitment to student parents and to the future of child care service programs needs to be stronger and advertised well,” Pope wrote. “It does not speak well for a University this size to show so little concern for student families.”

The center was initially located in a university-owned cottage on 704 Gentry Place. It then moved to 307 Hitt Street in 1983, at a cost of $2,175, and relocated a second time to the University Village apartment complex in 1995.

At its start, the center maintained an hourly rate of $1.20 until 1987, when yearly increases came in the forms of $1.35 and $1.40 for the 1988-1989 and 1989-1990 school years, respectively.

**Supporting organizations of then and now**

The Association for Women Students, the student government representing women voices on campus in the late 1970s and early 1980s, pushed for both the Women’s Center and the Student Parent Center to fulfill female student needs, said Kim Dude, former AWS president and current director of the Wellness Resource Center.

Dude recalls talking to various women who felt there was a need for such services.

“It was my role to try and advocate for women, all different kinds of women,” she said. “And one of the things that we were concerned about were women who had children, and we did some research and … lobbied the dean of students to curate such a place.”

Jean Ispa, Human Development and Family Studies department co-chair, was a department assistant professor in 1987 and said that then-doctoral student Susan Pearlman used the center to do dissertation work on interactions with toddlers, which the Child Development Lab did not have at the time.

“It’s a really good faculty retention tool,” Ispa said. “And student retention tool. Once your children are placed in a high-quality child care facility, you really don’t want to leave (the university).”

Present-day faculty also expressed their support for the center.

“I used the services of the SPC quite extensively during my career as a graduate student,” research associate Kimberly Keller said in an email. “I can definitely attest to the fact that if affordable, on-site, flexible child care had not been available to me as a student, I would not have been able to complete my degree program. I would also not be able to continue to be a contributing member to the MU community or the large-scale projects with which I am involved.”

A recent survey of MU faculty presented at the April 24 Faculty Council meeting indicated that child care was the third lowest item of satisfaction.
MU currently has a task force of organizations, including the Graduate Professional Council and MSA, that are responsible for consulting their constituents on the best course of action regarding child care.

Loftin also met with various student parents on April 15 to hear their concerns. He said the task force is set to report back to him before the end of April.

New service learning program to send MU students across Missouri

Thursday, May 1, 2014 | 6:57 p.m. CDT

BY MAKENZIE KOCH

COLUMBIA — **Within the next 10 years, all 114 Missouri counties could serve as sites for MU student service trips.**

That goal is part of a new service learning program through MU Extension and the Center for Leadership and Service. In the program, each of the extension program's eight regions will provide ideas for service opportunities to the leadership center. Students at the center will narrow the ideas to eight projects — one for each region. Groups of MU students will complete the projects on weekend trips.

"It's really student-driven," said Joy Millard, MU Extension interim assistant vice provost. "We just give them the means and the context."

The eight service projects will be held over weekends beginning in the fall, most likely in November, Millard said. MU Extension and the MU Center for Leadership and Service plan to do eight additional projects in the spring and continue the program to complete at least one service project in all 114 Missouri counties.

The service learning program is derived from the Mizzou Alternative Breaks program, said Bryan Goers, Center for Leadership and Service coordinator and Mizzou Alternative Breaks adviser. The alternative breaks program typically sends MU students on service trips across the country and to foreign countries, yet only two trips have been in held in Missouri so far.
The idea for the new service learning project came from a brainstorming session with extension staff and faculty, Center for Leadership and Service staff, and MU students, Millard said. Jim Spain, the MU vice provost for undergraduate studies, had initially suggested that the two organizations meet to discuss ideas for student involvement throughout Missouri.

The program was announced at a celebration Thursday for MU Extension's 100-year anniversary, which is May 8. Extension staff and faculty from across the state gathered on Carnahan Quadrangle, and representatives from each region set up booths displaying different projects their regions were working on.

Goers said at the celebration that the new program reflects one of the six principles of Mizzou Alternative Breaks — serve, don't help. The service trips focus on serving others, not helping others, Goers said.

One idea that had been proposed, he said, was sending students from MU's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources on an agriculture-based trip to Buchanan County.

"I truly believe this is the beginning of a long-lasting partnership that will change the lives of Missouri students and residents," Goers said.

Supervising editor is Allie Hinga.

Curators approve refinancing deal to save on existing debt

By Covey Eonyak Son

The UM System Board of Curators unanimously approved a deal to refinance up to $350 million of existing debt with the hopes of generating savings.

Tom Richards, UM System’s interim vice president of finance, said the lower interest rates he observed in April provided an opportunity for the system to lock down a lower rate.

“If you look at general market rates — you’ll want to focus on the 10-year treasury (notes) — they went down around the beginning of April,” Richards said.
According to the Wall Street Journal’s Market Watch, the interest rate for 10-year treasury notes was approximately 2.80 percent at the start of April, and was 2.62 percent at closing on May 1.

The refinancing could potentially generate between $15-20 million in savings, which would be used to finance renovations of facilities across the four campuses, Richards said.

“In the last three years, this is the third major refinance transaction we have done,” he said. “(In the past,) we have yielded savings of $15 million that we have been able to dedicate to critical maintenance and repair projects on the campuses.”

Facility needs on MU’s campus include a $32 million renovation to Lafferre Hall, which scored a 0.91 on the Facilities Conditions Needs Index, meaning 91 percent of its systems need replacement.

Richards said the curators will meet with advisors from Morgan Stanley, the lead manager of the deal, in New York on May 12, and go to market on May 13.

The system also assembled the Total Rewards Ad Hoc Task Force in an attempt to balance $1 billion of liabilities accrued from rising benefits costs.

Invasive Carp Clobber Catfish in Taste Test

By Tim Wall | April 30, 2014 | 1

Last October, the infamous silver carp beat catfish in a cross-cultural blind taste test conducted by our research team at the University of Missouri. Although tilapia took the top spot, silver carp’s clobbering of catfish—our state fish—suggests that invasive fish could go from biological bane to banquet boon.

Our taste test results encouraged us to forge ahead with a project designed to market Asian carp in Latin American and Chinese-style restaurants around town.

“If our test market in Columbia, Missouri likes the fish products, then we plan to talk with restaurant owners in St. Louis,” said project leader Mark Morgan, associate professor in MU’s School of Natural Resources. “Initial feedback from the Chinese and Mexican restaurant owners in Columbia has been positive. Therefore, it seems to be a very promising strategy.
“Asian carp has a mild flavor and absorbs spices and seasoning easily, making the meat ideally suited for fish tacos, chorizo, wontons or potstickers” said Morgan. “Plus, tacos and authentic Chinese dishes are more marketable than those using carp in the name.”

Asian carp suffers from guilt by association with its bottom-feeding cousin, the common carp, and its muddy-flavored flesh. However Asian carp, including the silver and bighead, feed on microscopic plants and animals suspended in the water. Asian carp’s meat has a cleaner flavor and pearly white flesh. However, the common carp’s stigma attached to Asian carp.

“Most people don’t like carp because they are ugly and bony,” said Morgan, “but it’s all based on perception. Most people don’t realize that Asian carp are healthy and nutritious, high in protein, low in fat and lower in accumulated toxins than other fish.”

Non-native Asian carp species conquered the waterways of the central and southern United States during the past few decades. Silver carp gained infamy because they leap from the water when startled. The meter-long, 27-kilogram piscine projectiles can inflict injury on boats and boaters. Asian carp also threaten ecosystems and compete directly with native fish, such as bigmouth buffalo, shad and paddlefish.

Currently, little market demand exists for Asian carp, which results in low prices for fishermen. Commercial fishermen haul in tons of silver and bighead carp bycatch when they cast their nets for more valuable fish. Yet only a few processing plants handle Asian carp. For example, Schafer Fisheries in Illinois makes kosher foods using the carp, including gefilte fish and fish hot dogs. Two Rivers Fisheries in Kentucky freezes carp for export to China.

Our research group believes that larger markets could be developed for Asian carp in the United States. One way is to take advantage of the carp’s ties to Chinese culture, in which silver and bighead carp are a treat, not a threat.

“Bighead carp delicacies are a big tourist attraction to several water reservoirs where the fish live,” said project team member Yun Ho, a graduate student in natural resources at MU. “Restaurants near the reservoirs provide dozens of different carp dishes. I feel very happy and proud to share our delicious food with Americans.”

Chinese-style eateries in the U.S. could take advantage of this authentic ingredient. On the other hand, traditional fish species used in Latin American cuisine may not be imported fresh in parts of the U.S. For example, fish native to the waters around the Baja Peninsula face a long road to make their way into fish tacos and ceviche served in Missouri. Since Latin-American themed restaurants may already have to use non-traditional species, why not use local, wild-caught Asian carp?

Before pitching the Asian carp idea to local restaurants, our team needed to perform a taste test to establish that the fish could meet customer expectations. Observations of the clientele in local Mexican and Chinese restaurants suggested that English, Chinese and Spanish-speakers made up the majority of patrons. Our research team decided to conduct a taste test using questionnaires in those three languages. Food scientist Janelle Elmore of Elmore Consulting helped design, organize and implement the taste test.

One hundred and nineteen individuals participated in the taste test on October 22 and 23. Individual samples of wild-caught silver carp, farm-raised tilapia and wild-caught catfish were served one at a time
to the participants in a randomized order. Subjects rated the fish on overall likability, aroma, appearance, flavor and texture. Participants received $10 for participating in the test. Ho and I supervised in the kitchen while cooks from MU’s hospitality management program prepared the fish. After the taste test, Elmore oversaw the statistical analysis of the completed surveys.

“Asian carp performed significantly better than catfish but significantly worse than tilapia on Overall Liking,” wrote Elmore in her report of the results. “Similar acceptance patterns were observed with the remaining acceptance attributes.”

Although Asian carp passed the taste test, obstacles still remain to make Asian carp into fine cuisine. The tiny bones embedded in the fishes’ flesh makes them tricky to fillet. Processing and distribution channels would need to grow to meet increased demand. Some conservationists worry that creating a market for carp could inhibit people from eradicating the fish, or that unscrupulous people could spread them to increase supplies.

Despite these concerns and difficulties, our research team suggests that turning a trash fish into a treasure could help the rural economy, increase the food supply and reduce the population of an ecological menace.