Family Access Center of Excellence opens for health intervention services

Generated by News Bureau press release: MU, Boone County Program Aims to Improve Youth and Family Access to Mental Health Care Services


COLUMBIA - The Family Access Center of Excellence, or FACE, cut the ribbon for its grand opening Monday morning at 105 East Ash Street.

The resource center is set to serve the mental health and behavioral needs of young people to age 19.

Erin Reynolds, executive director of the Family Access Center of Excellence of Boone County, said FACE will be the single point of entry for families and young people, where an extensive assessment will be made to help link the families to the appropriate services.

Reynolds said FACE is "meant to bridge those barriers of disorganization and lack of access that families encounter when they are looking for services in the community.

Reynolds said the number of young people who suffer from behavioral and mental issues is 25-33 percent.

"When we start thinking about those numbers, maybe it's a lot more than we ever thought it really was," she said.

A prevention and treatment engagement specialist at Phoenix Health Programs, Heather Harlan, said "Fifty percent of people who will grow up to have persistent disability and health issues are going to be experiencing symptoms by the age of 14."
The process opening the location started in 2012 when funding was provided by the Children's Services Fund. The amount was $4.1 million over a period of three years for FACE.

Reynolds said the difference between other agencies and FACE is that other agencies "just haven't been able to do that wrap around piece and work long term with families."

*Note: FACE is a collaboration between University of Missouri researchers from the Missouri Prevention Center and Boone County.*

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**MU Program Helps Nontraditional Medical School Applicants Succeed**

This story was placed based on a press release from the MU School of Medicine: [http://medicine.missouri.edu/news/](http://medicine.missouri.edu/news/)

Graduate assistants worry about social media monitoring as they prepare to resume union battle

By Rudi Keller

Monday, August 15, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Graduate assistants worry that their private social media conversations are being monitored by the University of Missouri as part of the ongoing debate over whether their union will be recognized.

Among hundreds of pages of MU emails related to dramatic events last fall that saw the resignation of President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, the MU News Bureau included Facebook postings from the Forum for Graduate Rights page and from Connor Lewis, co-chairman of the Coalition of Graduate Workers.

The postings were captured from pages with private settings, said Joseph Moore, spokesman for the coalition.

“We suspect that people in the MU News Bureau were members of the Facebook groups,” Moore said. “Maybe these people joined under false pretenses.”

The coalition will hold a rally Aug. 24 on Francis Quadrangle as it tries to maintain momentum for union recognition, begun over cuts in health insurance subsidies. Coalition members want to repeat a rally that drew more than 1,000 to the quadrangle last year.

“I don’t think there will be as many people as there were last year, but I would like to see at least a couple of hundred,” said Moore, a graduate assistant in the MU School of Journalism.

The Facebook postings were added to a collection of news articles from print and broadcast sources. Their inclusion does not mean the news bureau is spying on graduate students, Director Mary Jo Banken said.

“That is just our job to keep up with what is being reported and monitor media coverage of the university, and that has changed a lot in my 28 years in that it now encompasses social media,” Banken said.
She was not aware that the two pages were intended to be private and was unsure whether the employee who collected the material knew it, she said. The bureau will consider how to handle future issues with private pages, Banken said.

“It is the first time it has come up in this evolving media climate,” she said. “It is something we will consider going forward.”

In May, the coalition filed suit in Boone Count Circuit Court against the university, seeking legal recognition as the union for about 2,600 graduate assistants. In an election held in April, referred to as a “mock vote” by interim Chancellor Hank Foley, 84 percent of those voting accepted the coalition as its bargaining agent.

UM does not consider graduate assistants to be employees. Graduate assistants typically receive a stipend, a health insurance subsidy and a tuition waiver in exchange for their services.

The health insurance issue is resolved for this year but not the future, and the coalition wants better pay for graduate assistants, guaranteed tuition waivers, more university housing and on-campus childcare programs.

Last year, Foley announced increased stipends, boosting the minimum for many doctoral students to $15,000 this year and $18,000 for the 2017-18 school year. The minimum stipend last year was $12,000.

Graduate students have faced a housing shortage since the 2014 demolition of University Village after the death of Columbia fire Lt. Bruce Britt in a walkway collapse. MU offered an unused residence hall for this year, Banken wrote, but found no takers. A contract with a local apartment provider is about half-filled, she wrote.

Associate vice chancellor for graduate studies Leona Rubin “is working on a model for childcare,” Banken wrote. “We are committed to supporting our graduate students who are parents.”
MU Center for Agroforestry receives grant and award

COLUMBIA – An MU agroforestry project received a grant and award from the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) program to help attract and train more young people to that career.

Members of the MU Center for Agroforestry received the awards for their project, “Missouri Agroforestry Summer Institutes: High School Educator Training for Curriculum Delivery”.

The project focused on adding agroforestry to Missouri high school Agricultural Science II class. Part of the project is to train the teachers for the class.

“For about 15 years, we’ve tossed around the idea of reaching out to high school students. We feel that there will be long-term value of showing them what agroforestry is all about,” Associate Director Michael Gold said.

Gold and colleagues Hank Stelzer and Anna Ball submitted their proposal in April and the project was named the 2016 Paula Ford Professional Development Program Proposal of the year. This award goes to the proposal that shares the same passion Ford had for sustainable agriculture.

The trio also won $70,334 for their project. The project will use this money in order for MU to train these teachers.

“There is an unmet need. The people evaluating the proposals agreed. They thought it was something worth doing,” Gold said.

Hannah Hemmelgarn, a graduate research assistant in agroforestry, helped develop the program as part of her master’s project. Hemmelgarn also helped create a one-day summer institute that was used to train new teachers.
COLUMBIA — The MU Power Plant continues to throttle back on its use of coal in the face of stiffening environmental regulations and the availability of alternative fuels.

Since the 2008 fiscal year, the amount of coal burned at the power plant to generate electricity and steam to power, heat and cool the MU campus has declined from 181,692 tons to 48,360 tons.

Greenhouse gas emissions decreased 43 percent during that same period according to Ken Davis, assistant director of energy management at MU, said.

A lessening reliance on coal has given rise to a mix of alternative fuels. Wood residues and natural gas make up 63 percent of fuel burned in boilers at the plant on Providence Road.

Natural gas, which produces about half the carbon dioxide emissions of coal, accounts for 43 percent of the fuel mix, Davis said.

Pound for pound, however, natural gas traps heat in the atmosphere at 25 times the rate of carbon dioxide from burning coal, according to the EPA. The downsides have some scientists, such as the authors of a 2012 study, asserting that the switch from coal to natural gas will offer modest, if any, reductions in global temperatures this century.

Burning wood from sawmills and other sources has contributed to reduced emissions. A specialized boiler designed to burn biomass is filled with nearly 30 tractor trailer loads of wood chips each day, five days a week. The wood used for fuel is purchased from Foster Brothers Wood Products in Callaway County, and comes from within 100 miles of Columbia.
Wood chips have about half the energy output of coal, meaning more material is required to produce the same amount of electricity.

Incorporation of automated light and cooling systems in campus buildings has helped MU decrease its energy consumption per square foot by 20 percent since 1990.

Within the next two years, as part of the MU master plan, the power plant expects to reduce its coal consumption to 30,000 tons.

The trend at MU is reflected across the nation. The U.S Energy Administration in May reported a 15 percent decline in coal-fired generating capacity since 2011 in response to lower natural gas prices and environmental regulations.