COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Title IX administrator candidate at MU addresses measuring success, facilitating conversations

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 | 9:35 p.m. CST; updated 6:44 a.m. CST, Thursday, December 18, 2014

BY CAITLIN HOLLAND

COLUMBIA — In an open forum Wednesday, the third candidate for the position of Title IX administrator at MU explained how her job as a lawyer has prepared her for the job she hopes to get at the university.

Ellen Eardley, now a partner at the Mehri & Skalet firm in Washington, D.C., explained how both positions require the pursuit of similar goals. Both an attorney and a Title IX administrator help clients or victims bring attention to a wrong, figure out the best way to address that wrong and then work to heal and move on from that wrong.

After an introduction from DeAngela Burns-Wallace, assistant vice provost for undergraduate studies, Eardley explained her experience and ideas for the Title IX administrator position and fielded questions from 16 faculty, staff and students.

Eardley spoke about how she would measure success, communicate responsibilities and facilitate a conversation about sexual assault and discrimination.

Measuring success
Eardley said that by the end of a Title IX administrator’s first year, three things should happen.

They are:

- Everyone connected to Title IX at MU should know who mandatory reporters are.
- Understand the consequences of not reporting.
- Be aware of what resources are available to help victims and reporters.

"If we don't do that in at least a year, then it's clear that it's not a success," she said.
As administrator, Eardley said she would hold a series of public forums to get feedback from the student body, faculty and staff about concerns.

**Communicating responsibilities**
Eardley said it is important to be clear and consistent about expectations because that impacts the message the media and those outside the university receive.

"You can't have a clear message to the outside world if you don't have a clear message in your own house," she said.

She also emphasized that sexual assault and gender discrimination are issues not just women should be concerned with. Eardley mentioned the "Men Can Stop Rape" campaign and the "Coaching Boys into Men" programs as examples of how men are engaging with the issue.

"Gender is something that we all own," she said.

**Leading the conversation**
Eardley said the university has the opportunity to make real, lasting change when it comes to the issues of sexual assault and rape on campus.
To do so, though, would require frank conversations, and Eardley said that she is willing to put herself out there to have them.

Those frank conversations would have to include the population the Title IX office serves, Eardley said. She wants to create a space where students feel comfortable taking part in them.

She also said that as administrator she would explore working with faculty interested in adding sexual assault and discrimination topics in their coursework.

In addition to her work as a lawyer in the fields of employment discrimination, civil rights, consumer rights, housing and wage matters, Eardley is an adjunct professor at the Washington College of Law at American University. She teaches a course on sex-based discrimination.

Eardley was a counsel and equal justice works fellow at the National Women's Law Center from 2003 to 2005. There, she worked with a team of attorneys to represent women who alleged they were sexually assaulted by football players and recruits from the University of Colorado, according to her resume.
She earned a master's degree and law degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2003.

The final Title IX administrator candidate forum is scheduled for 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, with information about the finalist emailed to faculty, staff and students beforehand.

**NO MU MENTION**

**Obama Administration to Unveil College Ratings Plan**

Submitted by Michael Stratford on December 18, 2014 - 3:00am

The U.S. Department of Education will release a much-anticipated outline of its college ratings system on Friday, according to several sources familiar with the department's plans.

Department officials have indicated to a handful of college leaders and higher education associations that they will publish Friday a draft framework that includes the metrics on which colleges would be rated by the federal government.

This will be the first look at how the department intends to structure the federal college ratings system, which President Obama announced in August 2013. Department officials have twice delayed the release of its draft proposal, which was originally expected last spring.

Undersecretary of Education Ted Mitchell said in an interview earlier this month that the draft outline would not include the names of specific colleges or universities, nor would it show how institutions perform under the draft metrics.

The department will solicit public input on the framework during the next couple months with a comment deadline of mid-February, several sources said.
Nixon announces Missouri cattle summit next month

CENTRALIA, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon is planning to hold a summit to brainstorm ways to beef up the state's cattle industry.

Nixon announced the summit during a Wednesday visit with Future Farmers of America members at Centralia High School. It's meant to find ways to expand the industry and spur economic development in rural Missouri.

A statement from the governor's office says Missouri is ranked second for its large numbers of beef cows, but 95 percent of the cattle are finished and processed in other states.

Industry stakeholders will meet Jan. 5 at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Cattle genetics experts from the university, national beef packers and cattlemen will speak at the summit.

Program shows area families how to stretch food dollars to fight hunger

BY LAURA BAUER

12/17/2014 10:10 PM

The Star is partnering with Harvesters again on a virtual food drive to feed Kansas City kids. To donate, go to FeedingKCKids.HarvestersVFD.org.
Carol Zagar stood at the electric skillet, stirring chopped onions in olive oil for a small audience.

A minute later, the beans went in. And a few minutes after that, a meal of black bean tacos was done. It took less than 15 minutes and cost less than $7 to feed four to six people.

**Zagar, who works for University of Missouri Extension, uses recipes like this one to show families at the Raytown Emergency Assistance Program, or REAP, that home-cooked meals don’t have to be complicated and costly. Just a few minutes and a few bucks can go a long way.**

“We want to help people learn to stretch their food dollars,” said Zagar, a nutrition program associate for the extension office. “We try to do recipes with food families would get at a food pantry.”

In Jackson County, one in five children is food insecure, meaning they don’t always have enough food at home. Many families rely on food stamps, and experts say they often aren’t enough to get a family through an entire month.

That’s why some families find it hard to get through some weeks with enough food. Especially healthy food.

And that’s why Zagar holds these classes at the Raytown emergency agency. At the center, staff and volunteers try to empower residents and families, not just give food or other assistance.

“It’s about helping, but mostly it’s about education,” said Holly Grimwood, assistant director of the Raytown program, where food classes are held throughout the year.

For the first half of Zagar’s class, she teaches a lesson. Then she goes into the kitchen with a recipe.

About half of the clients REAP serves are seniors. The rest are mostly families with young kids “trying to make it through the month,” Grimwood said.
Classes include lessons on food safety and portion control. Recipes are easy to make and often call for beans as the protein or a small amount of lean meat.

Some families, Zagar said, may think it’s cheaper to go to McDonald’s and get a $1 hamburger, small fries and a small soda. But for a family of four, that costs more than $12 for one meal.

“Just look at some of these,” Zagar said, motioning to an assortment of recipes for dishes like three-bean chili, quick quesadilla pockets and spinach meatballs. “You can see they can have a healthier meal for much less.”

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article4586416.html#storylink=cpy

Candlelight memorial held for Peshawar victims

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 | 9:24 p.m. CST
BY HANNAH STURTECKY

COLUMBIA — On Tuesday, the Taliban massacred 132 Pakistani children and nine staff members at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan.

On Wednesday, the MU Muslim Student Organization gathered students and residents together and held a candlelight vigil and prayer for the deceased.

Dozens of people showed up, some holding signs saying, "The smallest coffins are the heaviest" and "#prayforpeshawar."

Near the end of the vigil, the attendees were silent for 141 seconds, one for each person who died.