Mizzou names new business school dean

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sep 30, 2016

The University of Missouri-Columbia provost has tapped a new business school dean, filling one of several vacancies.

Ajay Vinzé joins Mizzou's Trulaske College of Business from Arizona State University where he was a professor and associate dean of international programs at the business school, among other administrative responsibilities.

He starts Jan. 1, with a $450,000 salary, making him the second-highest paid dean at Mizzou.

"We live in exciting times," Vinzé said in a statement. "Business education and associated expectations are being redefined through complex interactions between technology innovations, globalization, demographic changes, and new fiscal realities.

"Trulaske capabilities coupled with broader academic strengths at Mizzou, and with the support of alumni and business stakeholders, I am confident that we will be ready and well-positioned to succeed."

Vinzé is a Fulbright senior scholar. He has taught at Arizona State since 1998, and previously worked 10 years at Texas A&M University. He served on private sector boards and is an active researcher.
“His experience in the field of information systems and educational curriculum development as well as his outstanding experience as an academic leader will help him position the Trulaske College of Business to continue its record of success,” Mizzou Provost Garnett Stokes said in a statement.

Vinzé replaces Joan Gabel, who left Mizzou in 2015 to become the provost at the University of South Carolina.

**MISSOURIAN**

**New MU business dean Ajay Vinzé makes move from Arizona State**

JACOB SCHOLL, Sep 30, 2016

Generated from a News Bureau press release: [MU Provost Announces New Business College Dean](#)

**COLUMBIA — Ajay Vinzé, a longtime faculty member and administrator at Arizona State University, is the new dean of MU’s Trulaske College of Business.**

Vinzé has been the Earl and Gladys Davis Distinguished Professor of Information Systems in Arizona State's W.P. Carey School of Business, according to an MU news release. He will start Jan. 1.

Vinzé succeeds Joan Gabel, who left to become the provost at the University of South Carolina in July 2015, and Stephen Ferris, who served as interim dean.

Vinzé has worked at Arizona State since 1998 and held several leadership positions, recently including associate dean of International Programs at the Business School and associate vice provost of Graduate Education for the entire university.
His resume stated that during his career, he also was:

- Director of the Management Information Systems doctoral program at ASU.
- Founder of the Center for Advancing Business through Information Technology in the ASU Business School.
- Director of the Executive Masters of Business Administration Program at ASU.
- A faculty member at the Mays School of Business at Texas A&M University.

Vinzé could not be reached for comment Friday because he was on a plane from India to the U.S., MU spokesman Nathan Hurst said.

In the news release, Vinzé said, "We live in exciting times. Business education and associated expectations are being redefined through complex interactions between technology innovations, globalization, demographic changes and new fiscal realities."

In an email to faculty, MU Provost Garnett Stokes said she is confident Vinzé will provide strong leadership for the College of Business.

“Dr. Vinzé differentiated himself among the candidates by articulating an innovative, inclusive long-term vision for the integral role business schools can play at major research universities,” Stokes wrote.

Other candidates for the position included Brian Klaas from the University of South Carolina, Vernon Richardson from the University of Arkansas and Maria Cronley from Miami University. All held open forums at MU during the interview process.

According to his resume, Vinzé has: a 1988 doctorate in business administration, emphasis in management information systems, from the University of Arizona; a 1982 master's degree in business administration, emphasis in finance, from the University of Connecticut; and a 1977 bachelor's degree of commerce, emphasis in accounting, from the University of Delhi.
Neil Olson, dean of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, led the search committee. Olson said Friday that he was pleased with thoroughness of the search and how they were able to draw such strong candidates for the position.

“I was impressed with Dr. Vinzé’s breadth of knowledge in his field,” Olson said. “I believe he has the ability to bring new ideas to the Business School.”

Vinzé’s annual salary will be $450,000, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

The search committee had 17 members representing a range of specialties in the College of Business as well as alumni and students.

The search committee was formed in early spring and was required to go through unconscious bias training, which is intended to help members be aware of subconscious impressions that might affect the decision-making process. Starting last January, MU began requiring that search committees engage in the training. Olson said it educated committee members on how to improve the interview process and made them more aware of possible biases in the selection of candidates.

The Trulaske College of Business employs 198 faculty and staff members and enrolls more than 5,000 students, Ashley Burden, the college's communications director, said in an email. Trulaske has four academic units: accountancy, finance, management and marketing.
MU hires business college dean

Generated from News Bureau press release: MU Provost Announces New Business College Dean

A new dean will oversee the University of Missouri’s Trulaske College of Business starting Jan. 1.

MU said in a news release Thursday it had hired Ajay Vinze, who was a professor in the W.P. Carey College of Business at Arizona State, to take over the job filled by Stephen Ferris on an interim basis since summer 2015. Vinze was also dean of international programs at the Arizona State business school and the associate vice provost for graduate education.

Vinze also has private-sector experience as a member of the board of directors for Taiwanese microchip corporation ISSC, managing a team that created a support system and database for distribution of H1N1 flu vaccines and as part of the Super Bowl Public Health and Healthcare Workgroup for Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Ariz.

Vinze will be paid $450,000 annually.

MISSOURIAN

UM System presidential finalists might meet with campus chancellors, but not faculty

RUTH SERVEN, Sep 30, 2016

COLUMBIA — Faculty and students at the University of Missouri System's four campuses may not have a glimpse into the search for a system president until a candidate is approved by the UM System Board of Curators.
At MU’s Faculty Council meeting on Wednesday, chair Ben Trachtenberg said finalists’ names will not be released soon, but finalists might meet with the four campus' chancellors and some top administrators.

Trachtenberg said he thinks presidential candidates will not meet any faculty members other than the two on the search committee.

"No elected faculty representatives from the four campuses or from the Interfaculty Council, representing the whole system, will have any participation in any way," he said.

When the finalists begin their second round of interviews, they will meet only the two faculty representatives on the search committee, Stephanie Shonekan, an associate professor of ethnomusicology and director of the Black Studies Department, and Sheilah Clarke-Ekong, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"Of course, I think that's bad," Trachtenberg said, "but it is what it is."

The closed search means that Shonekan and Clarke-Ekong will have an extra burden to represent faculty interests, Trachtenberg said.

The search, which began in January, offered a few moments for public input, during several public forums, but the process of identifying and interviewing candidates has been secretive. Curators will continue their private airport interviews on Tuesday and Wednesday in Kansas City.

"I understand the reasoning behind it," Trachtenberg said on the phone on Friday. "If the names leak, it could cause one or more candidates to pull out of the search. We're all hoping they make the right choice and the right person accepts the job."

The process to select the system's previous president, Tim Wolfe, took nearly a year and involved nearly 100 candidates. Wolfe was system president from 2011 to 2015, when he resigned after a series of race-related protests.
Until curators approve a new president, Mike Middleton will serve as interim president.

There is pressure to nominate a candidate before the end of the year, when the terms of curators Don Cupps, Pamela Henrickson and Jon Sundvold expire, but the process is expected to wrap up by then, system spokesman John Fougere said.

**Rural Employers Failing to Meet Needs of Breastfeeding Mothers**

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Rural Employers Failing to Meet Needs of Working Breastfeeding Mothers](#)

A study from MU researchers found a lack of compliance with policies concerning breastfeeding mothers in workplaces in rural Missouri.

The Affordable Care Act requires that a business with more than 50 employees provide sufficient facilities and to allow time for mothers to pump milk during the workday.

Wilson Majee, an assistant professor at the MU School of Health Professions, conducted the study. He said there appears to be a lack of communication on both sides, but that mothers are not being given their legal rights.

“I felt like the employers were saying that the mothers were not speaking up; they are not asking for what they need. But, we are talking about businesses here, so anytime they can cut costs, they tend to take that,” Majee said.
Majee said the town where he conducted his study reportedly has over 20,000 residents, most of whom work low-paying manufacturing jobs. Majee said this plays a factor in the disconnect between the mothers and their employers.

“Given that we are talking about low-income communities and people working in low-paying jobs, I think their options are very limited in what they can do here,” Majee said.

He also said the community is taking steps to address the issue. The town has a breastfeeding coalition that works with city council and local government to communicate both employee and employer needs.

Daily newspaper in Boulder, Colorado.

Students can complete FAFSA starting Saturday, under new financial aid rules

Prospective and current college students around the U.S. will have extra time to complete the federal financial aid application known as the FAFSA starting this year.

Students can begin filling out the FAFSA on Saturday, three months earlier than in past years. They can also use 2015 tax information, which should alleviate some pressure cause by the application's past guidelines.

Ultimately, the permanent changes to the FAFSA should give students more time to consider which college or university makes the most financial sense, said Ofelia Morales, deputy director of the University of Colorado’s Office of Financial Aid.

All students seeking federal financial aid — grants, scholarships, loans, work-study jobs — must fill out the FAFSA, or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The FAFSA asks for student and family financial information to determine a student’s need for aid.
Each year, the U.S. Department of Education awards more than $150 billion in federal grants, loans and work-study funds to college students.

After students complete the FAFSA, it gets shared with the colleges and universities they listed on the application. The financial aid office at each school uses the FAFSA to determine how much federal aid the student may receive at that school.

Colleges and universities also use the FAFSA to award prospective and returning students university-funded scholarships.

In the past, the FAFSA became available to students on Jan. 1. CU set a priority date of March 1 for students seeking financial aid for that fall, though there are no hard deadlines for completing the FAFSA. (Completing the FAFSA by the priority date gave CU students the best chance of getting all the aid they were eligible for, Morales said.)

Under the former guidelines, students and their parents were required to use same-year tax filings — often, they were filling out the FAFSA at the same time as they were completing tax documents.

This meant that parents had to rush to file their taxes early, well before the April 15 tax deadline, or they had to estimate how much income they earned the previous year, then go back and amend their application once they completed their taxes.

"Those timelines didn’t work for some of our tax filers," Morales said. "We do allow families to estimate their taxes, but you know things change once you actually file. The more accurate your taxes are when you fill out the FAFSA, the better."

CU then notified students how much aid they could expect to receive in March and April, giving them a few weeks to study the information before the May 1 college decision deadline.

Now, the FAFSA will open on Oct. 1 for students seeking financial aid for the following academic year. (This year, students are applying for aid for 2017-18).

Students and parents can use their 2015 taxes, which they likely filed earlier this spring.

"The majority of people should have filed their taxes for 2015, so we’re going to have more complete tax information than we had in the past," Morales said.

Because of the earlier FAFSA open date, CU should be able to give students a financial aid estimate in December, at least three months earlier than in past years. That will give students more time to compare the cost of all the schools they applied to, she added.

"We want to give students more and more time to evaluate their award offers and make a decision," she said.

Among CU undergraduates, 48 percent of in-state students and 34 percent of out-of-state students completed the FAFSA in 2014-15.

Each year, the university budgets some of its own money for need-based and merit-based scholarships. Some scholarships are awarded automatically at the time a student is admitted to the university based on test scores and grades — those scholarships don’t require a student to fill out the FAFSA. But for all other CU-funded scholarships do.
Though the application may sound daunting, it takes most people just 21 minutes to complete the FAFSA, according to the U.S. education department, which recommends that every student apply for financial aid.

"There's no excuse for students not to sit down on Oct. 1 or Oct. 2 to fill out their FAFSA for next year," said Nick Prewett, director of financial aid at the University of Missouri and a board member for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

**MUPD and LBC work together following racial incident**


COLUMBIA - **Members of the University of Missouri Police Department and the Legion of Black Collegians met together Thursday night to discuss the most recent racial incident on MU's campus.**

Both MUPD and LBC released statements about the meeting Friday. Both statements are below:

“We appreciate the efforts of the Legion of Black Collegians (LBC) leaders to bring us together and talk about how we can build stronger relationships between our officers and our students,” MUPD Chief Doug Schwandt said. “The support and help of our students are key factors as we work to keep our campus safe. As a result of our meetings with LBC leadership, we will be working with them to expand interaction opportunities between our officers and members of LBC and the entire University community. Our officers are dedicated to our campus community and always put our students’ safety first. We’re proud to continue serving Mizzou.”
Racial Conflict at MU Sparks University Response, Demonstration

It’s been nearly a year since the University of Missouri erupted in protests over racial conflict on campus. Now, a similar incident is reigniting the conversation.

The Delta Upsilon fraternity at the University of Missouri was temporarily suspended on Wednesday after members allegedly yelled racial slurs at two black students in front of their fraternity house late Tuesday night.

The students were members of the Legion of Black Collegians, which released a statement early Wednesday morning detailing the event.

They wrote that MU Police arrived shortly after the conflict and began trying to control Legion members rather than the white students heckling from the frat house. The statement said another officer used “verbal force” while resting his hand on his gun.

Sean Earl, the president of the Missouri Students Association, got calls at 2:00 in the morning from three of his friends. He was shocked.

“My hope was that this was going to be a year of progress, a year of change,” Earl said. “This incident from last night sets us back. It doesn’t mean that we can’t continue to grow. This is just reiterating the fact that we do have to change.”

But Earl and others noticed one big change from last year’s incident: institutional support.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley wrote in a press release less than 12 hours after the incident that the university has “zero tolerance for actions like this.”

The statement said that the university would be investigating the students involved in the incident, and would determine whether any individuals should be suspended or expelled.

MU and Delta Upsilon International also both temporarily suspended the local chapter.
Ben Trachtenberg, chair of the MU Faculty Council, reached out yesterday to let Legion members know that he’s interested in making change, and that students can bring their concerns to the council.

“I think it’s important for faculty and students and staff and everyone at this university to be working together to solve some real problems,” Trachtenberg said. “So my attitude has been that I’m willing to get good advice from anyone who’s willing to give it to me.”

Black students came together on Wednesday to support one another and talk about their experiences. The Legion organized a demonstration in the Student Center during the day and a town hall discussion at the Gaines-Oldham Black Cultural Center last night.

Najeebah Hussain, chair of the Social Justice Committee in the MSA Senate, said she was at the town hall last night, and that it was a space for healing and for expressing frustration.

“It’s stuff you don’t see on social media, you know it’s raw,” Hussain said. “You get to see what people are dealing with firsthand and how it’s been affecting them, and I think that’s really powerful. It was great to see so many people there just to listen and learn.”

Representatives from MU’s Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association, MU police, faculty and administrators also attended the meeting, including the interim president of the university system, Mike Middleton.

Since last year’s protests garnered nation-wide attention, the university has launched multiple diversity initiatives and pledged more than $2 million dedicated to recruiting and retaining faculty of color.

Nonetheless, students like Earl believe this incident is a reminder that race relations at MU could still use some work.

“We have to realize that certain people just do it out of ignorance, to get attention, some people do it because they don’t know any better,” Earl said. “That’s our job as a community to reach out and educate each other and put that on our administration and faculty to make sure they’re educating the student population on these facts as well.”

Students at the town hall discussion said that Greek life needs to be held accountable for racist incidents.

The Legion of Black Collegians say they are working with the administration to develop policies to eradicate these instances in the future.
MUPD and Legion of Black Collegians Meet

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=f48170b0-c244-4914-840e-4a3ef58510d4

New vice provost for enrollment management brings experience to position

Generated from News Bureau press release: Morrice Appointed Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

**Pelema Morrice is MU’s new vice provost for enrollment management, effective Sept. 15.**

“We are excited to have Pelema join the university,” Provost Garnett Stokes said in a news release Aug. 25. “His experience will provide vision and leadership for Mizzou in attracting, enrolling, retaining and graduating students. I am thrilled to have him as a partner in strengthening Mizzou’s student success efforts.”

Morrice said he is ready to delve into the specifics of MU’s decline in enrollment that resulted in roughly 2,200 fewer students this fall.

“My first job is to figure out where those specific decreases came from,” Morrice said. “Everyone knows there have been general decreases in college enrollment, but we need to dig deeper to develop a game plan.”

Being updated about the enrollment cycle is how he begins his day, he said, but there are also other aspects to the job.

“A typical day will have meetings and talking to students as well,” Morrice said. “And figuring out how to take this division in a forward direction.”
Morrice is the former chief enrollment officer at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, but he said he has not always been involved in higher education.

“I worked in the hotel industry up until 2002,” Morrice said. “Then I moved to financial aid at Stanford University. After that I moved on to Cal State University, and from there I worked at University of San Diego, then University of Nebraska-Omaha and lastly to Bryn Mawr.”

Morrice said he didn’t expect to end up at MU, but he is happy he did.

“It worked out great, in terms of thinking back,” he said. “I prefer being in a public environment, so I’m very happy to be here.”

Morrice said he plans to be very active in the MU community, as he is in his daily life. He spends his leisure time keeping active.

“I love cycling, hiking and kayaking,” he said. “I’m sure I’ll fill my free time here with rooting for the teams here. I’ll be at the football games and probably everything else. I’m a big college sports fan.”

Morrice said he plans on getting to know the school well.

“We have a large campus with lots to do and lots to support,” Morrice said. “Whether it be athletics or academics, there is so much to be a part of.”

At Bryn Mawr, Morrice worked in a smaller, more private environment.

“It was on a much smaller scale, so Mizzou will be a new experience for me, but I feel very well-prepared,” he said.

He said he plans to stay at MU for a long time.

“I have been at many different places, and I am looking forward to building a good community and help the university grow,” Morrice said.

KU taking away health insurance subsidy for graduate students

The University of Kansas is taking away health insurance subsidies for graduate student employees, the students learned this week.

Because of a recent federal ruling, as of next summer KU will no longer be allowed to offer a subsidy for health plans, according to an email message sent to graduate students on Wednesday.
The benefit has been available to graduate teaching assistants, graduate research assistants and graduate assistants who work an average of 20 hours a week, KU human resources director Ola Faucher said Thursday.

Graduate students can still enroll in the Kansas Board of Regents graduate student health insurance plan, but beginning Aug. 1, 2017, they will no longer receive a health insurance premium subsidy from KU, Faucher said. Currently for each graduate student enrolled in the KBOR health plan, KU pays $435 per semester and students pay $145 per semester toward premiums, she said.

Graduate students can still get insurance — either through the same student insurance plan offered to undergraduates or through the Affordable Care Act Healthcare Marketplace — but the university will not help pay for their premiums.

“This is a matter of federal law with which we have to comply; it’s not something that we would choose to do,” Faucher said. “There are national organizations that are doing their best to try and get this overturned. Naturally KU is supportive of that effort, because we value our graduate student employees and feel that this is a detriment to our graduate program here at KU.”

More than 6,100 graduate students are enrolled at KU’s Lawrence and Edwards campuses this semester, according to university data.

While numbers vary from semester to semester, in May 2016 about 1,550 of those students were eligible for health insurance subsidies and 1,048 were enrolled, said Madi Vannaman, KU’s associate director of human resources for benefit.

The change also will apply to graduate students at KU Medical Center, she said.

At KU, graduate student employees are represented by a labor union and have been for over a decade, Faucher said.

For years many colleges, particularly large research institutions, have provided graduate students with Student Health Insurance Plan coverage at little or no cost, because of their status as students enrolled in an academic program, according to a statement from the American Council on Education, which KU shared with graduate students.

In February, the U.S. departments of Treasury, Labor and Health and Human Services issued guidance that such a practice is not allowed under the Affordable Care Act, but gave schools until the end of the 2016-17 academic year to change their benefits, according to the ACE statement. It says schools could be fined $100 per day per student if they continue providing the coverage.

The ACE notes that the guidance is based on an IRS notice intended to prevent employers from eluding the Affordable Care Act’s employer mandate by giving money to employees, though a number of national academic organizations dispute that application.
“The guidance is based on an incorrect interpretation of employment law that graduate students are employees,” the ACE said. “As a result, the guidance concludes that the subsidized student health insurance coverage is a kind of impermissible ‘premium reduction arrangement’ as part of an ‘employer payment plan.’”

In summer of 2015 the University of Missouri’s announcement that it planned to cut graduate students’ health insurance subsidies — citing the same federal ruling — sparked protests that, combined with race protests, led to the ouster of the school’s president and hurled the university into national news.

“They just jumped much more quickly,” Faucher said of Mizzou. “The state of Kansas decided we wanted to take more time to determine the best alternative for us.”

KU plans informational sessions for graduate students in the coming weeks.

“KU has appointed a work group to discuss an alternative approved by the Chancellor and other Presidents of the KBOR state universities to support the needs of our graduate student employees and quickly ensure they have the information they need to make appropriate health insurance decisions,” KU’s letter to graduate students said. “Our goal is to have more definitive information available in advance of health insurance open enrollment periods since the existing subsidy lapses on July 31, 2017.”

Several graduate student leaders at KU did not respond to messages seeking comment Thursday.

MISSOURIAN

DEAR READER: Who said what racial slurs at the DU fraternity house? It's complicated

TOM WARHOVER, Sep 30, 2016

There were at least three groups of people and two locations involved in the altercations Tuesday night that led to protests on campus and the suspension of a fraternity at MU.
What’s clear: Black students were subjected to racial and sexual slurs while walking on the MU campus. It’s a sad reminder of the work to be done to repair old divisions born of ignorance and fear.

What’s less clear from police reports is the exact order of events, and — critically — who said what to whom.

Somewhere on campus, a group of students and two members of the Legion of Black Collegians crossed paths. A woman in the first group directed a racial slur at the black students. From there, it looks like the two groups kept walking and exchanging words. Other Legion members were called to help. Someone flagged down MU police officer Jacob Clifford at Tiger Avenue and Rollins Street.

Delta Upsilon is on that corner. Two groups became three when fraternity students open their windows. Four groups, actually, after at least five police officers arrived on the scene.

The scene I imagine from the reports is tense and loud, made more chaotic when a DU student points his music speaker out the window to play music from hip-hop artist Future. Epithets were spoken. Angry voices were heard on, it appears, all sides.

Whether DU members shouted the N word isn’t clear.

Witnesses from the Legion of Black Collegians said they did, according to the police reports and the letter sent out Wednesday by the Legion.

Officer Clifford’s report says that he did not hear any racial slurs but that several people said they did.

He also wrote: “People inside the Delta Upsilon house began shouting out of the windows, which further angered several people in the crowd. I was not able to discern what was being said by those in the house.” He then notes that Legion members said fraternity members were taunting them.
Officer Rodney Stewart arrived on the scene 4 minutes after Clifford. “At no time while I was on scene did I hear disparaging remarks originating from the DU house or members.”

Whom to believe? That’s the task of university officials who must decide A) whether any students will be suspended or expelled and B) what to do with the Delta Upsilon house.

The fraternity received a double-whammy: suspension by both MU and by the national DU organization. I imagine the local house will have to do more than prove whether a specific slur was uttered.

Some commenters have noted that the students on the sidewalk weren’t exactly mild-mannered by the time things got hot. DU members were called redneck and cracker, according to one police report. Not exactly wise choices.

But shouting redneck and shouting the N word aren’t the same thing. Why? Hearken back to the barkers on the Virginia auction block in 1619 for clues.
Official university fundraising campaigns initiated to extend library hours

A student-created petition that received over 2,500 signatures has initiated a donation movement to reinstate Ellis Library’s 24-hour weekday schedule. UM System policy does not allow GoFundMe pages such as the one created by the student, but in response, a donation page has been created on MU’s official crowdfunding site, GiveDirect.

The donation goal is $90,000, which is the cost of keeping the library open for extended hours for one year, library spokeswoman Shannon Cary said.

User Engagement Librarian Grace Atkins will meet with the University Libraries Student Advisory Council on Oct. 4 to talk about the petition and fundraising options.

“We hear you; we have all of the data on just how used the library was when it was open 24/5,” Atkins said. “We, as librarians, saw that need was met. We want to meet that need, but we do not have the funding.”

The library has received a record-high amount of donations, but year-to-year operating costs cannot be run on donations alone, Atkins said.

Last year was the first that Ellis was open 24 hours on weekdays after the provost’s office gave the library a one-time allotment of two semesters’ worth of funds to test it out.

After gathering data on how many people utilized the new hours, the library announced that in order for the service to remain available, a student fee would have to be passed.

Library staff made it clear that if the student fee did not pass, hours would have to be cut, Atkins said. The vote did not pass.

Last spring, ULSAC, which is composed of the major student groups on campus, was convened to discuss library issues and help give information to other students.

After MU made 5 percent budget cuts across the board and the library made $1.2 million worth of budget cuts, there was not enough revenue to sustain the extended hours and keep up with other costs. While no staff members have been laid off, several have retired and the vacant positions have not been filled.
In addition to the reduction of hours, the library’s collections have been hurt by the lack of funding. Collections include journals, books, databases, articles, statistics reports and special collections, with some of them costing thousands of dollars per year.

“This is a big issue, and it’s way bigger than hours,” Atkins said. “We understand that hours are the priority, and we are trying to get them back.”

The library currently has four GiveDirect campaigns for various needs, Cary said. Additionally, library staff is reaching out to alumni for donations.

Atkins urges students to remain involved in the process.

“Try to stay as informed as you can,” Atkins said. “Keep voicing your concerns to your student leaders, because they are relaying that information to us … We’re trying to move forward and make this better and get our hours back.”

Bringing Up Business builds on Columbia's destination, birthplace for new and growing businesses

Generated from a News Bureau media advisory: MEDIA ADVISORY: University of Missouri to Hold Mid-Missouri Innovation Week Events

There already was ample evidence that Columbia was on the map as both a destination and a birthplace for businesses looking for a location or a climate to get started.

But there wasn’t a definitive source that mapped out the plethora of resources available to business startups in Columbia. Steve Wyatt changed that two years ago when he pulled together the agencies and individuals who knew where to find the answers to questions that startup, budding entrepreneurs were asking.

“Unfortunately, it takes a while to figure out our ecosystem” for entrepreneurs, said Wyatt, the University of Missouri’s vice chancellor and vice provost for economic development. “It shouldn’t be that hard.”

The billowing brainstorm that resulted from Wyatt’s gathering led to a comprehensive and easy-to-follow chart showing how to get started in business, from funding and other support services
to government and community resources, along with a list of local agencies and institutions that share a focus on incubating and growing new businesses.

Wyatt’s group also launched a local entrepreneurial calendar that allowed each agency to post its training and other events as a way to collaborate and not have conflicting plans.

Wyatt quickly defers the credit for the streamlined system to others long on the economic scene, including Regional Economic Development Inc., or REDI, where Wyatt is a board member, and a vibrant collection of notable businesses that have grown up in Columbia and call the community home.

The local entrepreneurial ecosystem and success stories will be front and center Oct. 7-14 at a variety of events during Bringing Up Business — Mid-Missouri’s Innovation Week.

“We have a lot of great things going on” in Columbia, Wyatt said. “We have a lot of great stories.”

When he assembled local business leaders a couple of years ago to begin collaborating on planning and identifying available resources, the group also wanted to work together to create the weeklong event. Now in its second year, Bringing Up Business seeks to focus on startups and business growth.

Bringing Up Business begins with the sixth “startup weekend” and business pitch competition, sponsored by Influence & Co. and Veterans United Home Loans, respectively. Startup Weekend, Oct. 7-9, will take place at the Veteran’s United office, the Museao building at 3500 Buttonwood Drive. At the end of the weekend, teams present their businesses pitches to a panel of judges, and the top three are selected. Winners receive cash prizes, an opportunity to use space at the Missouri Innovation Center, technical support, web hosting and other help.

“Historically, there have been several companies that started from that and were quite successful,” Wyatt said.

The week to follow will include another entrepreneurial pitch competition at Columbia College, an entrepreneurial “boot camp,” luncheons, the 1 Million Cups and 1 Million Slices events, where new or would-be businesses present their plans to peers and others in the business community, and other events.

Wyatt is particularly enthusiastic about the Missouri Tech Expo on Oct. 13, which brings MU’s technologies into public view for potential investors or licensing deals. MU receives royalties on licensing deals for patents, copyrights and similar research results that can be licensed.

Wyatt recently told the Regional Economic Development Inc. board that fiscal year 2016 was the university’s “best year ever” for royalty revenue, with just under $15 million coming to MU.

The Tech Expo is one way to connect research and faculty members with investors or perhaps someone who can be the CEO of a new company.
“That’s what the Tech Expo is — showcasing innovation to potential investors,” Wyatt said. He cited recent discoveries and developments in plant science, medical engineering and education.

“What some faculty members come up with is quite amazing,” he said.

Columbia’s status as a magnet of sorts for entrepreneurs and new businesses is due, in part, to the collaboration initiated by MU, the state’s flagship university, said Matt Williams, regional president of Landmark Bank in Columbia.

“That’s just something I see continuing to grow and be a bigger part of our community,” he said. Williams said REDI’s steady focus on creating a positive business climate and helping lead efforts like Innovation Week and regular events throughout the year has led to a strong local economy.

“I’d say the economic climate here is very good,” Williams said. “We see that with good loan growth and people starting new businesses and expanding other ones. ... Certainly that entrepreneurship is part of that growth.”

The local business incubators, private investment options and a community of entrepreneurs that is helpful and not secluded are other factors that make Columbia a prime location for business growth.

“Across the country, that’s a growing trend,” Williams said, noting that small businesses and entrepreneurs are “one of the fastest-growing segments of our economy.”

Wyatt said Innovation Week is geared toward strengthening Columbia’s growing reputation as “the place to come” to start a business.

“ABC Labs grew up here,” Wyatt said, pointing also to employment giant Veterans United, which had more than 1,550 employees in Columbia as of July 1.

“Those types of companies that start here, grow here and invested in our community” by supporting jobs and social causes are “great corporate citizens in our community,” Wyatt said. “We hope in the future we’ll see more and more of those companies starting, growing and expanding here.”
Generated from a News Bureau press release: College-Aged Survey Participants Indicate Last Night’s Presidential Debate Changed Minds and Influenced Their Support

Many voters don't have a clear image in their minds of major party vice presidential nominees Mike Pence and Tim Kaine, despite the nearness of the 2016 presidential election. Here's a look at their similarities and differences. (Dwight Adams/IndyStar) Wochit

WASHINGTON — Tim Kaine describes himself as "boring." Mike Pence calls himself a “B-list Republican celebrity.”

No one expects Tuesday's debate between the two vice presidential nominees — Kaine, a Democratic senator from Virginia, and Pence, the Republican governor of Indiana — to draw the record-breaking 84 million people who watched the first faceoff between presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

But viewers who do tune in could be rewarded with a clearer sense of the differences between the two parties than could be gleaned from the Clinton-Trump debate.

“The vice presidential debate will be two competent politicians discussing issues,” said Elaine Kamarck, an expert at the Brookings Institution. “There won't be the distraction that Trump, especially, brought to the presidential debate.”

Voters may have another reason to watch: to learn something about the men vying to become second in line to the presidency, each of whom remains unknown to many Americans.
Neither Kaine, 58, nor Pence, 57, had large national profiles when they were selected as vice presidential candidates. And both have been overshadowed by their well-known — and polarizing — running mates.

As a result, polls show more than one-third of voters don’t know enough about either to form an opinion.

“To some extent, this is still their introduction to a big part of the public,” Joel Goldstein, a vice presidential expert at the Saint Louis University School of Law, said of Tuesday’s debate. “Clinton and Trump have clearly been the focus, and Kaine and Pence are less-captivating, (less-)exciting figures.”

Both running mates have long records in government and extensive public speaking experience, although this will be their first nationally televised debate.

“We’ve got a sitting United States senator versus a former House member who spent years as a radio talk-show host,” said Jim Manley, a Democratic strategist and former aide to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. “As far as I’m concerned, they’re coming into the debate pretty even. Both are articulate and think well on their feet.”

Both are also well-matched in temperament. Kaine and Pence are affable with low-key, sunny demeanors. They’re known as nice guys, even by those on the other side of the aisle.

But despite the value they place on civility, they’re not pushovers.

“He’s a consummate gentleman, but that doesn’t mean he isn’t tough,” Wayne Turnage, who served as Kaine’s gubernatorial chief of staff, said of his former boss.

Tom Rose, a close friend and adviser to Pence, called Indiana’s governor a gracious man who will be very respectful.

“But he can throw an uppercut, too,” Rose said.

At the debate, Pence likely will be more focused than Trump was in attacking Clinton’s vulnerabilities, including her use of a private email server while secretary of State, her comment that half of Trump’s supporters were a “basket of deplorables,” and allegations that the Clinton Foundation was part of a pay-to-play scheme. Throughout the campaign, Pence has been the more disciplined messenger — as well as a “clarifier in chief” — for some of Trump’s controversial remarks.

“Pence is much more of a normal politician than Trump is,” Kamarck said. “I think Pence will be sort of steady and try to calm people’s worries.”
Kaine likely will challenge Pence on Trump's comments about women, his business practices and his refusal to release his tax returns.

“I'm looking for Sen. Kaine to find new and creative ways to try and make Pence defend all sorts of Trump’s controversial comments,” Manley said.

Pence undoubtedly will be asked about Trump's recent criticisms of former Miss Universe Alicia Machado's weight gain and his tweet that people should check out a sex tape of her. (There's no evidence such a tape exists.)

Asked how Pence will address the issue, spokesman Marc Lotter said the Indiana governor is focused on the clear choice the election offers between Trump's and Clinton's visions for the future.

Kaine could repeat criticisms he’s made on the stump about the controversial “religious freedom” law Pence signed as governor. Kaine, who focused on civil rights cases while a lawyer in private practice, has called Pence’s record on LGBT issues “anti-civil rights.”

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va. holds up books to show the difference between the two campaigns for president on Sept. 15, 2016, in Portsmouth, N.H. (Photo: Jim Cole, AP)

Pence told conservative radio talk-show host Hugh Hewitt he’s ready to respond.

“I don’t believe in discrimination against anyone because of who they are or who they love, and anyone who knows me knows that to be the case,” Pence said Monday.

Pence, though, could have trouble pivoting to a general election audience when one of the assets he brought to the ticket was a record that appeals to social conservatives. In recent weeks, Pence has made several appearances before social conservative groups, touting his opposition to abortion and his long-standing fight against Planned Parenthood.

**Trump didn’t do much in his debate against Clinton to appeal to independents, particularly women, and Pence might not be able to help, said Mitchell McKinney, who teaches political communication at the University of Missouri.**

“I don’t see that Pence is able to make appeals to that segment of the slice of the electorate that maybe Trump really needs to work on,” McKinney said. “He’s not the messenger to do that.”

Kaine, who personally opposes abortion but has said it’s a moral decision for people to make for themselves, has gotten mixed reviews from reproductive rights groups over the years.
Pence has gotten debate advice from House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who faced off against Joe Biden in a vice presidential debate four years ago. And he’s been running through practice debates, with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker playing the role of Kaine.

Rose said Pence has focused on mastering the policy positions of both campaigns in order to present a clear contrast.

The story continues: VP candidates Mike Pence, Tim Kaine to take turn in debate spotlight

Mizzou students unveil marker to memorialize lynching victim
By Kristen Taketa St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sep 30, 2016

University of Missouri-Columbia students unveiled a historical marker on campus Friday to memorialize a medical school janitor who was lynched nearby more than nine decades ago.

The unveiling took place at Providence and Stewart roads two days after a report of racial slurs by some students revived anger about perceived racism within the Mizzou community.

“Let this site remind us of the injustices of our historical legacy,” the marker reads. “As we continue the fight against systems of oppression, let us reflect on how to better our community for all Columbians.”

Students with Mizzou’s Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students commissioned the historical marker near the site where James T. Scott was killed.

“Even though people of color are made to feel like they must forgive and forget not so distant history, including incidents that are less than a decade, year, month, and even day old, we must not forget the punishments meted out to our community, simply for being,” wrote Tiffanesha
Williams, president of the association, in a Facebook post. “Forgetting without restitution or justice is merely inviting an encore.”

Scott was a 35-year-old black janitor at Mizzou’s medical school, according to a paper written for the Missouri Historical Society by Patrick Huber, a history professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology.

According to Huber:

During the week leading to Scott’s death, Columbia was gripped with hysteria. A 14-year-old white girl named Regina Almstedt, the daughter of a German literature professor, had claimed she was assaulted by an African-American man she didn’t know. She said the man had a Charlie Chaplin mustache. Scott had a Charlie Chaplin mustache.

On April 21, 1923, Scott was arrested on suspicion of the assault. When charges were officially announced a week later, a mob broke into the county jail and abducted Scott to exact their own brutal idea of justice upon him.

They marched him to the Stewart Bridge while he pleaded his innocence. He tried unsuccessfully to tell them that a cellmate had confessed to him of committing the crime. He was beaten until he bled.

On the bridge, they slipped a noose around his neck. He gave his last words, a prayer to God. Then they shoved him over the railing.

Hundreds of people watched and had been cheering. It was believed that crowd included students.

In the end, nobody was convicted for Scott’s murder.

Scott was born in New Mexico and had served in the U.S. Army during World War I, according to Hubert. He had been given a decoration for valor.
He was well-known in the community and had enjoyed relative financial security. He was well-off enough to own a car. His wife was one of the few African-American teachers in Columbia. He had three children.

“In a town in which whites feared black progress, prosperity, and independence, being visible could be dangerous for a black man,” Huber wrote.

The Columbia lynching stood out because it happened in a college town, Huber wrote. Also, most lynchings took place in the South and were usually carried out by working-class whites, not upper- and middle-class whites, as was the case with Scott’s murder.

Huber wrote that more than 4,100 people were lynched between 1885 and 1922. Three-fourths of the victims were African-American.

**MISSOURIAN**

**New plaque memorializes 1923 lynching victim James T. Scott**

ANN MARION, Sep 30, 2016

COLUMBIA — On the MKT Nature and Fitness Trail near Stewart Road, a new plaque reads: “Lest We Forget: Lynching at the Stewart Road Bridge.”

**The plaque was built to remember the public killing of James T. Scott, who worked as a janitor at MU in the 1920s.**

In 1923, Scott was accused of raping the white daughter of an MU professor. Before he could stand trial, a mob broke him out of jail and hanged him on a bridge at Stewart Road. The daughter would later identify a different man as her rapist.
To commemorate Scott's life and death, MU's Association for Black Graduate and Professional Students held an event called “Lest We Forget” to dedicate a marker at the site where Scott was lynched.

The marker briefly summarizes Scott’s story. It includes a lesson: "Let this site remind us of the injustices of our historical legacy. As we continue the fight against systems of oppression, let us reflect on how to better our community for all Columbians. The Lynching at Stewart Road Bridge reminds us of how far we have come and the work we have yet to do."

Several leaders in the community attended Friday's commemoration, including interim UM System President Mike Middleton, Columbia Public Schools Superintendent Peter Stiepleman, Mayor Brian Treece and First Ward Councilman Clyde Ruffin. Around 100 other people attended.

Brittani Fults, a former executive staff member for the association, said she hopes the event can help atone for the lack of justice Scott received in 1923. The association started its initiative to dedicate a marker in Scott's name about a year ago.

“We can right that wrong by giving power back to the innocent,” Fults said.

The association worked with the city and several departments at MU to raise funds for the project and install the marker.

Over the past several years, people interested in raising awareness about Columbia's history of racism have taken steps to share Scott's story.

In 2010, Scott Wilson, a film producer, lobbied state representatives to change Scott's death certificate, according to previous Missourian reporting. Previously, the certificate said Scott "committed rape." Now, it reads, "never tried or convicted of rape."

And in 2011, Scott's nondescript gravesite received a headstone.
Traci Wilson-Kleekamp, president of Race Matters, Friends, an organization pushing for racial equity in Columbia, has researched Scott's story in her studies as an MU graduate student. She is working toward a master's degree in social studies education.

Wilson-Kleekamp said the historical record of Scott's life and death lacks the depth of information that the story deserves. Old newspaper clippings, she said, barely mentioned Scott's family or the response of the black community to Scott's killing.

"Black people weren't part of the narrative," Wilson-Kleekamp said.

Douglas Hunt, a Columbia resident of 40 years and an associate professor emeritus at MU, has extensively studied Scott's life and death. He published a book in 2010 detailing his research.

His interest in the case dates back to the 1960s, when his professor told him about how he attended the lynching as a boy. Hunt said he was shocked to learn about the killing. He said he felt it was strange that Columbia would have such a severe racial problem.

"It's important for the city to talk about it," Hunt said.

MU students remember last Columbia lynching victim

COLUMBIA - MU's Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students unveiled a historical marker Friday at the location of Columbia's last public lynching.
The marker tells the story of former MU janitor James T. Scott. He was lynched by a mob over the Stewart Road Bridge in 1923 after a 14-year-old girl accused him of raping and assaulting her. The bridge is no longer there, so the marker was placed near the intersection of Providence and Stewart roads at the MKT trail head.

Brittani Fults was one of the event's organizers. Fults said Scott's life was cut short because of injustice.

"He wasn't afforded due process. He wasn't afforded the ability to say that I'm innocent," she said. "It was taken away from him when he was hauled out of the jail room to be lynched."

The Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students said people should not forget Scott's lynching.

The association's president, Tiffanesha Williams, wrote this in a post on the association's Facebook page: "Even though people of color are made to feel like they must forgive AND forget not so distant history, including incidents that are less than a decade, year, month, and even day old, we must not forget the punishments meted out to our community, simply for being. Forgetting without restitution or justice is merely inviting an encore."

Fults said the event is important because how you respond to the past affects your future.

"If we don't talk about it and address it, we're not gonna talk about what's going on now with voting rights," she said. "We're not gonna talk about anything that's important that still has to deal with people of color if we don't acknowledge what was happening to them 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100 years ago."

About 100 people came to see the unveiling, including Columbia Mayor Brian Treece and Interim UM System President Michael Middleton.

A dedication ceremony and reception took place afterward. The ceremony included poetry, a play and lectures about the event and how it relates to current trends in America.

Stephanie Shonekan attended the event. She is the chair of the Black Studies Department at MU. She said ABGPS has done an excellent job focusing on an important moment in Mizzou's history.

Shonekan said, "It is a chance for us to stop and remember what happened and reflect on how the past is still present in many ways."

The marker is titled "Lest We Forget: Lynching at the Stewart Road Bridge." It reads: "Near this place, James T. Scott, a black janitor in the medical school at MU was killed on April 29, 1923. A mob brought Mr. Scott to the bridge, placed a noose around his neck and pushed him over the railing while hundreds of spectators watched. MU's presence and the alleged student involvement in Mr. Scott's murder stirred public outrage and made front page news across the U.S. Although charges were filed against the leaders of the mob, none were convicted. Let this
site remind us of the injustices of our historical legacy. As we continue the fight against systems of oppression, let us reflect how to better our community for all Columbians. The lynching at Stewart Road Bridge reminds us of how far we have come and the work we yet to do."

According to a previous KOMU story, ABGPS raised $1,935 for the marker through a GoFundMe campaign. Its goal was $1,500.

The historical marker will be part of Columbia's African-American Heritage Trail downtown.

**Marker unveiled to commemorate lynch in Columbia**


COLUMBIA — Community members in Columbia gathered Friday night for the unveiling of a historical marker to memorialize James T. Scott.

*Scott was a janitor for the University of Missouri. He was lynched by a white mob in the 1920's.*

The marker can be found at the MKT trailhead at the intersection of Providence and Stewart Road.

The MU Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students raised the funds for the plaque.

Scott, an African-American man, was lynched in 1923 after he was accused of raping a white, teen-aged girl. Studies later showed Scott was wrongly accused.

The marker was placed in the area where the bridge from which Scott hung once stood.
"Perhaps the absence of that bridge can be our reminder today that it is our obligation to build those bridges to our past, to our future to improve that racial integrity and hopefully someday, inclusion," said Columbia Mayor Brian Treece.

Scott's plaque is now part of a set of African-American heritage markers throughout Columbia.

**Prepping for Zika**

Florida colleges are facing the greatest danger, but experts say institutions everywhere must plan for possible risks, too.

**No MU Mention**

The return to campus this academic year was accompanied by a new challenge: Zika. Zika has been detected 3,358 times in the United States since the first reported case of sexual transmission in February, according to most recent numbers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The symptoms and impact are generally mild, unless the person infected is a pregnant woman or a woman who becomes pregnant subsequently. Fetuses whose mothers have been diagnosed with Zika -- even well after exposure -- are at risk of being born with abnormally small heads and brain defects.

The majority of Zika diagnoses in the U.S. have been travel related -- people who entered the U.S. after visiting Central or South America, bringing Zika along with them.

But some were transmitted through sexual activity, and others through local mosquito bites.

About 700 people have been diagnosed with Zika in Florida, and all 43 cases where someone contracted Zika by mosquito bite in the United States occurred in Florida. And the epicenter of those Zika-infected mosquitoes has been Miami, home to multiple universities and nearly 350,000 people aged 15 to 24, according to a 2014 survey from the U.S. Census Bureau.

College and universities such as the University of Miami and Florida International University have been beefing up efforts to educate students about the Zika virus and establish prevention efforts on campuses.

“Immediately after it was discovered that we had several cases of Zika in our county, we convened a committee at the charge of the president,” said Eneida Roldan, chief executive officer of FIU Student Health.
The committee was created in July, and after a quick turnaround, it launched an "aggressive and comprehensive marketing campaign," Dr. Roldan said, to teach students how to protect themselves from Zika. The university added facts and tips to its website; put up informational signs all over campus; identified, eliminated or treated standing water where mosquitoes are most likely to breed and where their eggs can last days; and provided condoms to students to protect against sexual transmission, among other precautions.

The University of Miami is taking a similar approach. At the beginning of the school year, administrators provided 6,000 bottles of mosquito repellent to students. The university also dealt with the issue raised by standing water -- draining water where it could and treating the rest -- but unlike FIU, the university also sprayed targeted areas on campus with insecticide.

In addition, earlier this month, the university hosted a panel discussion for students, faculty and staff members, as well as public officials and Miami residents. “We’re not only educating students, but we’re also working to educate the Miami community,” said Jacqueline Menendez, the university’s vice president for communications.

When it comes to Zika prevention, education is vital, according to Tim Moody of the American College Health Association.

The sentiment of college students -- how apathetic or concerned they are in response to Zika -- is difficult to measure. Julie Harans, editor of The Miami Hurricane, the University of Miami’s student newspaper, hasn’t detected panic at her school. As far as she knows, nobody’s hiding from the outdoors or wearing long sleeves in the hot Florida sun.

“There was more hype around it over the summer. Students from the Northeast were especially concerned about coming back over the fall semester,” Harans said. But since students have returned, “the consensus has been, ‘I’m not planning on getting pregnant, so it doesn’t matter to me.’”

Since many students may not be paying attention to Zika, Moody said, it’s important for colleges and universities to take a proactive approach: teach students about the virus and have a Zika response plan in place. Moody suggests using the CDC’s Zika Interim Response Plan as a guideline.

**Beyond Miami**

Miami may be ground zero for U.S. Zika transmissions, but that doesn’t mean cases of Zika have been isolated there. Two college students diagnosed with the virus attend the University of Florida, more than 300 miles north of Miami.

One student was living on campus and the other off campus, said Bill Properzio, director of environmental health and safety at Florida. Both received instruction from the
Student Health Center on how to avoid spreading Zika, such as wearing long sleeves and covering themselves in repellent to keep mosquitoes from biting them and then infecting others.

Although the university is far from Miami, it too is getting rid of standing water and adding larvicide to water that can’t be drained. The university also has a website that lists student resources and Zika prevention tips.

But it’s not enough for universities in Florida to establish Zika prevention efforts, Moody said. Colleges all over the U.S. should invest in educating their students, too.

Along the Gulf Coast, officials at Tulane University in New Orleans are aware that their climate makes their location a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes.

In fact, Scott Tims, assistant vice president for Campus Health at Tulane, began receiving phone calls from concerned parents in early spring. The prevention efforts kicked into full gear over the summer: facilities management identified and either drained or treated standing water, and the campus was sprayed a few times over the summer.

Even at the University of Maryand at College Park, far from the Gulf Coast, the University Health Center sent an email to students in early September offering facts about the virus and prevention tips.

Because nearly all Zika diagnoses in the United States were contracted through travel, a crucial step in Zika prevention must be consulting students who visit or study abroad in South and Central America, Moody said.

That’s a large piece of Zika prevention efforts at the University of Texas at Austin, where students traveling to high-risk areas are advised both before and after their trips. “Say students went to the Olympics this summer and were infected with the virus. We give them a consultation when they return,” said Susan Hochman, assistant director of the University Health Services at UT. “We want to make sure students know how to protect themselves from mosquito bites, as well as how to protect their sexual partners.”

Finally, researchers are constantly learning more about Zika, which means that information about how best to prevent its spread is changing often, Moody said. The best way for universities to keep informed: check the CDC website on Zika regularly.

**States Fund More Student Aid**

Grant aid grew by 5.7 percent and nongrant aid grew by more than 7 percent in 2014-15 fiscal year.
State-funded student financial aid increased by about 6 percent across the country in the 2014-15 academic year as states put more money into grant and nongrant programs alike, according to the latest round of an annual survey released Monday.

States funded and awarded about $12.4 billion in total student financial aid, according to the 46th annual survey from the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs. That’s up 6 percent nominally and 5.8 percent adjusting for inflation. It’s also higher than the rate of growth reported in NASSGAP’s survey for the previous academic year, which found that total aid grew by an adjusted 1.6 percent, to $11.7 billion.

Both grant and nongrant student aid grew in 2014-15, the new survey found. Nongrant student aid, which includes loans, loan assumptions, conditional grants, work-study and tuition waivers, rose by more than 7 percent to $1.9 billion. But grants continued to account for the vast majority of student aid -- almost 85 percent. Grants grew to about $10.5 billion, up 5.7 percent. States made nearly 4.5 million grant awards.

Just over three-quarters of grant aid, 76 percent, was need based, leaving 24 percent non-need based. The breakdown between need-based and non-need-based grants is roughly the same as the previous year, when need-based aid grew notably faster than other types of aid.

“I think there’s been a shift back a bit more to need-based aid from non-need-based aid,” said Frank Ballmann, director of NASSGAP’s Washington office.

Need-based aid can be used to attempt to encourage students who may not attend college to enroll. Non-need-based, or merit aid, is often seen as appealing to many students from wealthier families who will attend college with or without aid. It can be used to try to lure top students or keep them in state.

“Over all, the needle is still at 76 percent,” Ballmann said. “But ultimately, I think the states are more aware of the idea that getting the people who wouldn’t otherwise go to college to go to college benefits their state’s economy and the tax base.”

For undergraduates, need-based grant aid funding increased to more than $7.8 billion, up 6 percent when adjusting for inflation. Non-need-based grants rose by close to $2.5 billion, up an adjusted 2.2 percent. Overall undergraduate aid rose to $10.3 billion, up an adjusted 5.1 percent.

Most states reported operating state-funded undergraduate programs containing need components. But just eight heavily populated states collectively awarded 70 percent of all undergraduate need-based grant aid -- California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York,
North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington. Two states, Georgia and New Hampshire, reported having no need-based aid programs.

Meanwhile, 25 states said they had undergraduate programs that made awards based only on merit -- although most simultaneously had programs awarding only need-based aid. Programs awarding only merit-based aid accounted for 18 percent of all aid to undergraduates. Programs that awarded only need-based aid made up 47.5 percent of all aid to undergraduates. Other programs and programs mixing need and merit components made up the remaining 34.5 percent of aid to undergraduates.

On a per-capita basis -- based on estimated overall population -- Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina and West Virginia provided the most grant aid. Comparing undergraduate grant dollars to undergraduate full-time equivalent enrollment showed Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee leading other states with high grant dollars. Comparing state-funded grant expenditures to total state support for higher education showed Louisiana, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington leading with the highest proportion of grant expenditures.

Because state data lag, the new survey does not cover the most recent academic year, 2015-16, which could reflect high-profile budget issues affecting student aid in states including Illinois, Louisiana and Pennsylvania. Those issues might or might not show up in national data in future surveys, Ballmann said.

“At some point in the next year or two, we might see some individual states begin to show some budget strains in our report,” he said. “On the other hand, there might be some states that are investing more heavily. When California and New York go big, that can drown out a lot.”

Several changes to the financial aid process could show up in future surveys as well. An earlier submission timeline taking effect for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and the ability for families to use prior-prior year tax data on the FAFSA could both affect student aid.

The story continues: https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/10/03/state-funded-student-aid-rises