Post analysis shows sex offense reports in public flagships, Ivy League and elsewhere

Here are totals of forcible sex offense reports drawn from a federal campus crime database for flagship public universities and a selection of other well-known schools in the Washington area and nationwide. The comparison is for reported events on campus from 2012 and from 2013. Forcible sex offenses include rape, sodomy, fondling and sexual assault with an object.

Flagships:

University of Alabama — No 2013 data yet, 7 in 2012
University of Alaska Fairbanks — No data for 2013 yet, 4 in 2012
University of Arizona — 9 in 2013, down from 13
University of Arkansas — 5, up from 4
University of California at Berkeley — 13, unchanged
University of Colorado at Boulder — 10, up from 7
University of Connecticut — 23, up from 13
University of Delaware — 3, unchanged
University of the District of Columbia — 1, unchanged
University of Florida — 14, up from 13
University of Georgia — 13, up from 9
University of Hawaii at Manoa — 8, down from 11
University of Idaho — 3, unchanged
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign — 12, up from 10
Indiana University at Bloomington — 15, down from 27
University of Iowa — 9, down from 15
University of Kansas — 18, up from 8
University of Kentucky — No 2013 data yet, 1 in 2012
Louisiana State University — No 2013 data yet, 3 in 2012
University of Maine — 19, up from 5
University of Maryland at College Park — 19, up from 9
University of Massachusetts at Amherst — No 2013 data yet, 15 in 2012
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor — 21, down from 34
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities — 10, down from 13
University of Mississippi — 5, up from 1

**University of Missouri-Columbia — 7, up from 6**

University of Montana — 9, up from 8
University of Nebraska-Lincoln — No 2013 data yet, 3 in 2012
University of Nevada-Reno — 1, up from zero
University of New Hampshire — 15, down from 20
Rutgers (New Jersey) - New Brunswick — 21, up from 16
University of New Mexico — 11, up from 4
University at Buffalo (New York) — 8, down from 12
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill -- 14, down from 21
University of North Dakota — 5, down from 7
Ohio State University — 25, up from 21
University of Oklahoma — 17, up from 6
University of Oregon — 12, down from 17
Pennsylvania State University — 17, down from 56
University of Rhode Island — No 2013 data yet, 11 in 2012
University of South Carolina-Columbia — No 2013 data yet, 2 in 2012
University of South Dakota — 1, down from 4
University of Tennessee — 7, down from 8
University of Texas at Austin — 8, down from 9
University of Utah — 10, up from 5
University of Vermont — 11, down from 13
University of Virginia — 27, up from 11
University of Washington — 2, unchanged
University of Wisconsin at Madison — 29, up from 15
West Virginia University — 10, up from 2
University of Wyoming — 15, up from 5

Ivy League:
Brown University — 21 in 2013, up from 16
Columbia University — 22, up from 14
Cornell University — 11, up from 9
Dartmouth College — 10, up from 5
Harvard University — 35, up from 31
Princeton University — No 2013 data yet, 17 in 2012
University of Pennsylvania — 17, up from 12
Yale University — 12, down from 16

D.C. schools:
American University — 8 in 2013, up from 7
Catholic University — 1, down from 4
Gallaudet University — 16, down from 18
Georgetown University — 6, up from 4
George Washington University — 12, up from 10
Howard University — No 2013 data yet, 6 in 2012

Other universities:
Stanford University — 25 in 2013, down from 26
Duke University — 6, down from 12
Johns Hopkins University — 7, up from 5
Massachusetts Institute of Technology — 13, up from 9
Vanderbilt University — 17, up from 13
University of Notre Dame — 15, up from 7

Other colleges:
Amherst — 9 in 2013, down from 17
Swarthmore — 89, up from 12
Williams — 9, down from 16
Carleton — 8, up from 7

Source: U.S. Education Department, Office of Postsecondary Education, campus safety and security data analysis cutting tool.

Note: Reports are for individual universities and colleges, including incidents at their subsidiary medical centers and other branch locations.
Missouri Men Say No More calls for end of sexual violence

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 | 7:16 p.m. CST; updated 10:07 p.m. CST, Wednesday, November 5, 2014
BY KENDALL FOLEY

COLUMBIA — In the continued fight to end domestic and sexual violence, the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence called men to become advocates with the launch of a new campaign Wednesday morning.

Women's movement and advocacy to end sexual violence relies on men, said Colleen Coble, CEO of the coalition. Coble said at the event that all of the work she has done for women is because of one man in her life.

Her father inspired her to "do what's right and do what you have to do," Coble said.

**Wednesday's program was the kickoff of the coalition's Missouri Men Say No More**, the first statewide initiative against domestic and sexual violence, coalition board member Joe Moseley said at the event. Moseley is a former state senator and former Boone County prosecuting attorney.

Coble and Moseley were joined by University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe, Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, and the Rev. Clyde Ruffin. All were participants in the event Wednesday.

Guest speaker Doug Grogg spoke at the event about how sexual violence has impacted his life. Grogg's daughter was raped when she was 14 years old, he said. Five months later, he and his wife found out that she had been raped and that she was pregnant.

"It's a matter of changing the mindset," Grogg said of advocating for ending sexual violence.

Grogg has served in the Army, Missouri National Guard and Army Reserve for 24 total years of service, according to the event program. He and his family live in Rolla.
Wolfe spoke about the case of Sasha Menu Courey and the steps that are being taken in the UM System to strengthen sexual assault policies and prevent similar issues in the future. Kelly was honored at the event for his service to help end relationship and sexual violence in Missouri. Kelly provided the first funding for domestic violence prevention and has been a leader in changing consent laws, Coble said.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and Vice Chancellor Cathy Scroggs were in the mix of about 150 people who came to the event at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia.

"It's not just about moms educating their daughters; it's about dads educating their sons," Zachary Wilson, the coalition's development director, said in an interview. "This is not just a women's issue."

Wilson said the Missouri Men Say No More campaign is a combination of two national movements: the No More campaign to end domestic and sexual violence and the White Ribbon campaign to engage men in ending rape and abuse. There has been an increased awareness and intolerance of domestic and sexual violence in mid-Missouri, Wilson said, but victim-blaming is still a persisting problem.

Part of the goal of the campaign is to call men and women to stop accepting victim-blaming and stand up against domestic sexual violence, Wilson said.

Supervising editor is Caroline Bauman.

Gov. Nixon releases $5.7M of FY 2015 funding

Jefferson City • Gov. Jay Nixon today released $5.7 million of fiscal year 2015 funding for six programs including scholarships and drug task forces.
The announcement follows a 6.1 percent increase — or $32.1 million — in revenue last month compared to October 2013 and a Department of Economic Development report that the state's nonfarm payroll employment grew by 8,100 jobs in September.

"Missouri's continued economic growth allows us to make these priority investments while maintaining a balanced budget," Nixon said. "We will continue to carefully monitor revenue collections and exercise fiscal discipline to ensure that state government lives within its means."

Though Nixon chose to release funds for six programs, he noted that revenue still is too low to fully fund the $26.4 billion budget passed by the Republican-led Legislature in May.

In June, Nixon called lawmakers’ budget fiscally unsound and cut $1.1 billion. About $642 million in general revenue was withheld.

In cutting the budget, Nixon cited 10 tax break bills passed by the Legislature, as well as lawmakers’ failure to pass Medicaid expansion and amnesty for overdue taxes. Declining revenue didn’t help, either.

Since Nixon's cuts over the summer, the governor has released about $171 million in general revenue and withheld an additional $36.4 million.

The six programs are:

- $2 million for Missouri's A+ scholarship program.
- $1 million for Access Missouri Scholarships.
- $1 million for high-tech startups through the Missouri Technology Corporation.
- $500,000 for Missouri's multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces.
- $451,554 for the Missouri Rx Program.
- $723,776 for Public library grants for the state's smallest libraries.

Thanks to the passage of Constitutional Amendment 10 on Tuesday night, Missouri lawmakers will have more of a say over what the governor withholds. The amendment allows legislators to override a governor’s withholdings much like they do his line-item vetoes.

The Legislature will need a two-thirds majority in both chambers to override a withholding — 109 in the House and 23 in the Senate — just like a veto override. Unlike a veto override, there won’t be a separate session dedicated to this practice. Rather, withhold overrides can be brought up anytime the Legislature is in session.
Under current law, the governor can withhold money when state revenue is less than the estimate the appropriations are based on, to be released if they improve.

Alex Stuckey covers Missouri politics and state government for the Post-Dispatch. Follow her on Twitter at @alexdstuckey.

MU provost candidate promotes shared governance

By Ashley Jost

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 10:46 am Comments (1)

At the helm of the academic side of the University of Missouri, the provost is considered the final leg of the triumvir of administrators that lead the institution.

On Wednesday morning, MU’s third provost candidate, Nancy Brickhouse, spoke to several dozen faculty and staff members and students, stressing her belief in shared governance and building campus buy-in for large decisions.

Brickhouse has served as deputy provost at the University of Delaware for more than two years, acting as the provost’s chief adviser with focuses in academic affairs, international programs and institutional research. She also served as interim provost at the University of Delaware until she resumed her deputy post in August 2013.

“I enjoyed being provost because you have a bird’s-eye view of the university as a whole,” Brickhouse said. “You can see how all of the different parts of the university interact and connect with one another.”

Fielding questions for almost two hours, Brickhouse used multiple opportunities to discuss her collaborative leadership style and belief in the importance that the community should take ownership of policies and changes, especially during a time of administrative turnover — an issue MU is facing. She also stressed the importance of that same feeling of ownership from the community.

“In 2025, those research institutions still here will be because they’re relevant to the problems of the world,” Brickhouse said when asked about her thoughts on what a long-term strategic plan...
for a university should look like. “Their communities will be supporting them because of great things they’re doing with students and research programs. We have to up our game. There is lots of competition out there, and not everyone is going to survive.”

Brickhouse advocated for focuses on undergraduate education and research that affects the masses as ways to create that community support.

Brickhouse’s background has a focus on science, similar to the first two MU provost candidates. Her bachelor’s degree in chemistry comes from Baylor University, and her master’s in chemistry is from Purdue. Brickhouse got her doctorate in science education at Purdue. Both of her alma maters are large research institutions.

When asked about Title IX, a topic that is garnering national attention, Brickhouse said it’s important to create policies and procedures with the help of faculty, staff and students.

“This is something we need to be on the same team about,” she said.

When the audience ran out of questions, Brickhouse asked what they want for the university.

MU Libraries Director Jim Cogswell said among the university’s needs is more advocacy for the positive things happening throughout the institution.

“The good citizens of Missouri don’t know how good their state institution is, and they don’t deserve as good an institution as they have,” he said. “This place has been underfunded by the legislature and the citizens for decades. That’s the singular biggest problem. News about what’s happening here, about the excellence here, isn’t fully realized.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Provost candidate Brickhouse promotes 'shared vision' for MU

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 | 6:50 p.m. CST; updated 7:58 p.m. CST, Wednesday, November 5, 2014

BY MICHAEL ALVEY

COLUMBIA — Nancy Brickhouse became the third provost candidate to take questions at a public forum Wednesday morning. As she addressed several dozen faculty and staff members in Memorial Union, she frequently used the same phrase: "shared vision."

"It's important to have a shared vision across the entire college," Brickhouse said. "There's lots of decision makers in any kind of complex unit, and you want all of the
decisions at all levels of the organization to move the college forward in the same direction."

Brickhouse is the deputy provost at the University of Delaware and was the interim provost at the school for nearly a year from July 2011 to June 2012. She also served as the deputy dean of the College of Education and Human Development and was the interim dean of the college for eight months in 2011.

MU’s provost position has been held on an interim basis by Deputy Provost Kenneth Dean since Provost Brian Foster retired last year. A committee led by Judy Wall is handling the search. Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin will make the final decision about who to hire as MU’s next chief academic officer.

A former Texan, Brickhouse said she was happy to be west of the Mississippi, where "the people are warm and the sky is big." Like Michele Wheatly and John Wienck, Brickhouse used her forum to address questions about hot-button issues at MU.

**AAU standing**
A few faculty and staff members asked Brickhouse questions related to how she sees the university progressing as a member of the Association of American Universities. MU is one of 62 universities in the AAU, which is an invitation-only association of leading research universities.

Speakers who identified themselves as working at the School of Law and in the Department of English said they feared their departments are not being allocated enough money because they are not research programs.

"We all benefit from being in the AAU," Brickhouse said in one response. "You have to put your resources around excellence because that's going to be in the best interest of the university as a whole."

She said that the University of Delaware, a non-AAU university, uses AAU metrics as a baseline measurement and that it compares "pretty well" to AAU institutions.

**Student initiatives**
Brickhouse said she regularly meets with student groups at the University of Delaware as part of the strategic planning effort for the university. She said she spends most of the meetings listening in order to get students' input and hear their concerns.

"It's great to hear what their interests and concerns in the university are," Brickhouse said.

Brickhouse was proud of a recent tobacco-free campus movement driven by the university's Student Government Association, which went into effect Aug. 1.

"This percolated up from students that didn't like smoking on campus," she said. "They created the policy, and as faculty we got to support it."

**Title IX**

Brickhouse stressed the importance of getting everyone involved with the university on the same page with Title IX issues.

"We need to engage students," Brickhouse said. "We need to engage our faculty, we need to engage our staff, in terms of looking at what we're doing so that we have their support and their buy-in, because they were part of the group that actually created the policies to start with. This is something that we need to be on the same team about."

She said universities need to be transparent about their policies and procedures because in individual cases there can be misunderstanding about why universities can't share certain information.

"One of the challenges that universities face is that oftentimes they aren't able to talk about personnel information to the media," Brickhouse said. "What they need is a campus that understands what the policies and procedures are, so when there are things that come up about individual cases, they know how the university would have been required to handle that particular case."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Several faculty members expressed concern that AAU metrics are not representative of non-STEM departments.

Science and education have influenced Nancy Brickhouse’s life since her early childhood.

She was raised in Kilgore, Texas, where her father ran a feedstock testing lab in the kitchen and worked to obtain a doctorate degree.

“He believed that farmers needed education (and to) improve their practices based on solid sciences in order to feed a growing population,” Brickhouse said to a crowd of students, faculty and staff Wednesday morning during an open forum.

**Brickhouse, a candidate for MU executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, followed in her father’s footsteps.** After spending much of her adolescent life in analytic testing labs, she received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Baylor University, a master’s degree in chemistry and a doctoral degree in science education from Purdue University.

Brickhouse went on to become an assistant professor at the University of Delaware and climbed up the administrative ladder to serve as a deputy dean in the College of Education and Human Development, deputy provost and, for a time, interim provost of the university.

Brickhouse said she helped the university successfully negotiate a three-year faculty union contract, raised funds for a $132 million interdisciplinary science and engineering facility and increased student diversity as interim provost.

Several of the crises Brickhouse tackled at the helm of the provost’s office are echoed in issues visible around MU’s campus, which she said makes her a qualified candidate to resolve the issues.

During her tenure, UD suffered from several structural deficits with no money to remedy the problems. MU is plagued by a facilities problem of its own: *Nearly 30 buildings on campus are currently in need of repair*, with little support from the state legislature.

The University of Delaware also needed a College of Engineering dean, but faced challenges posed by “dire fiscal straits.”
Brickhouse said the university navigated around these problems by giving the college enough one-time funds to stay afloat for a few years while it developed plans to remedy the structural deficit problems.

“And it worked,” she said. “Today, they operate in the black and have a new biomedical engineering program (that) is attracting the strongest and most diverse students to campus. They have a new, strong dean that is at the helm, who is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.”

Low faculty morale at UD led to retention issues, opening the doors for other universities to poach talented faculty and researchers. Brickhouse said the key to dealing with retention problems was mentoring younger faculty.

“You don’t lose senior-level faculty,” she said. “You lose rising stars.”

Betsy Rodriguez, UM System vice president of human resources, said in April that MU must address “non-competitive” pay levels in order to retain key personnel.

Brickhouse said she plans to use key membership metrics for the Association of American Universities — including the amount of federal research funding procured, faculty membership in the National Academies, faculty awards and research citations — as the benchmark to “reward faculty excellence.”

“We use those benchmarks because we think they are good benchmarks,” she said.

However, several faculty members in the audience expressed concerns that those metrics may be disconnected from those who are not in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

“What the AAU looks for is not really what we do; we don’t send people to the National Academy of Sciences,” said an audience member who identified himself as faculty in the School of Law. “To an extent, that there is a lot of energy to move in that direction … how do we as the Law School fit in?”

Another audience member who identified herself as a professor of English and humanities said those in non-scientific departments such as her own do not believe they are well-represented under the AAU metrics.

Brickhouse said those non-STEM areas could still fit into the AAU metrics since certain categories, such as faculty awards, apply broadly across campus. She added that the university would benefit from the association’s prestige.

“You wouldn’t want Missouri to lose its AAU standing,” she said. “I think we all benefit from the AAU membership … Member (universities) in the AAU are looked up to by the other universities in the country.”
Brickhouse went on to address concerns about faculty shared governance. She said UD has an active faculty senate as well as a faculty union, and that she had worked with concerned faculty to resolve issues with the university budget.

“I was not in a position to make significant changes to the budget,” she said. “This was a high concern for many of the faculty. So when the new provost arrived, we decided to make this a top priority. We enlisted the faculty to … come onboard and help us find a solution to the questions they had.”

Brickhouse was also asked about her goals for Title IX reforms, which she referred to as a nationwide issue. She said the process should be made more transparent to better engage the community about existing policies.

“When it comes to individual cases, (the university) oftentimes are unable to talk about personnel information,” she said. “So what they need is a campus that understands what the policies and procedures are so when things come up about individual cases, they know what the university would have been required to have done to handle the case.”

Toward the end of the forum, Brickhouse turned the question-and-answer session around to ask the audience members what changes they want to see at MU.

Director of Libraries Jim Cogswell said the university should further publicize its value to the state.

“The good citizens of Missouri don’t know how good their state institution is … I’d go as far as to say they don’t deserve as good of an institution,” he said. “The plain fact is this place is underfunded by the state … and it stems from the fact that news about all that is being done by this institution isn’t fully realized, or as much as it should.”

Brickhouse’s visit was preceded by open forums for John Wiencek, who is currently the interim provost at Virginia Commonwealth University, and Michele Wheatly, former provost at West Virginia University.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the search committee is releasing information about candidates shortly before each visit, and he cannot confirm if there is a fourth candidate.

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Flip of Senate shifts Missouri senators' roles**

By Chuck Raasch craasch@post-dispatch.com 202-298-6880

WASHINGTON • On the day after the Republican takeover of the Senate, Claire McCaskill, a Democrat, stressed her history of cooperation with Republicans.
Missouri’s other senator, Republican Roy Blunt, said his connections with House Republicans would be an important factor in fulfilling GOP promises to make Congress work as it’s supposed to.

With Republicans about to hold at least 52 and as many as 54 Senate seats come January, the two Missouri senators’ changing roles emerge as among the biggest stories in state politics.

Blunt faces re-election in 2016, a year not nearly as geographically advantageous for Republicans as this year has been. Unlike Tuesday, when a progression of Democrat-held seats in red and purple states fell to the GOP, in 2016 the Republicans hold 24 of the 34 Senate seats that will be up. Many, such as in Missouri, are in states that are also likely to be heavily contested by presidential candidates — and voter turnout traditionally tilts more toward Democrats in presidential election years.

Blunt has not announced whether he is running for re-election, but for all practical purpose he has been for some time, building a campaign account that could surpass $2 million by the end of the year. As a member of Senate leadership, he will have the opportunity to shape legislation debated and voted on in the Senate. But with that comes the expectation of following through on Republican promises to break Washington gridlock.

Blunt told Missouri reporters Wednesday that Republicans should “not be worried about sustaining the majority, but to assume that the best politics is actually doing your job in the best possible way.

“We have a chance now to either become a governing majority or a complaining majority,” he said. “I think there will be a significant effort for Republicans to become a party that wants to govern.”

He said that as a former member of leadership in the House of Representatives, “one of the values I do bring to the current Senate is a pretty good understanding of how the House works and how important it is that we work toward a conclusion where we have a bill put on the president’s desk that is only possible if the House approves it and the Senate approves it.”

But some members of his Republican caucus are urging an in-your-face strategy toward President Barack Obama. Led by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, some want job No. 1 to be repealing the Affordable Care Act, Obama’s signature legislation. Cruz has said the new GOP majority should use “all means necessary” to repeal the law, and after an expected Obama veto, attack the legislation line by line.

And a group of GOP conservative activists, including the leader of Citizens United — the organization whose successful Supreme Court challenge unleashed hundreds of millions of dollars of independent spending in campaigns — warned that if Republicans took on other issues, such as jobs creation and tax and energy reform, before going after Obamacare there would be anger on the right. In the past, similar threats have led to Tea Party challenges of Republican incumbents.
While declaring he would refuse to dismantle his health care plan, Obama also signaled on Wednesday that he would seek common ground with the GOP Congress, down to having a drink with likely new Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and playing golf with House Speaker John Boehner.

One of the biggest complaints, by Blunt and other GOP leaders, was that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid bottled up legislation to protect Senate Democrats from difficult votes, and that Obama was aloof and uncompromising. As a result, the Senate was gridlocked from doing even basic things such as passing a budget.

Democrats said McConnell was intransigent and foot-dragging in the minority and had a stated goal of using the Senate to stop Obama’s agenda. Now the question is whether Democrats will assume that role in the Senate minority and how Republican leaders, including Blunt, respond.

“There will be a lot of people watching to see how well the Senate functions under Republican leadership,” said Peverill Squire, a political scientist at the University of Missouri. “Certainly the Democrats have an opportunity to obstruct along the lines of how the Republicans did. We will see how the Republicans will work toward more compromise.”

One of the most senior Democrats to feel the impact of Republican control in the Senate will be Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who was re-elected Tuesday. He is the second-highest ranking Democrat in the Senate and, while his party held the majority, has had considerable influence over what legislation makes its way through the chamber. Meanwhile, Sen. Mark Kirk, R-Ill., has said that he is looking forward to being in the majority but wants to be known as a “bridgebuilder” working on bi-partisan issues.

Squire said that McCaskill, as a member of a minority caucus for the first time in her elected career, wouldn’t have the agenda-setting power that she had before but could still be in a comfortable position.

Senate rules, he said, allow minority members “to slow things down, and to do so in ways that the Democrats back here in the (Missouri) general assembly can only fantasize about.”

McCaskill told the Post-Dispatch before the election that she believed her oversight work, on issues ranging from faulty car ignitions to profligate spending, would not change if Republicans took the Senate.

To a question about whether she was considering running for governor, McCaskill responded that “I am very happy in my job” in the Senate.

On Wednesday, she issued a statement through her office that said: “These election results will change the power balance in Congress, but one thing that remains the same is my commitment to work with all of my colleagues, Republican and Democratic, to forge bipartisan compromise, achieve results for Missouri and strengthen accountability in our government.”
Boone County midterm voter turnout lowest since 2000

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 | 7:51 p.m. CST; updated 6:14 a.m. CST, Thursday, November 6, 2014
BY LURIA FREEMAN

COLUMBIA – Tuesday’s midterm election registered the lowest voter turnout in Boone County since 2000, suggesting less interest in the propositions and candidates on the ballot.

According to the election results archived on the county clerk’s page of the Boone County website, 43.58 percent of registered Boone County voters cast ballots on Tuesday. That represents a total of 41,815 of 95,943 registered voters who went to the polls.

Overall, Missouri’s election turnout was 35.23 percent, Secretary of State Jason Kander reported Wednesday. Slightly more than 1.4 million of 4 million registered voters cast ballots.

Midterm election turnout dating back to 2000 has averaged 59.2 percent. Here is the breakdown:

- Nov. 5, 2002: 52.59 percent
- Nov. 7, 2006: 68 percent
- Nov. 2, 2010: 54.9 percent
- Nov. 4, 2014: 43.6 percent

Aside from state auditor, no other statewide positions were up for election this year.

MU political science professor Marvin Overby believes this contributed to the decline in voter turnout.
"There really wasn't much voters cared about in this election. There was nothing to stimulate them to take action," Overby said. "Without a presidential or Senate seat to vote on, the ballots were full of names most voters aren't familiar with."

Overby said the propositions on this ballot weren't about topics that spike public controversy, which also could have lowered a voter's sense of need to voice their opinion.

In contrast, voters in 2002 faced a decision about a tax on tobacco and whether or not to hold a constitutional convention.

In 2006, issues included access to stem cell research, an increase in minimum wage and withholding the pensions of state officials who had been convicted of felonies.

Overby also noted that midterm elections generally draw fewer voters than presidential elections. The number of ballots cast in Boone County during presidential elections averages 76.1 percent.

In 2004, when George W. Bush defeated John Kerry, the turnout in Boone County was 86.8 percent. When Barack Obama was elected in 2008, county turnout was 83.6 percent, then dropped to 79.3 percent when he was re-elected in 2012.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

November 6, 2014

When a Student Confides a Rape, Should a Professor Have to Report It?

By Robin Wilson

NO MENTION

While a faculty member’s primary roles may be teaching and research, it isn’t unusual for students to use professors as a sounding board for personal problems, even serious
ones like rape. New rules on many campuses, however, now mean that if students confide in faculty members about a sexual assault, the professors are required to report the information to college officials.

That change in the way campuses are interpreting faculty responsibilities under the gender-equity law known as Title IX makes some professors uneasy. They say they are often on the front lines when it comes to students' venting about both their academic struggles and their private lives. In some cases, students even write about deeply personal issues as part of course assignments.

Faculty members worry that being required to report information they learn about a sexual assault will have a chilling effect on their relationships with students.

"Sexual assault on our campuses is a problem, and there is a lot that faculty can do to help—through lending a compassionate ear, being informed about resources, being empowered to use their best judgment," says Don Eron, who retired last academic year as a senior instructor of writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado’s Boulder campus.

But Mr. Eron, who is a member of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors, says institutions should not use professors as the eyes and ears of the campus police or university lawyers.

"With Title IX," he says, "we've already seen how universities are more driven by fear of litigation or penalty than concern for victims."

Making professors required reporters of information about sexual assault is only one way in which faculty roles are changing as campuses struggle to meet their obligations to prevent sexual misconduct and adjudicate complaints. Administrators on at least one campus have put an assistant professor’s research proposal on hold because they are concerned that if students reveal stories of sexual assault as part of the data collection, the researcher must report them to campus officials, even though subjects have been guaranteed confidentiality.
Professors on many campuses are also being asked to add statements to their course syllabi telling students who have experienced sexual assault that "you are not alone," and directing them to people at the university who can help. Randy Sullivan, a senior instructor of chemistry at the University of Oregon, which is expected to recommend that professors put the statement on all syllabi, says it is a "no brainer." Oregon administrators have endorsed the concept, and the University Senate is expected to follow.

"This is a reflection of the priority we want to give this issue," says Mr. Sullivan.

But Kathleen A. Bogle, an assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice at La Salle University who studies sexual assault, says there are other, more-appropriate places on the campus to post notices about assault than on course syllabi, which are academic documents.

"If you are a faculty member teaching about this subject, you are talking about it academically," she says. "The classroom is not a Take Back the Night march."

Some people who work with colleges to help them meet their obligations under Title IX say the new rules dictating faculty roles in handling sexual assault are a logical outcome of the federal government’s increased scrutiny of how well colleges are complying with the law. About 85 institutions are under investigation by the U.S. Education Department for complaints that they inadequately responded to allegations of sexual violence and harassment.

"There is a changed legal dynamic now where campuses are under pressure to act on reports of assault," says Brett A. Sokolow, president of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, a consulting and law firm that advises colleges.

When it comes to how colleges deal with sexual assault, whether it is in statements on course syllabi or in conversations with students, professors no longer are in the driver’s seat. "This is a universitywide issue," Mr. Sokolow says. "Faculty members have always acted like they had the privilege of keeping their conversations with
students confidential. But that privilege mentality is now coming to clash with federal regulations."

**Q&A Document**

Many campuses began informing professors this past summer and early fall that they are required to report information about sexual assault after the U.S. Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights issued a set of questions and answers on how colleges should interpret Title IX. The Q&A document, issued in April, says employees who are responsible for reporting sexual assault include anyone who has the "authority to take action to redress sexual violence," or anyone who a student could reasonably believe has such authority.

It is the last part of that answer that campus officials believe requires professors to report information about assaults. That also means it is not up to faculty members, but to a university’s Title IX coordinator, to handle that information appropriately, including deciding whether a case should be pursued, says Mr. Sokolow.

Under the new advice from the Education Department, if a student begins telling a professor about a sexual assault, the faculty member must immediately warn the student that professors are required to divulge all information—including the names of the victim and the perpetrator—to campus officials.

Some faculty members see an upside to the new reporting. "Sexual assault has been the most underreported violent crime, and I see people now who are saying, ‘We can’t let this stuff be hidden,’" says Ms. Bogle, the assistant professor at La Salle, in Philadelphia. "This kind of idea has good intentions."

But, she says, students often see professors as sympathetic listeners, and faculty members don’t want to break that trust. "It is awful to take someone who has experienced a violation against their consent, like rape, and do something else that’s against their wishes by reporting it," she says.

Anita Levy, associate secretary of the American Association of University Professors, says campuses are overreacting to the new interpretation of the law. "It’s an
abundance of caution," she says. "Universities don’t want to get dinged by the Department of Education and get investigated."

But at Furman University, officials are contemplating taking the law even further. They are trying to decide whether a research proposal that would involve asking students about their experiences of racial and gender discrimination might require the assistant professor who wants to conduct the project to report an assault if a student divulged that information.

Ken Kolb, an associate professor of sociology at Furman who serves on the university’s institutional review board, which must approve projects involving human subjects for them to go forward, says the new reporting requirements could halt all research on sexual misconduct.

"If we cannot promise confidentiality to our research participants," he says, "we cannot collect the data we need to analyze sexual assault and harassment on college campuses." Mr. Kolb would not reveal the name of the assistant professor who has proposed the study under review at Furman.

Some universities already have made professors conducting research exempt from reporting details on sexual assault if the information comes up as part of a confidential study. And Mr. Sokolow believes that is how the law should be interpreted.

"This isn’t a runaway train," he says. "There is nothing in anonymous surveys that would put an institution on notice of a sexual assault."

But John S. Beckford, Furman’s vice president for academic affairs, isn't so sure.

"We’re going to be reconciling important objectives of Title IX with the responsibilities of supporting scholarship and research," he says. "We are going to be entering a new era—and things that we haven’t anticipated might wind up changing."
MU nursing students teach preschoolers the importance of hand-washing

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BY KAITLYNN MARTIN

COLUMBIA — With the squeeze of a plastic bottle, a puff of baby powder fell into the center of many small palms.

Fifteen preschoolers at Eugene Field School turned and high-fived a partner. Almost like magic, the powder spread from hand to hand.

Just like germs.

This was an eye-opening lesson in hygiene at the Title I preschool Wednesday morning. MU nursing students used puzzles, powder, songs and board games to teach the children, ages 4 and 5, the importance of hand-washing to prevent outbreaks of illness.

"I think this is an amazing reinforcement of what we are teaching here at the school," said Sandy Southerland, their preschool teacher.

About 2.2 million children younger than 5 around the world die each year from diseases that could be prevented by simply washing their hands, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

On Wednesday, 10 freshman and sophomore volunteer nursing students mixed soap, water and a handful of entertaining activities to show the children a painless way of remembering good hygiene habits.

"We are trying to make the lessons fun and exciting since the students are so young," said Joely Milazzo, MU nursing student and volunteer. "We all have a passion for community service and reaching out to teach others about healthy habits."
At one station, children were given new lyrics to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" as a time cue for how long to scrub:

"Wash, wash, wash your hands. Thumbs and fingers, too. Rub-a-dub, rub-a-dub. That's the thing to do."

The song caught on quickly as students bounced in their seats, wiggled their fingers and pretended to wash their hands in rhythm.

At another station, children took turns plopping game pieces on a bright orange board game board. Each space gave them questions to answer: "How many times a day do you wash your hands?" "What times?" "How long do you wash them?"

Children chimed in with silly answers, claiming to wash their hands 40 times a day — each response climbing to a higher number.

At a third station, children assembled puzzle pieces into a picture of hand sanitizer.

The last station created the biggest mess, but also the most laughs. The powder "germs" moved from hand to hand, only to disappear quickly when the children smeared on a dollop of hand sanitizer.

"One of the goals we have is for children to develop healthy living skills, and this program ties in very well with that," said Mary Rook, principal of Eugene Field School. "Our children are working with very caring adults."

The nursing students are set to teach at least eight more classroom sessions at Eugene Field School in upcoming months, hoping to incorporate lessons about healthy hygiene habits to children at a young age.

Wednesday's session was the first in the series called "Sharing Health Hand by Hand," which was developed by the MU Student Nurses Association.

As the session came to a close, MU nursing students passed out take-home goodies such as bars of soap and informational fliers.

Rook watched over the scene and smiled.

"What a wonderful blending of our big learners and small learners coming together," she said.
Supervising editor is Jeanne Abbott.

Study: Not all college work boosts future earnings

BY DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP Associated Press

NO MU MENTION

SEATTLE • A short-term college certificate, for a very specific job-training program like how to use computers for office work, probably won't help students earn more money in the long run, a new study has found.

However, if those classes are later applied to an associate's or bachelor's degree, college then becomes a good investment, no matter what major a student chooses, according to a study published Thursday in the journal Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis. The research was paid for by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

While previous research has shown a four-year college degree can double a person's earning potential and an associate's degree can boost earnings by as much as 22 percent, few studies have made the same assessment for shorter college stays.

This study looks at education and employment data for more than 24,000 students who attended Washington state community and technical colleges beginning in the 2001-2002 school year.

Seven years later, data showed minimal or no positive effects for college certificates that required less than a year of full-time study on increased wages or an increased likelihood of being employed, according to researchers from the Oakland, California, Career Ladders Project and the Community College Research Center at Columbia University Teacher's College.

Jan Yoshiwara of the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges didn't find the results surprising.
"We've known for quite some time that short-term certificates alone as the starting point for people looking for their first career job will get them a job but won't lead to a long career and wage gain," said Yoshiwara, the board's deputy executive director for education.

Washington state is focusing on finding ways to help more people get associates degrees and long-term certificates, even if they have to take classes in small chunks while they work and take care of families, she said.

Yoshiwara calls this approach acquiring stackable certificates. For example, Renton Technical College has an accounting program that starts with a two-quarter certificate to gain practical work skills, which leads to a four-quarter paraprofessional program and then a six-quarter program focused on professional bookkeeping and accounting skills.

Whatcom Community College offers a similar approach that leads to an associate's degree in early childhood education.

But in order to push more students toward associate's degrees, the state will need to change financial aid policies to help people go to school while still working at relatively low-wage jobs, which may make them ineligible for other kinds of financial aid, Yoshiwara said.

The results also reveal the importance of career counselors at both the college and high school level, said Mina Dadgar, director of research at the nonprofit Career Ladders Project.

For an example, she used career counseling in the field of nursing. Students can make a lot more money if they work toward an associate's degree in nursing, but they need to know which shorter-term certificates include classes that earn credits toward that degree and which ones don't.

"That doesn't mean that the other certificates should not be offered," Dadgar said.

Madeline Trimble, a data analyst at Columbia University, explains that the results differ depending on the choice of career, but in every field, an associate's degree leads to higher wage gains than short- or long-term certificates.