



MU News Bureau

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Sedalia Democrat

Sedalians hear from University of Missouri System president

By: Nicole Cooke

A departure from political candidates and local officials, the Pettis County Pachyderm Club heard from University of Missouri System President Mun Choi during Friday's meeting at Best Western State Fair Inn.

Choi became the UM System's 24th president in March 2017, previously serving as the provost and executive vice president of the University of Connecticut. He has worked in higher education for 24 years, according to his biography on the UM System website. While he lives in Columbia, the location of the University of Missouri, he oversees all four of the system's campuses.

Choi was named president about a year after protests broke out on the Mizzou campus, sparked by racism accusations that students said were not addressed by university leadership. Choi spoke about the protests briefly, but talked more about the aftermath and how the university is working to "move on."

A strategic plan will begin this year, focused on "achieving excellence in everything that we do," Choi said, with three main areas: research, engagement, and operational excellence. A recruitment and marketing campaign has been launched in Missouri and surrounding states, and Choi has been visiting Missouri cities over the past 10 months to learn more about how MU can help their community.

Choi said he visits each campus at least once every few weeks, although some of his work has been focused on improving Mizzou's public image and increasing the school's enrollment, which declined significantly after the protests. According to Choi, freshman enrollment dropped

by nearly 2,000 the last two years, which equates to about \$120 to \$150 million in lost funding. Combined with 2017's state budget cuts to higher education from Gov. Eric Greitens, Choi said it has become difficult to provide additional money to students who are in need of assistance.

To help compensate, Mizzou recently launched the Missouri Land Grant, which can be awarded to Mizzou's 4,000 undergraduate students who receive the Pell Grant and help cover the remaining tuition cost. The hope is to in turn increase graduation rates for the school's Pell Grant students, which is less than 50 percent over six years; 55 percent of non-Pell Grant students graduate in six years at MU, according to Choi.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

VA secretary acted to end dispute between MU, Truman Memorial

By RUDI KELLER

Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin in September intervened in an employment dispute between University of Missouri Health Care and a doctor working at Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital that threatened to rupture the relationship between the providers.

On Sept. 12, as Circuit Judge Jodie Asel was poised to enforce a non-compete clause to block orthopedic surgeon Thomas Aletto from working at Truman Memorial, Shulkin received an email seeking help. Shulkin answered and became involved in the dispute. Soon after the intervention, MU Health dropped its lawsuit, though officials would not say Shulkin's involvement was the reason.

The email is included in three pages of documents about the dispute obtained by the Tribune under a Freedom of Information Request to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA obscured the name of the email's author but included the names of Shulkin and Truman Memorial Director David Isaacks as recipients.

In the past, the email stated, Truman Memorial had hired physicians from the staff of MU Hospital and Boone Hospital Center "without much squabbling, other than some hurt feelings."

The university's use of the courts to block Aleto from working at Truman Memorial was a troubling development, the email stated.

"They are currently suing a physician who came to work for us, even after I notified them well in advance of the plan," the email stated. "They have also threatened legal action to physicians who voiced that they were considering coming to work for the VA."

Within five hours, Shulkin responded and began stepping into the dispute.

"This is important for us to know," Shulkin wrote. "I will call the CEO and the dean at the University of Missouri if you get me the name and number ... And of the doctor involved."

It is unclear from the documents whether Shulkin actually made the calls but he received a reply, from Truman Memorial, that Isaacks had spoken with School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine "and has done an excellent job of stating our case. I think with that and (redacted) involvement we will see some movement."

The Department of Veterans Affairs did not respond Friday to an email request for comment.

The university sent the first letter to Aleto's attorney offering to drop the case seven days after Shulkin received the email describing the problem. The lawsuit was ultimately dismissed on the university's motion on Oct. 6.

Neither Aleto nor his attorney, George Smith, knew at the time that top VA officials were working to quell the dispute but they suspected it, Smith said Friday.

"I was about 95 percent sure that is what happened," he said.

In October, the university emphasized maintaining good relations with the VA as its reason for dropping the suit. Without addressing Shulkin's role, spokesman Christian Basi reiterated that reason Friday.

"The overriding factor in dropping the lawsuit was to maintain our relationship with the VA," he wrote in an email. "University of Missouri researchers and clinicians collaborate with the VA on a regular basis, and it is important to us to maintain a good working relationship with the VA hospital."

By dropping the lawsuit, the university did not agree to refrain from similar lawsuits in the future against other physicians who may take employment with the VA, Basi wrote.

Aleto initiated the legal fight in August 2016 when he challenged the legality of the non-compete clause in his contract, which forbade him from working in Boone or four other Central Missouri counties for two years after he left the university's employment. His last day at the university was Dec. 31, 2016. On July 5 he lost his lawsuit, but Circuit Judge Jeff Harris told the university

it could only enforce the clause for 18 months after Aleto left. The damages required by the clause were also illegally punitive, Harris ruled.

Aleto began working for Truman Memorial in March and the university sued him on July 21. Five days before the email exchange, Asel held a hearing on the university's motion for a temporary restraining order.

At that Sept. 7 hearing, Smith said Friday, Asel indicated to Smith and the university's attorney, Skip Walther, that she would issue the order.

"When judges are going to enter a judgment on an order, they will ask the party they are going to rule in favor of to provide the document to them," Smith said. "Asel gave every indication she was going to grant the" restraining order "and asked Walther to give her an order. This was on Tuesday. He indicated he would have it to her by Friday. It didn't come on Friday; in fact it didn't come on Monday."

That Monday was Sept. 11. Smith was also working to prevent Asel from ruling. He filed for a change of judge on Sept. 11 and the next day filed a motion to reconsider or vacate the order that had not yet been issued.

Before Walther's draft reached the court, Shulkin received the email asking him to step in.

The dispute isn't over, Smith said. The university wants to consider the date of Harris' ruling as the date to begin the 18-month period when the non-compete clause was in effect, he said. Aleto believes it began Jan. 1, 2017, the day after he left university's employment. That disagreement has the potential to fuel future litigation.

"It is not over," he said. "I wish that I could tell you that it was but it is not."

The university, through Basi, declined to comment on the date it considers the end of the non-compete period.

When U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Harrisonville, visited Columbia Oct. 18 to highlight legislation making it illegal to enforce non-compete clauses against physicians hired by the VA, she said she filed the legislation because the VA does not compete for patients with other providers and a General Accounting Office report showed a growing shortage and increasing turnover in critical patient care jobs at the VA.

MISSOURIAN

Telehealth gives rural Missouri greater access to health care

MICA SOELLNER AND TREVOR HOOK Jan 7, 2018 (0)

ST. ROBERT — With a population just shy of 5,000, the town of St. Robert lies just south of the heart of Missouri. It's one of the many rural towns in the state that finds alternatives to healthcare access through the internet.

Since the early 1990s, the telehealth network has helped connect patients to health care providers from their own homes. Increasing technology has made the service more efficient, with live audio and video sessions enhancing virtual healthcare.

Telehealth services rely on internet access to conduct sessions, and Missouri is one of the worst states in terms of broadband access in rural areas.

Jon Moore, a physician's assistant at Mercy Clinic Family Medicine in St. Robert, relocated to the town from Fort Leonard Wood in 1998 and has been practicing dermatology with telehealth services since then. Despite believing that dermatology is underserved in the area, Moore says that telehealth services are invaluable in a small community like St. Robert. Moore said that as broadband access has improved, the health services have improved.

"We had some big problems when we were first choosing the equipment back in the early 2000s," Moore said. "A couple of times, telemedicine degenerated into telephone medicine... I ended up describing the lesions over the telephone because we just couldn't get it going. With the evolution of broadband, it's gotten better and better."

As far as who Moore sees, patients utilizing telehealth services do so for a variety of reasons. While many may use it for convenience, others may choose virtual services to reduce the cost of health care.

"If (people) are unemployed, they may not have a car, or if they have a car, they may not be able to afford gas," Moore said.

"I've had patients that were very well insured and were just happy with the convenience of not having to get in a car and drive (to the closest specialist,) and I've had others that were just dirt poor or nursing home patients that just couldn't travel."

Sometimes uninsured or underinsured patients can't afford to consult with a specialist, he said, "so the challenge is there."

Karen Edison is the medical director of the Missouri Telehealth Network. Edison has specialized as a dermatologist for over 20 years and frequently fronts teledermatology sessions with her patients.

"I'm taking care of (patients) through video conference so I see their skin," Edison said. "They send pictures to me ahead of time and I look at all their skin photos and then I go in the room and talk to them over the computer. It's just like it is in person, it's just using technology to bridge distance."

Edison says that equipment and technology have become cheaper over the years to operate telehealth services. Today, clinics may only need to use a laptop or desktop computer to communicate with their patients and conduct sessions.

"When we first started doing telemedicine, the local rural clinics had to have some very expensive video conferencing equipment," Edison said. "Today, we use our regular computers. You don't need to have anything special besides ... broadband access to make that secure and high quality."

"We still have rural areas in Missouri that don't have high-quality broadband access and this is a problem all over the country in rural areas, but especially in the frontier areas of our country."

Rachel Mutrux is the senior program director who oversees the Missouri Telehealth Network and helps advise the state on telehealth regulations and expansion. In order for telehealth to be serviced, it can require a large amount of broadband access.

"If you're talking about live interaction video conferencing, synchronized transmissions, you would need

large amounts of broadband both uploading and downloading,” Mutrux said.

In the early 2000s, Mutrux says most healthcare organizations didn’t have enough broadband to accommodate the services. The Missouri Telehealth Network would then work with telephone companies and other organizations to put new broadband into facilities. Each organization would create a special line just for telemedicine. This partnership changed when the use of electronic health records became a standard practice.

"Once they started getting electronic health records, they needed a lot more broadband anyway," she said. "So, once they got a lot more broadband anyway, the telemedicine technology got a lot better and didn’t need as much (extra) bandwidth as it did before."

Mutrux argues that most health care organizations have adequate bandwidth for at least some telemedicine even in rural areas of the state. She believes that where broadband is lacking would be more so in the homes of patients.

"If a telehealth appointment was happening and the video and audio was not working successfully, then that clinic and provider should have a backup means of conducting the appointment," she said. "In some cases, that would be to reschedule the appointment and in some cases, it would be to have a conversation on the telephone. It would have to be up to that provider and that clinic."

While broadband access may be getting better in rural Missouri, telehealth may continue to struggle without adequate funding.

Mirna Becevic, an assistant research professor of telemedicine at MU, says that the expansion of telehealth is not so much a concern as reimbursement and billing.

"When it comes to reimbursement for example, Medicare will only allow reimbursement if the patient is in a specifically designated rural area," Becevic said. "This really leaves out urban areas and some other areas that seem rural but do not fall into this category."

"If you think about Medicare patients, they may be in a nursing home and there are so many nursing homes in urban areas that could really benefit from a service like this, so the patient wouldn’t have to

leave the nursing home and miss services or meals, but this is not something that Medicare will cover, so it's a challenge."

As Missouri prepares for a new legislative session in January, State Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, wants to focus on the expansion of telehealth in schools. Kendrick believes that would help reduce the cost of overall health care in Missouri.

"Hopefully once we pass additional statutes, schools around the state should be able to implement school-based telehealth, where the nurse would facilitate the service in the office connecting with medical specialists on the other end," Kendrick said. "Children can see specialists for ongoing chronic health conditions in the nurse's office and may be pulled out of classrooms for 10 to 15 minutes.

"Telehealth is already driving down the cost of healthcare and it's going to become more prevalent in the future," he said. "Missouri needs to make sure we continue to modernize our statutes, but we need to make sure that people have access to care."

THE ROLLA DAILY NEWS

[Commission hears proposed budgets,opioid influence, survey markers](#)

The Phelps County Commission held their open meetings last week after the holidays to discuss a mixed bag of county business. Learn how 29 opioid deaths in Phelps County last year affects the way Coroner Davis is doing his job.

The Phelps County Commission held their open meetings last week after the holidays to discuss a mixed bag of county business.

Road and Bridge Department sells loader

There was a bid opening for an old Allis Chalmers loader that the Road and Bridge Department wanted to eliminate from their inventory. It was originally purchased used in the early 80's and currently does not run. The commission received three bids—T.J. Busque (\$667), K & D Lumber (\$1,556) and Mark Spurgeon, the bid winner, for \$1,753.

County Coroner Andy Davis presented his proposed 2018 budget

“Even though the opioid epidemic has hurt us and hit that [autopsy] line item, I think we’ve done a pretty good job staying within the budget,” said Davis. “With that item included, I was only over \$1,200, what you had given me. Of course that one item, I have no control over . . .”

The only item for which there was a budget increase in the coroner’s budget was for a deputy position that was approved by the commission last year.

“I handled just over 400 cases last year, which is almost 11 percent higher than the year before,” said Davis. “Unfortunately, I don’t see a decrease this year.”

Coroner Davis has actually figured out a way to make some revenue for his services—he will start charging regional funeral homes to deliver corpses.

“I’ve talked to the funeral homes, and on those cases I respond to, I’m going to start doing their removals for them, which helps everybody all the way around,” he said. “Since I have to be there anyway, I don’t have to wait for the funeral home to get out there, the cops don’t have to wait for them to get out there—it’s done when we’re done—we can remove and go.”

Coroner Davis said the funeral homes weren’t averse to the price he has suggested—\$50 for his service. He thinks a ballpark figure for this service will net around \$1,200, the amount he was over budget due to the cost of autopsies and the number that needed to be performed last year. He said the autopsy line item in the budget had not increased in the last 20 years.

Davis has been able to shift his law enforcement responsibility from having to depend on autopsies to toxicology reports, which are cheaper. “I can get four or five “toxies” done for the same price as one autopsy,” he said. “This is where I’m shifting my opioid overdoses. These are non-criminal [cases]—they’re not going for prosecution. If we were going for prosecution, my hands are tied.”

Coroner Davis mentioned there were 29 opioid deaths last year in Phelps County.

Currently the price of an autopsy is around \$1,600 and that fee which is now being handled by the University of Missouri-Columbia (as opposed to St. Louis University (SLU)) is expected to remain the same for this year.

Davis said it has been taking three to four months to get autopsy reports back, so switching to more toxicology reports (10 to 14 day turn-a-round) will speed up the whole process, again, as long as prosecution is not involved. He expects autopsy report wait times to go from SLU—three months to Mizzou autopsies, one month.

Coroner Davis’s budget increased in autopsies performed (\$5,000) in training expenses (“if we don’t do training, we don’t comply”) and included a cost of living increase. This is proposed budget the commissioners will need to pass.

County Surveyor Terris Cates also proposed his 2018 budget

Part of the county surveyor’s job (and therefore a line item in the budget) is to locate section corners to determine ownership of land. Surveyor Cates has said previously that there are around

890 corners (markers left by previous surveyors since Missouri became a state in 1821) that haven't been located here in Phelps County. This is an ongoing project the county funds a little at a time.

“The commission approved [funding for finding] 13 section corners (a section is a square 640 acres) previously at \$650 per corner, but we held off because we knew the Department of Agriculture was coming up with a grant program—so they are paying \$300 a corner and the county \$350. The budget would also include a “non-standard” corner which serves as a control to measure back to the original corners, once they are found.

“The way the procedure is, we locate the section corners that we feel we have enough data to be able to re-monument—then, submit this to the Department of Agriculture Land Survey,” explained Cates. “They review all the documentation to prove this is the right location, they sign off on that and then we go set that corner and re-submit to them all the measurements we have.”

Cates noted that this is due in March, so he will finish it this month, which will finish up the project work for the budget of last year. He said the project was delayed by the Department until November of last year, explaining the overrun in the budget calendar. He said the grant program is to continue into the 2018 budget year. “We’re looking at [locating] 15 corners this year,” said the surveyor.

He said the last two years, the budget has run \$5,000. This year, the proposed budget is \$5,250, which will provide the resources to find two more section corners for a total of 15.

“This is for the protection of our people,” said Cates. ”[With the grant] it’s a tremendous cost savings.”



MUPD arrest wanted man accused of stealing and harassment at local hospital

By ELIZABETH DUESENBERG

BOONE COUNTY, Mo. - University of Missouri police arrested Brandon Harrison on Wednesday after officers responded to Women's and Children's Hospital for a wanted subject.

According to the probable cause statement, Harrison had two active warrants out for his arrest in Boone County and two non-extraditable warrants out of Texas.

Police said when they responded to the hospital, a female patient told them that Harrison was in her room and he was unwanted.

Officers said they tried to open the door to the room but there was an object behind the door preventing it from being opened all the way.

Harrison eventually exited the restroom carrying a large black backpack, police said.

The female patient told officers that Harrison had showed up to her room unexpectedly and became argumentative. She also claimed that Harrison was looking for money and was possibly under the influence of drugs.

The woman said at one point during their interaction, Harrison moved the bed side table and a chair in front of the hallway door to prevent anyone from getting into the room. The woman told officers she was afraid of Harrison.

Police said that the woman found three dollars were missing from her jeans and believed Harrison took the money.

According to the probable cause statement, Centralia Police had information that Harrison had been talking about committing an armed robbery and was located with ammunition in his backpack.

Harrison was charged with harassment, trespassing and stealing.



[A Man of Many Instruments](#)

By CHELSEA HAYNES

Watch video at: <http://www.komu.com/news/a-man-of-many-instruments>

COLUMBIA - Even on the iciest days in the city, two folkloric lovers can still bring a little sunshine to the community on a rainy day.

The Daniel Boone Regional Library hosted its first monthly “Tunes at Two” event of the year and featured local hammered dulcimer player, Cliff White and his wife Molly White, as the spent Saturday afternoon plucking the strings of ancient folkloric instruments despite winter weather warnings.

“This is really social music. It’s traditional music, it’s folk music. The origins are in the ‘folk’, sitting around and entertaining themselves because they didn’t have tv.”

After an hour’s worth of performing for a small crowd at the library, the two received countless amounts applause, smiles and laughter. Others were interested in learning about the instrument.

It was curiosity that caught the attention of ten-year-old Kate Tollenaar, who approached the Whites during their performance. She and her father were searching for American Girl books, they heard the melodies of the banjo and decided to check it out.

“I thought it was unique, it had a very good sound, it was very nice and pretty and brought joy to everybody,” Tollenaar said.

Tollenaar learned what a hammered dulcimer was and said she was glad she knows what it is now.

Molly remembers how she fell in love with music, and said it was the exposure she received as a little girl when her parents took her to symphonies and operas.

She believes parents often underestimate the importance of music, when it comes to children.

“Kids are fascinated with all of those big instruments on stage, and the music that they hear.”

It’s why she decided to study music at the University of Missouri, and continues to pursue her first love of music in her free time.

During the performance, Cliff shuffled back and forth on the hammered dulcimer, the mountain dulcimer and the guitar, while his wife complemented his historic zither instruments with one of her favorites, the banjo.

The Whites have been married for 23 years, and their bond with music is a hobby that the pair share.

“It definitely makes our relationship stronger. It’s a common language we have between us, and it’s something we can share and have a lot of fun with.”

Cliff said his passion for folkloric music began shortly after he said, “I DO,” to Molly in 1994. Her father had taken the newlyweds to the Big Muddy Folk Festival just down the road in

Booneville, Missouri. White said the duo that hosts the festival, Cathy Barton and Dave Para made a profound impact on his desire to play this unique instrument.

“She played, and I was like wow—that’s something I would really like to play,” Cliff recalls. “From there, I started seeking out other places to hear it and learning how to play it.”

Now, the folk festival for the White family is a tradition.

“We’ve been back to that festival every year since.”

The two met at a party, and strangely enough, their meeting was destined by music. White played in Marching Mizzou, and he recalls the party he threw the night he met his wife.

Now, 23 years later, the two enjoy playing instruments in their free time, performing when the can and contra dancing around town.

Between the couple, the both play over 10 different instruments.

But for Cliff, the hammered dulcimer is his favorite.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Petition seeks Missouri Supreme Court intervention in Business Loop CID lawsuit

By CAITLIN CAMPBELL

A legal dispute over the Business Loop CID election returned to the state’s highest court this week when a former state official demanded the lawsuit be allowed to proceed.

In a petition filed with the Missouri Supreme Court on Dec. 29, former Missouri Solicitor General James Layton and University of Missouri law Professor Richard Reuben demanded the court order Boone County Circuit Court Judge Jodie Asel issue a judgment that can be appealed in the lawsuit brought by Jen Henderson against the CID in January 2016. Asel dismissed Henderson’s case but then refused to issue a judgment she can appeal — a move that the attorneys wrote has deprived their client of her right to an appeal and represents what is becoming a broader problem statewide.

“This happens occasionally, but the fact that it has happened more than once in one court recently suggests ... that is becoming a problem,” Layton said in an interview. “As an appellate lawyer, I’m very concerned about preserving the right to appeal. A circuit judge should not just be able to” take that away.

The petition states that in addition to Asel, other trial judges in Missouri have “buried” cases they do not like by dismissing them and then refusing to enter a judgment that permits appeal. The attorneys list a few recent cases to back up their claim, and in an interview Reuben noted more. One of those cases is a 2014 Columbia lawsuit seeking to bar the city from issuing construction permits to downtown student housing developer Opus Development Co.

“This practice in the trial court offends the rule of law by permitting a circuit judge to bar appeals in cases they don’t like, for whatever reason,” Layton wrote.

Henderson, who was one of seven voters in the CID’s December 2015 sales tax election, contested the results of that election and challenged the constitutionality of the state’s Community Improvement District Act. The sales tax election drew national attention to Columbia because for months officials believed Henderson was the only eligible voter for the sales tax. A later review of those boundaries found a handful of additional registered voters.

Layton’s petition notes that Henderson’s lawsuit presents “issues of vital significance” to the court, including whether a circuit court has jurisdiction to hear a contest to a CID election, and if so whether the state’s CID Act is unconstitutional if it permits a CID to conduct an election in violation of state constitutional and statutory requirements for general elections.

The lawsuit alleges the CID conducted an unlawful election because it lacked a secret ballot, a secure ballot box, adequate notice of the election and a neutral election administrator. Caleb Colbert, attorney for the CID, argued in court that Henderson could not challenge the results of the election because no provision existed within the state’s CID Act to allow for an election challenge. He argued general election law did not apply to CIDs.

He did not respond to a request for comment.

Asel dismissed the lawsuit without prejudice in March 2016, noting that she did not believe the court has jurisdiction to hear the challenge.

A dismissal “without prejudice” is not what is considered by the courts to be a final judgment — an appealable decision that officially acknowledges a case is over. Generally, only a dismissal made “with prejudice” may be brought to a higher court.

When asked, Asel repeatedly refused to enter a judgment with prejudice, stating during a hearing that the petitioners “already know what I think about your lawsuit because I dismissed it from the git-go,” according to the petition. Henderson’s subsequent attempts to get another court to review her case were repeatedly rejected on procedural grounds.

The court's rules of civil procedure require that when dismissing a claim without prejudice, a judge must provide a deadline for amending the pleading, Layton wrote in the petition. If an amended pleading is not filed within the time allowed, "final judgment of dismissal with prejudice shall be entered" except in specific cases, the rules state.

Layton and Reuben's petition argues Asel has refused to follow rules every judge must follow, and left their client in "limbo," with her lawsuit "forever pending without the opportunity" for her to exercise her right to appeal a judge's decision.

The Missouri Supreme Court can only remedy the situation by ordering Asel to issue a final judgment, Layton wrote. Missouri law only allows the results of an election to be contested in court, and the high court already rejected an appeal by Henderson for want of a final judgment, the petition states. Refiling a lawsuit is not possible because the short statute of limitations for an election challenge has long passed, the petition states.

Reuben said he and his client are still looking forward to having a court decide whether the tax was lawfully imposed.

"We have never had a chance to raise our issues in a court of law," Reuben said.

While Henderson's lawsuit has been in limbo, the CID has begun planning revitalization efforts for Business Loop 70 and spending money collected by the district.



[North Carolina Leads in Industry-Funded Research](#)

NO MU MENTION

By **RICK SELTZER**

A new think tank report released Monday finds significant differences in the levels of industry-funded university research taking place in different states.

North Carolina had the highest level of industry-funded university research, according to [the report](#), released by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a think tank focused

on science and technology policy. The report used data from the National Science Foundation to rank the states based on the share of university research funded by industry.

At the top of the rankings, North Carolina universities drew 12.1 percent of their research funding from industry. On the other end of the spectrum, universities in Nevada drew the lowest percentage of research funding from industry sources -- 1.7 percent.

Other states rounding out the top five were Georgia, Kansas, Ohio and Missouri. Those completing the bottom five were Rhode Island, Nebraska, Hawaii and South Dakota.

Generally, states with the largest share of industry-funded research have long-running state-supported technology commercialization programs, the report found.

The report recommends several policies geared toward encouraging universities to attract funding from industry. They include targeting research to the needs of local firms, modifying research-and-development tax credits, and tying higher education funding to industry funding success.

Faculty members are often skeptical about the effects of industry-funded research on academic freedom, but the think tank argues linking industry funding to university research can jump-start economic activity without harming academic standards.