The following enrollment stories were generated by News Bureau release: Strong Retention, High-Quality Freshman Class Drive Mizzou’s Fall Enrollment

MU, expecting 3,000 fewer students, praises quality freshmen and high retention

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
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Facing the probability of declining freshman enrollment numbers this fall, the University of Missouri on Monday instead highlighted its retention rate in the student body — the third highest the college has ever seen.

The university’s retention rate, which measures how many freshmen from the 2015-16 school year returned to the Columbia campus, stood at 85.4 percent, according to a university news release.

In addition, the mean ACT score of this year’s freshman class tied a record high of 26, the university said. The ACT is an indicator colleges and universities use to measure the academic quality of the class. The highest possible score an individual student can get on the nationally standardized ACT exam is 36.

In the release, Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley said, “We’re proud that our students returned to Mizzou this year in strong numbers. Our retention rate indicates that our students believe they can achieve their educational goals here.”

Earlier this summer, interim University of Missouri System President Michael Middleton said MU’s freshman enrollment outlook was “grim” for the coming school year. The Columbia campus has said it expected nearly 3,000 fewer students on campus for the 2016-17 school year, and more than half of that decline was coming out of the freshman class.

Preliminary figures show MU’s enrollment this year is 32,777, including 4,799 freshmen.
Last year MU enrollment was at nearly 35,500.

University officials have said the drop in enrollment this year is partly due to campus unrest over racial tensions last year, a demographic shift resulting in fewer high school graduates, plus increased competition from peer institutions for Midwest students.

The university has said the enrollment decline was expected to result in a $30 million drop in revenue.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Enrollment is, in fact, down at Mizzou

COLUMBIA • Out-of-state students and incoming freshmen are among the hardest hits to University of Missouri enrollment data announced Monday.

Undergraduate enrollment is down more than 2,100 students, or almost 8 percent, this semester compared to fall 2015, and almost three-quarters of that loss comes from the freshman class.

As of the first day of classes, Mizzou enrolled 4,799 freshmen — the smallest class in almost a decade. That number is down more than 1,600 incoming freshmen from fall 2015.

University officials braced for a smaller freshman class for months following a string of events last fall that brought the campus under national scrutiny. Protests centered largely around matters of race led to deep divisions among the campus and community and to the resignation of the school’s top two leaders.

Preliminary data show a 12 percent decline in out-of-state undergraduate students, and a 6 percent decline of in-state undergraduate students compared to fall 2015.

Graduate student enrollment also took a hit of about 7 percent. A falling-out last year between graduate students and administration was another national narrative after the students lost their benefits and voted to unionize.
In a news release Monday, Mizzou officials touted one of the highest retention rates in the Columbia campus’ history, along with the highest average ACT scores from the incoming class.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley also announced a new initiative, the “Mizzou Pride Pledge.”

“Our core values are critical elements of our community, but they are only words until we integrate them as values in our individual lives and reflect them in our institutional policies and practices so that they become predominant in everything we do,” Foley said in a news release. “It’s essential that we all commit to incorporating these values every day in every interaction so that Mizzou is a place where everyone feels welcomed and valued.”

Foley also called it “a new day on campus,” and highlighted the university’s research and fundraising success.

“We’re proud that our students returned to Mizzou this year in strong numbers,” he said. “Our retention rate indicates that our students believe they can achieve their educational goals here.”

**Missouri State gains**

Missouri State University showed only a slightly smaller incoming freshman group at the start of classes Monday.

The university, which is in the middle of a $123 million construction boom on its Springfield campus, had 35 fewer incoming freshmen from fall 2015.

Total enrollment, however, is up by 773 students. The university identified transfer students and incoming freshmen as the largest areas of success.
“We’ve had significant increases in the number of first-time students during the last three years,” Missouri State President Clif Smart said in a statement. “As those students return to campus, it has bolstered our total enrollment. We’re excited that first-time college student enrollment is mostly steady and we’re continuing to increase the number of transfer students.”

MU first-day enrollment figures show freshman decline

By Matthew Sanders

Monday, August 22, 2016 at 12:15 pm

First-day enrollment figures released Monday by the University of Missouri show a smaller freshman class in line with projections made last spring.

Officials also are touting a retention rate for students who were freshmen last year that is one of the highest since MU started tracking the statistic.

First-day freshman enrollment was 4,799, compared with 6,211 on the first day of the 2015 fall semester. First-day numbers are preliminary — MU releases official numbers after several weeks because some students enroll or drop out after the first day of classes. The drop of 1,400 freshmen was in line with projections released in May. Officials have cited several factors in the shrinking freshman class size, including smaller high school class sizes, increased recruiting from other universities and the unrest that gripped the campus last fall.

In a news release, MU interim Chancellor Hank Foley said the university will “build on our success from last year,” citing more than $225 million in research money awarded to MU and faculty members, honors for students and faculty members and the most successful fundraising year in school history.

The release said 85.4 percent of students who were freshmen in 2015-2016 returned to campus for the fall semester, the third-highest rate since tracking began.
Spokesman Chrisian Basi said MU has kept track of that number for decades, at least going back to the 1980s. The rate was highest last year, with 87.1 percent of students who were freshmen in 2014-2015 returning for 2015-2016. The year before that, 86 percent returned.

“We’re proud that our students returned to Mizzou this year in strong numbers,” Foley said in the release. “Our retention rate indicates that our students believe they can achieve their educational goals here.”

Basi said work to boost retention starts when students are first-time freshmen. Freshmen are encouraged to join student organizations, and residence halls have groups that cater to particular student interests, he said.

This year’s freshman class was tied for the highest mean ACT score of any incoming freshman class at 26, according to the release.

“We’ve been very pleased with the quality of the students in our freshman class,” Basi said. He said this year’s freshman class mean ACT ties with last year’s. The release of fall enrollment figures had been highly anticipated after last year’s unrest, which started with graduate student assistants walking out for better pay and benefits and protests seeking the removal of former UM System President Tim Wolfe over race issues on campus.

Total first-day enrollment was 32,777, compared to last year’s record of 35,050, a difference of 2,273. MU leaders had projected an overall enrollment drop of as much as 2,600. Basi said it’s too early to tell whether the enrollment drop will be less than expected or how the smaller decline will affect operations.

“Obviously it will help, but we won’t have official figures until mid-September or early October with specific details about students who have enrolled,” he said.

Campus divisions had been directed to cut budgets to offset a loss of tuition projected at about $36 million.

Law school Associate Professor Ben Trachtenberg, chairman of the MU Faculty Council, said faculty are aware of the scrutiny but that it will not hurt their work. The university has “a tremendous amount to do” to highlight what is working well at MU, he said.

“I think despite any budget cuts and any problems from last year, this is always a tremendously exciting time of the school year,” he said.
Fall 2016 MU freshmen enrollment slightly more than projected

COLUMBIA — A projected decrease for overall enrollment at MU this fall came true Monday, the first day of classes.

Late spring estimates from the University of Missouri System showed enrollment would drop by about 2,600 students. On Monday, 2,273 fewer students enrolled in classes, compared to 35,050 in the 2015 school year, according to an MU News Bureau news release.

Of the 32,777 students enrolled in the fall semester, 4,799 were freshmen. That's more than the projected 4,750 freshmen but still down by 1,412 from this time last year.

Administrators cited a variety of reasons for the enrollment decline during a hard-fought UM System budget session in the spring. A decrease in graduating high school seniors, increasing competition from neighboring state universities and a semester of protests and administrative turnover were all said to contribute to lower student enrollment, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The enrollment decline created a projected budget gap of about $32 million, which administrators filled with measures including a hiring freeze and budget cuts to each department, but the effects of the cuts remain to be fully seen.

As they made their way to new buildings and classes Monday, several freshmen said that though they were aware of campus unrest last year, they were confident in their choice of degree programs.
Lena Przybocki, who is studying biological sciences, decided to attend MU for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"(The events from last fall) made me a bit wary and especially worried my parents," she said. "It made me want to take some self defense classes before I came."

Jason Pae said he was confident in the university, as it was his top pick for engineering school.

"I knew it would die down and that everything would be fixed by the time I came," he said.

Despite the overall decrease in enrollment, MU had its third-highest retention rate of 85.4 percent, meaning that all but about 15 percent of last year's freshman class decided to come back.

"That's a very strong number for us," MU spokesman Christian Basi said. "It showed that students who were here all of last year believed that the university provided them with the tools and the skills to exceed in future workplaces."

The 2016 freshman class also had the highest-ever mean ACT score of 26 and 134 valedictorians of high school classes.

The preliminary enrollment numbers include:

- 25,627 undergraduates.
- 1,183 professional students.
- 5,967 graduate students.
- A record high mean of 26.0 ACT score for incoming freshmen.
Mizzou enrollment numbers take huge hit with new school year

Watch story: [http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d1426f1b-d5cf-442a-91be-a3e11b3d0bc4](http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d1426f1b-d5cf-442a-91be-a3e11b3d0bc4)

COLUMBIA, Mo. — UPDATE: Mizzou’s preliminary fall enrollment numbers are lower than last year on Monday’s first day of classes.

Preliminary numbers show the total enrollment at more than 32,000 students. That’s down by about 7%. Freshman enrollment at the University was down by nearly 25%. University officials blame 3 factors.

MU Spokesman Christian Basi said, “There are fewer high school graduates. Number 2 is that we are seeing more competition from other schools. The third, of course, are the events from last fall.”

Mizzou has the third highest retention rate in the school’s history at 85%. That is also down about 2% from last year. Most of Mizzou’s students returned to their campus despite changes in school leadership and racial protests last fall.

Basi said, “It’s showing us that our students are coming back to complete their educational goals and that they believe the university can provide them with the skills, the tools and the resources.”

This year’s Mizzou student body includes 4,799 freshmen, 25,627 undergraduates, 1,183 professional students and 5,967 graduate students.

This year’s freshman class arrives under temporary leadership with Interim University of Missouri System President Michael Middleton and Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley. University Curators hope to hire a permanent University President by the end of November.

MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said, “It is a new day on campus, and we are excited to welcome our students.”
The University of Missouri released its preliminary enrollment numbers for the 2016 school year on Monday. Those numbers show a huge drop in total enrollment and incoming student population from last fall.

According to the MU News Bureau the total enrollment for Fall 2015 was 35,050 students, this year was 32,777. That's down 2,273 (6.70%).

The freshman enrollment to the university was down nearly a quarter. In 2015, the university said 6,211 freshman enrolled, this year there were 4,799 students enrolled. That's a drop of 1,412 (26.65%).

The university did tout the third highest retention rate in Mizzou's history at 85.4%, but that is also down 1.7% from 2015.

“It is a new day on campus, and we are excited to welcome our students,” Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said. “As Missouri’s premier public flagship university, our mission of teaching, research, service and economic development has benefited the state for more than 175 years.”

University of Missouri projects drop in freshman enrollment

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Officials at the University of Missouri have projected that about 1,400 fewer first-time freshmen have enrolled at the school compared to last year.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that the university's projection would result in a class size of 4,800.

According to a news release from the school, preliminary numbers show that there are 4,799 freshmen this year.
About 2,600 fewer students overall are expected to attend classes at the university this fall compared to last year. Preliminary figures show a total enrollment of 32,777.

Preliminary figures show sharp drop in MU enrollment

COLUMBIA — Preliminary totals released by the University of Missouri on Monday show a decrease in student enrollment for the Fall 2016 semester.

32,777 students are currently enrolled, down from over 35,000 students for the Fall 2015 semester.

A drop in enrollment was not unexpected. Last spring, Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley anticipated 1,500 fewer students. In May, the Associated Press reported an expected plunge of 2,600. Based on Monday's figures, the final number will likely fall somewhere in between.

Fewer enrolled students means less total tuition revenue - a shortfall paired with additional budget cuts from the Missouri General Assembly. The cuts were approved after some state lawmakers expressed anger with the university's handling of racially-charged protests last fall, a tumultuous period which resulted in the resignations of UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

However, any state-imposed budget cuts for the University of Missouri System were outweighed by an overall increase in performance-based funding across public colleges in the state.

The enrollment decrease is due in part to a smaller freshman class, as the university is also claiming its third-highest retention rate in school history. Less than 4,800 freshmen are enrolled for the fall.

University administration may still have cause for optimism, as MU claims its incoming freshman class boasts the highest ACT scores of any previous class.
Mizzou begins fall semester, enrollment down from 2015

COLUMBIA, Mo. - As Mizzou begins classes for the Fall 2016 semester, preliminary numbers show enrollment is down from last year.

Mizzou announced Monday morning that preliminary numbers show enrollment for the semester to be at 32,777 students. At the start of the Fall 2015 semester, enrollment was at 35,050 students, making this year's enrollment almost 6.5% lower than last year.

Around 4,800 freshmen are joining the university this semester. That's fairly close to an estimate by the provost's officer in early May, which predicted the freshmen class to fall below 5,000.

For the second year in a row, the average ACT score for incoming students is 26.0, tying the record set last year. The retention rate, or how many freshmen from last year are returning, is just over 85%, the third highest retention rate in university history. Last year, the retention rate was just over 87%.

Fall Enrollment Down, Former Chancellor Loftin Addresses Issue

Mizzou Enrollment Impacted by November Protests and Department Head Departures

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=2211e05d-b456-4e2b-a181-2b30b08585c4

Fall Enrollment Down 7%


Bad News for MU, Good News for MSU

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=c14a78ab-6b8b-4b73-b9c4-8314ff86ab5b
Human papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections in the United States and has been identified as a primary cause of cervical cancer in women.

A new study with fruit flies may offer clues about how the virus can cause cancer as well as identify potential drug treatments.

“This is the first model of an HPV-induced cancer in fruit flies,” says Bing Zhang, professor of biological sciences at the University of Missouri. “This new model will help scientists understand the molecular and biochemical pathways involved in tumor growth and malignancy caused by HPV as well as screen for potential drug targets.”

Previous studies conducted in human cells and in mice have shown that the virus enters the body through the skin and produces several oncoproteins—proteins that can transform a normal cell into a tumor cell. One of these viral oncoproteins, called E6, plays an important role during the later stages of tumor formation and metastasis.

For the study, researchers introduced the viral E6 oncoprotein and a human protein that is necessary for E6-induced cancer into fruit flies. The proteins caused severe abnormalities in the epithelial, or skin, cells.
of the fruit flies. The researchers also show reduced levels of the same suite of proteins targeted by E6 in humans.

Further experiments done in human cell lines with the fruit fly version of the E6-targeted proteins yielded similar results, providing additional evidence that E6 works the same in flies as it does in humans.

Although cellular abnormalities resulted, the scientists found that the E6 proteins were not sufficient enough to cause tumors in flies. Since it is thought that mutations in a human oncoprotein, called Ras, may contribute to E6-mediated tumor development in humans, the researchers introduced this third protein into the flies. With all three proteins present, the flies developed malignant tumors that metastasized.

“The take home message is that the same key molecular players that underlie HPV E6-mediated cancer in humans do the same things in flies,” says postdoctoral fellow Mojgan Padash. “Practically speaking, this means we can now use this fly model to identify other essential components that contribute to E6-mediated tumorigenesis, which has the potential to translate into therapies for HPV-induced cancers.”

“The model that has been developed has been used to identify other essential pathways that contribute to E6-driven malignancy,” says Lawrence Banks, head of the tumor virology group at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Trieste, Italy, and a coauthor of the study. “The power of this model is that it can be used now to screen for inhibitors of other pathways, which have the potential to translate into therapies for HPV-induced cancer.”

The Institutes of Health Research and the Italian Association for Cancer Research funded the work, which appears in the journal PLOS Pathogens. Vanessa Auld, professor of zoology at the University of British Columbia in Canada is a coauthor. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the funding agency.
The following active shooter training stories were generated by a News Bureau media advisory.

MU officials provide active shooter training, survival tips

By Brittany Ruess

Monday, August 22, 2016 at 2:00 pm


University of Missouri police and emergency management officials stressed those three actions Monday inside Jesse Hall during training on how to deal with an active shooter. About 75 people listened to Eric Evans, MU’s director of emergency management, and Brad Wolf, MUPD crime prevention officer, give tips on surviving an attack by a gunman.

The university holds the informational session every semester for students, staff, faculty and the general public.

When requested, campus safety officials follow up the sessions with a three-hour practical training inside departments, offices and classrooms and in other locations to show people how to use their surroundings to ward off a threat.

Evans said his office and police hold 20-30 practical sessions every semester. Of the nation’s active shooter situations, 29 percent have taken place in school or higher education institutions, according to the FBI.

The presentation Monday was adopted from the ALICE Training Institute and the run-hide-fight concept created by the FBI and city of Houston.

Wolf told the audience they should be aware of all exit points in their workplaces, so they have multiple escape options when running.

Running increases the likelihood of survival.

“Shooting is a physical skill, and the degree of accuracy is dependent completely on the target itself,” Evans said.
For those who choose to hide, experts recommended turning off lights, locking or barricading doors with furniture and heavy objects and staying silent. Tie belts or purse straps around door hinges and handles, Wolf said.

When fighting, anything can become a weapon, Evans said. In the university’s active shooter training video, a woman prepares to strike the perpetrator with a stapler.

Active shooter situations typically last five to seven minutes, Evans said, and the police responding to these incidents have not always arrived in time.

Law enforcement active shooter training is different than it was in 1999.

Two teenagers committed the Columbine High School massacre in Colorado that year, killing 13 and wounding 20, Wolf said.

In that situation, law enforcement officers set up a perimeter around the school and waited for a SWAT team to arrive. Wolf said a quicker response would have saved more lives.

“Columbine was a game changer for law enforcement,” Wolf said.

Now, the first officer on scene enters the building and attempts to take out the shooter. Wolf said officers only will wait for backup if it is very close behind.

The only time law enforcement officers will retreat is in hostage situations in which negotiators need to be used, Wolf said.

Evans told audience members to intervene if they believe someone is exhibiting concerning behaviors and contact the university’s At-Risk Committee, which finds help for students who could harm themselves or others.

He said the university tends to see students in distress most often during midterm and final exams.
MU hosts active shooter/active threat training session

COLUMBIA — On the first day of classes for the fall 2016 semester, the University of Missouri held an active shooter/active threat training.

Monday's training session was the first of two the MU Division of Operations, MU Police Department and Department of Emergency Management will hold.

Eric Evans is the emergency management coordinator for MU. He discussed the myths and truths of active shooter incidents.

Evans shared the myth that police will be able to respond immediately when a situation occurs. He said it took police seven and a half minutes to respond to the shooter at Columbine High School in 1999.

He also shared four truths of active shooter/active threat incidents.

Truth #1: The average number of school shootings is increasingly greatly.

The average number of active shooter incidents in a two year period increased from 4 to 20 between 2000 and 2015.

"This is something that is a great concern all across the United States but especially in institutions of higher education," said Evans.

Truth #2: If active shooters want to, they can get in. Building security measures are easily defeated.

"Most building security measures will stop it, but some wont," Evans said. "The attackers want to come in and they want to take your life. And then they want to die doing it."

He said Mu's campus contains lots of open doors and windows in all buildings.
"Most buildings are not meant to keep people out. We want the doors open, we want people wandering around and enjoying their educational experience," Evans said.

**Truth #3:** If they are able to, they will hurt you.

"Remember, these people are totally committed. They have made this decision months, maybe days, they have planned this out, they are totally committed to what they are going to do," Evans said.

**Truth #4:** Casualty rates in active threat incidents are abnormal.

"It's not normal for deaths to exceed injuries in these situations. But that's what they're there to do, is to kill. So why are these numbers so skewed in this direction?" Evans said.

He said it's because of the skill the shooter has and also because of the target. The only thing people can change, Evans said, is the target.

He said survivability increases greatly if you are able to put distance between yourself and the shooter, make movements and distract the shooter.

In response to these truths about active shooter situations, MU Police Department crime prevention officer Brad Wolf also informed session attendees what they can do in active shooter/active threat situations. He wanted to debunk the myth that students and faculty can't do anything.

He played a video encouraging people to run, hide and fight in active threat situations.

Wolf added the suggestion anything in your space can be used as a weapon. He recommends you continue fighting once you attack, instead of running. He also warns against allowing people to enter a room once you hide in it. He said the person you let in could be the shooter.

Another tactic Wolf recommends is O.O.D.A. which stands for observe, orient, decide and act. He said this will increase your situational awareness. When working or attending class on a university campus, Wolf said to take different entrances and exits into buildings so you are familiar with its layout if an active threat situation should arise.

In a question and answer portion of the presentation, one audience member asked about the email and text messages MU sends out to warn the university community of an active threat.

Wolf said it takes their system seconds to send out an alert and they don't take it lightly when they send them out.

"It's not meant to create panic," Wolf said. "It's to create situational awareness."

A new update to the MU alert system will now tell people where an incident is occurring or where shots were fired. The previous system did not give out this information.
One MU staff member, Melody Galen, works as the editor for the College of Arts and Sciences. Galen said she has some concerns about the building she works in if there were to be an active shooter situation.

"I'm kind of a sitting duck because our building has two main doors in and out and I'm on the third floor. We have an elevator or a single stairway and I've got one door in my office and one window out," Galen said.

Galen said she attended Monday's training session because she wanted to be prepared with what to do or where to go if someone ever did get into her building.

"I might try to hit the stairwell," Galen said. "I guess I'll have to just try and barricade myself in, but I've got a big window in my door so it's not the best situation."

Despite the training's focus of active threats on a university campus, Wolf shared that over 70% of mass shootings don't occur on a college campus.

The next training session will be held September 12 at 3:30 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. It is free and open to the public and will cover the same topics as the first training session.
Independent diversity, equity and inclusion audit conducted over UM System

The audit is part of a series of initiatives launched by the UM System Board of Curators in November 2015.

The UM System is currently undergoing an independent audit of diversity, equity and inclusion policies and programs as part of a series of initiatives announced by the UM System Board of Curators in November 2015.

The goal of the audit is to “examine existing efforts, to highlight effective practices and to determine where there are gaps in what is provided to students, faculty and staff,” according to a summary of the audit provided by the UM System website.

Interactive Business Inclusion Solutions Consulting Group is conducting the audit. The firm has already gathered inventories of all relevant policies and has conducted staff focus groups, as well as sent out a unit-level survey to all deans, department chairs and administrative leaders.

The point of the unit-level survey is to find “ways that members of our university community are already working to make this place a more diverse and inclusive place to be for everyone,” said Emily Love, a UM System Title IX program consultant who is working as a coordinator for the audit.

“A lot of those [diversity, equity and inclusion programs] are funded by the department, or maybe they’re not funded at all, but they’re going on,” Love said. “Ultimately, when you find out about all those programs then you can figure out strategies for resources.”

Within the next few weeks, selected students and faculty from across the UM System will begin to receive emails inviting them to participate in focus groups as well.

Although the participants of these focus groups will be randomly selected and notified by email, the groups themselves will be organized demographically.

“This method has proven to be the most effective in fostering comfortable and candid discussions,” according to the UM System audit website.

At each UM System campus, there will be 16 focus groups of 15 participants each: eight groups for faculty and eight for students. The already-completed staff focus groups were similarly structured. Additionally, there will be four focus groups for UM System employees.
“Our hope is that we can garner enough attention and have enough people know that the audit is around and what the purpose of it is so that they do participate and they do come share their experiences and their voices,” Love said. “The random selection is important because you don’t want to just get the same voices that have been talking at the table. You want to pull from all areas of the campus.”

Students who are not chosen for focus groups but still want to participate in the diversity, equity and inclusion initiative will have the opportunity to respond to a campus climate survey in October. The climate study is not a part of the audit; it’s a separate project.

“The information we use from the audit and the information we use from the climate survey will go to the [diversity, equity and inclusion] task force and will inform leadership going forward,” Love said. “Yes, there will be people participating [in the audit] who were randomly selected, but ultimately everybody gets a say.”

The audit was first announced in a joint email signed by UM System President Mike Middleton and all four campus chancellors in May. In the email, the administrators said that with this audit, the UM System has the “opportunity to leave an enduring legacy.”

“We face these challenges and opportunities together as countless individuals and organizations look to us to model change in our state, nation and world,” the administrators wrote in the email.

IBIS Consulting Group is scheduled to submit the final report of the audit to the UM System in mid-November.

“I don’t see this as a report that’s going to sit on a shelf,” Love said. “I see this as a road map for how we can strategically address issues of diversity, equity and inclusion and how we can make all of our spaces as inclusive as possible. This is not the end-all, be-all, this is really a starting place for this foundation of information that we can use to inform our work going forward.”
Mid-Missouri police academy sees increase in enrollment amid unrest

COLUMBIA — A police academy may not be the first place that comes to mind when hearing the words “back to school,” but after only a week off for summer vacation, staff at MU’s Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI) in Columbia will welcome a new class of officers Monday morning.

What sets the fall 2016 LETI class apart from others is its higher enrollment numbers. Adam Duncan, Assistant Academy Director of LETI, said recent negativity surrounding law enforcement could have prompted an increase in enrollment in the program.

“There’s a little bit of a backlash, so we had a short period of time where fewer than average officers or people that were interested in being police officers,” Duncan said. “Now, many folks are saying, ‘I really want to help my community. I want to do this right.’ So they’re interested in the field and we’re seeing our numbers trend upward.”

Training in mid-Missouri means staying in mid-Missouri, for some of the officers starting basic training.

“Out of any given class, about half of them stay in the central Missouri area,” Duncan said.

No matter where officers end up working, staff at LETI make sure trainees are ready to head out into the force or build upon current skillsets. Most of all, Duncan said LETI focuses on the current issue of officers in the program reducing the use of excessive force.

“We look at that force continuum as beginning with the officer showing up, then whenever we begin to move into the area where excessive force is questioned, the officer should be able to articulate why or how we got to the point where we did - why they used the force that they used,” Duncan said.

The Institute offers three emphases - basic law enforcement training, continuing education for current statewide officers and national animal cruelty investigation school. Graduates of LETI’s
basic training program complete 700 certification hours, which is 100 more hours than what’s required by Missouri, before they move on to the officer licensing exam and are hired by a police department or sheriff’s office.

LETI has been in operation since 1946 and is the second oldest police academy in Missouri. According to the LETI website, the program is also the second oldest program of its kind west of the Mississippi River.

Enrollment up at Law Enforcement Training Institute

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Enrollment is up at the MU Law Enforcement Training Institute in Columbia.

ABC 17 News talked to officials at the police academy Monday who confirm the current class started 29 people.

Assistant Director Adam Duncan says over the course of the last 7 years the average enrollment has been 24 students per academy class.

He says the new enrollment numbers reverse a trend the academy saw following the incidents in Ferguson.

"Interest in law enforcement as a career waned as police practices and motives were questioned," Duncan said.

Duncan believes the academy is seeing community members become more involved.

"A common theme among our new recruits is the desire to better their communities," Duncan said.

Other factors that could also be contributing to higher enrollment are an increase in department sponsored students as well as intensified recruiting efforts.
AUSTIN, TEXAS - A federal judge in Texas has blocked the Obama administration’s order that requires public schools to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity.

In a temporary injunction signed Sunday, U.S. District Judge Reed O’Connor ruled that the federal education law known as Title IX “is not ambiguous” about sex being defined as “the biological and anatomical differences between male and female students as determined at their birth.”

The judge said his order, which applies nationwide, was not about the policy issues of transgender rights but his conclusion that federal officials simply did not follow rules that required an opportunity for comment before such directives are issued.

“This case presents the difficult issue of balancing the protection of students’ rights and that of personal privacy ... while ensuring that no student is unnecessarily marginalized while attending school,” he wrote.

The ruling was the second recent setback for transgender advocates. Earlier this month, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a Virginia school board can block, for now, a transgender male from using the boys restroom while justices decide whether to fully intervene.

Texas and 12 other states challenged the White House directive as unconstitutional.
The judge also sided with Republican state leaders who argued that schools should have been allowed to weigh in before the White House directive was announced in May.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Republican, had argued that halting the order before school began was necessary because districts risked losing federal education dollars if they did not comply. Federal officials did not explicitly make that threat upon issuing the directive, although they also never ruled out the possibility.

“They president is attempting to rewrite the laws enacted by the elected representatives of the people and is threatening to take away federal funding from schools to force them to conform,” Paxton said. “That cannot be allowed to continue, which is why we took action to protect states and school districts.”

The Justice Department issued a brief statement saying it was disappointed in the ruling and was now reviewing its options.

The ruling does not prohibit schools that allow transgender students to use the facilities of their choice from continuing to do so.

Neither Missouri nor Kansas were among the states that challenged the Obama administration’s directive. In June, the Kansas State Board of Education voted to ignore the order. The board argued at the time that local districts should decide how to handle issues involving their transgender students, including which bathrooms they use and which name and gender is listed on rosters and school records.

David Smith, spokesman for Kansas City, Kan., Public Schools, said the Texas judge’s ruling “does not change anything for us. We do what works for the individual student. We want to make sure all our students are safe and secure.”

Smith said each school works with parents and the student, and “it is always the student’s choice” whether the student uses the restroom that corresponds with their birth gender or makes arrangements to use another bathroom.

The response was similar in the Shawnee Mission School District. “We plan to continue to handle requests or concerns on an individual basis, meeting with families to develop appropriate individual plans and accommodations to meet the student’s needs,” said Leigh Anne Neal, district spokeswoman.

The judge’s ruling could impact K-12 public schools as well as public colleges and universities.
At the University of Missouri and at University of Missouri-Kansas City, officials said the ruling won’t change anything on their campuses. Both already provide gender-neutral restrooms on their campuses and a list on their websites to make locating those facilities easier for the campus community.

Paul Castillo is a Dallas attorney for the gay rights group Lambda Legal, which had urged the court to let the White House directive stand. He said the latest ruling was a continuation of attacks on transgender people.

“I think today is going to be a hard day for transgender students,” Castillo said. “The decision is certainly emotional and certainly an attack on transgender students’ dignity.”

The federal government issued the mandate days after the Justice Department sued North Carolina over a state law that requires people to use public bathrooms that correspond with the sex on their birth certificate. U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch likened that law to the policies of racial segregation. Republicans have argued such laws are common-sense privacy safeguards.

The Obama administration had told the court that recipients of federal education dollars were “clearly on notice” that anti-discrimination polices must be followed. Texas alone gets roughly $10 billion in federal education funds.

The lawsuit was filed in May by Texas, Alabama, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Utah and Georgia, and the Republican governors of Maine, Mississippi and Kentucky. Two small school districts in Arizona and Texas, which have fewer than 600 students combined and no transgender students on their campuses, also joined the effort to prevent the directive from being enforced.

Last year, O’Connor granted an order that temporarily blocked federal rules that would have expanded medical leave benefits to some gay couples.