



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

July 17, 2017



Show Me Slowdown: Mizzou Enrollment Drop Blamed on 2015 Protests

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=07986c8d-8646-4027-bd28-1e923911de37>

The story also ran on the following broadcasts:

KTVI- St. Louis, MO

WDAF- Kansas City, MO

KNPN- St. Joseph, MO

KYOU- Ottumwa, IA

KDSM- Des Moines, IA

WPMT- Harrisburg, PA

WAGA- Atlanta, GA

WFLD- Chicago, IL

Missourian

(The Washington Missourian is the local paper in Franklin County)

[Setting the Record Straight](#)

Jul 15, 2017

The way some people view it, the University of Missouri is Negative University. The latest was a story in *The New York Times* that the university said “key aspects” were omitted.

One of the key points that you rarely hear or read about was that during the protests in 2015 classes were held and staff and faculty members worked. The education, research and business of the university continued.

In a statement released after *The New York Times* story was published, the university president, Mun Y. Choi, said this: “We are learning from our past while serving as a model for a new engaged university to the nation. That’s not the story you read on Monday, but it’s one you will hear often from the Missouri family. Their tremendous pride in University of Missouri motivates and sustains us to take on the difficult challenges head-on and to become a stronger and more resilient university. Consider these accomplishments.” The statement lists a long list of positive aspects of the university. We can’t list all of them. The list is too long. We will mention a few.

The University of Missouri has a high safe campus ranking; it’s a Best Buy university and provides hundreds of millions of dollars in financial aid; recent high ratings from Standard and Poor’s and Moody’s rank Mizzou among an elite group of institutions; it’s estimated that MU contributes more than \$3.5 billion in economic benefits through its research, education and outreach programs; Mizzou is one of the largest land grant universities with an operating budget of \$2.2 billion, 32,000 students, 13,000 faculty members and staff, and 304,000 alumni.

It is true that some journalists only look for the negatives and omit the positives in writing stories. Those journalists falsely believe that only the negatives are news. That’s a false assumption. The positives, even though expected, can be important stories.

At Mizzou, it’s not even a race — the positives outdistance the negatives by a moon shot.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Letters to the editor

New York Times article gets facts wrong about Mizzou

On Monday, just below the front-page fold of The New York Times, an article titled "Racial Protests Stain a University's Reputation" was published examining the role protests on campus in fall 2015 had in the declining enrollment at the University of Missouri. Unfortunately, the article has done more than the protests to "stain" Mizzou's reputation.

While it is true that many students over the past two years have chosen not to attend the university, to argue this is the sole or even major reason enrollment has declined is to ignore a litany of factors that have converged to create such a decline. There are fewer college-bound students in the Midwest now after 15 years of growth. Surrounding state and conference universities have increased recruitment of Missouri students. Our neighbor, the University of Illinois, has launched a goal to increase system enrollment 15 percent. The decades-long decline in state funding for Missouri higher education only makes recruitment even harder.

This article commits the most common and egregious offense many stories from national outlets did when reporting on the protests: It gets the facts on the ground wrong. Many stories in the past had an excuse: their reporters never set foot on campus; a year and a half later, and even after visiting campus, this one still gets it wrong. It's a good headline to say black students speaking out has ruined a university, but that isn't really the whole truth, and this article perpetuates that reductive narrative.

Until The New York Times and other national outlets understand what's really going on here at Mizzou, my fellow students and I will be fighting every day to build a campus that is more inclusive and one where every student feels heard and at home.

Christopher Dade • Columbia, Mo.

JULY 14, 2017 11:52 AM

University of Missouri missed the opportunity to address 2015 racial protests directly

BY JANET SAIDI

Special to The Star

Last week, the University of Missouri issued a [rebuttal](#) to a recent [New York Times story](#) about about the aftereffects of the Concerned Student 1950 protests that roiled the campus in 2015. The university reminded us of some of the great things happening on campus now. But the only question — and the only relevant answer — is about how we are addressing race issues at our state’s flagship university.

I’m sure the protests have brought about positive change and more open discussion about race on campus — more dialogue, more diverse hiring practices, individual efforts to reach out to our students, and engagement that has sparked national efforts like [#MizzouSyllabus](#).

But the university’s actual rebuttal addressed none of this and in fact didn’t directly mention “race” or “black students.” This is shameful.

Until the university can stop seeing these issues as damage control and begin to see this conversation as an opportunity, no real change is going to be possible. We can still get there, but first there are three core truths that we all need to face head on.

- The University of Missouri was — and is — a tough place for black students.

During my seven years as a professor and news director at the local NPR affiliate, each semester we welcomed in an army of new hyper-ambitious and accomplished students from diverse backgrounds. So when the Concerned Student protests broke out, I reached out to black students, alumni and friends and asked them about their experiences. Their answers surprised me. If you

talk with black Missourians, you may see that we may be in a sort of “O.J. verdict” moment here in the state. It’s possible that the way you see the 2015 protests depends on your race. This gap we need to bridge may be the most important thing for us to do.

Other campuses are also tough, of course. But rather than pointing away from our own problem, let’s acknowledge that the campus we all love might be a difficult place to be black.

- Concerned Student 1950 was part of a national historic tradition of black freedom movements and civil rights efforts that have helped form the foundations of freedom in our country. Missouri students took a stand. We can be proud of that stand.

When then-University President Tim Wolfe’s homecoming parade car was halted by a group of students in 2015, their protest drew directly from a tradition that is positive and profound.

The emotion, even anger, in their voices was audible, but so was a world of hurt. The only decent reaction was for the president to get out of the convertible sports car, walk over to his students, and say, “I hear you.”

But Wolfe didn’t realize he was staring in the face of history. One can only imagine that his entire life so far — with its diet of media images featuring black violence, black incarceration and segregation — had taught him that he was looking not at history but at a discipline problem.

Because he didn’t get out of that car, he was out of a job. It was a reaction that was bad for campus, bad for the country and ultimately bad even for business. The football team didn’t like what they saw, joined the protest movement, and Wolfe resigned.

While it’s hard to know how to react to something like a protest unfolding in the moment, we in Missouri have since then had plenty of moments to figure out how to react. And we’re still not reacting strongly enough.

- Our Concerned Students have provided us with the impetus to act together to make things better.

If you think that our black students in Missouri are well served in their educational experience, like I did, you should ask them open-ended questions. Take them for coffee, and realize that it’s not their job to educate you.

It sounds overly simplistic, but I heard Kansas City Mayor Sly James say it several times during Ferguson and the MU protests and in city-wide diversity discussions: Make friends. Listen to each other.

And meanwhile, if you see the MU student protests as a low point for our campus, ask yourself: What do you see in the 1960s footage of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Woolworth sit-ins, or the Birmingham Campaign? Do you see that as an unfortunate disruption that negatively impacted businesses on Main Street?

Around the time of the first anniversary of the MU protests, I found myself in a Columbia coffee shop reading Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." This time capsule struck me as surprisingly apt for my surroundings, as if King himself were writing to Missouri's campus leaders today.

King asked his fellow church leaders not to see his efforts as "unwise and untimely," and pleaded: "I hope, sirs, you can understand our legitimate and unavoidable impatience."

Of course, now the words of our country's greatest theologian strike us with their humility and patience, a patience that is tragic in proportion to the weight it bears.

That weight — with seething below and above the surface — is what our black students in Missouri and on our nation's campuses are carrying, from semester to semester.

I'm nowhere near a place of enlightenment on this issue. But I do know that the only really important question arising from all of this is the one we are avoiding. It's not whether Missouri is a good school, or whether it's more racist than anywhere else or what the causes are of our drops in enrollment. The only question that matters is this: What are we going to do now?

Janet Saidi is a freelance writer, producer and teacher. She is a past faculty member and a current lecturer at MU.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Thousands of out-of-state Mizzou students slash tuition by gaining Missouri residency

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • It was a no-brainer for Joey Laurx.

Stay in Columbia this summer, teach swim lessons, earn some money and boom — tuition costs drop by thousands of dollars.

Actually, by \$15,000 — per year.

Laurx is a soon-to-be sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and an Aurora, Ill., native. But with her new Missouri driver's license, proof of her off-campus apartment and her summer income, she's officially a Missouri resident by Mizzou's standard.

She is one of about 1,500 out-of-state students each year who successfully become in-state residents after meeting a handful of requirements set out by the university.

Gaining in-state residency slashes tuition for an undergraduate from about \$26,500 a year to the Missouri rate of \$11,000.

That adds up to tens of millions of dollars a year in potential tuition lost — money one might think the school would be alarmed to lose.

But that's not the case.

The school's leaders are supportive of efforts by students to gain in-state residency. Without it, they say, many students might not be able to afford to complete their degree on the Columbia campus.

University registrar Brenda Selman said reducing the financial burden can make all of the difference. And having those graduates finish at Mizzou ultimately could help the state.

While they're living, working, studying and paying taxes here, they're more likely to build their postgraduate lives in Missouri, too.

She also refutes the misconception that out-of-state students are taking slots at the university that could otherwise go to Missouri natives.

"There's no cap on the number of Missouri students we take," said university registrar Brenda Selman. "So for a student from out of state to apply, that doesn't impact our Missouri residents at all."

Mizzou is open with students about how to qualify for in-state residency, going as far as to mention the process in campus tours for prospective students. The website for the registrar's office walks students through the particulars.

Students have to prove they've lived in state for a year, they have to earn \$2,000 of taxable income and must have a state license, voter registration and car registration if applicable, among a few other requirements.

The issue of in-state residency looms large at Mizzou, where about a third of students — or 11,000 out of 33,000 — are from out of state.

Other public universities in the state have smaller percentages of out-of-state students. They also have varying residency requirements, with the help of some guidance from the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

At UMSL, students must earn \$5,000 to earn in-state residency, for example, along with other requirements.

An average of about 125 students per year the last five years have taken advantage of the residency change at UMSL. The school's numbers are relatively low, and decreasing, because the school has been expanding in-state tuition benefits to more and more counties and students in Illinois.

An average of about 190 students per year at the Missouri University of Science and Technology apply for residency, according to a campus spokesperson. The school doesn't have a specified income amount that students must earn to qualify.

Many other Missouri schools don't even track the data on students who seek in-state residency.

The state law that gives some guidance to schools on residency is among the dozens of administrative rules about which the state department is seeking public input through the end of August, amid an ongoing effort from Gov. Eric Greitens to minimize regulations. It's unclear whether, in that review process, the state might adjust the directives it gives to schools.

Mizzou hasn't changed its requirements for years, Selman said. It's become such a common process that students can now apply for residency using an online form.

The \$2,000 income mark was picked as a reasonable summer goal since students are typically working lower-wage jobs, sometimes dependent on tips.

Laurx, 19, works at the MizzouRec Complex, the campus gym, teaching swim lessons. She hit her \$2,000 income goal with her last paycheck.

She's only one of a few people from her high school who came to the Columbia campus, but Laurx fell in love during a visit. She's studying elementary education.

“College is so expensive, and giving up one summer away from home to work isn’t bad,” she said. Her parents might have pushed her a little bit, too. It’s not a small decision for families, since students applying for residency cannot be claimed on their parent’s taxes.

Residency status made the difference for Murphysboro, Ill., resident Austin Helfrich, a rising junior studying industrial engineering.

“If it wasn’t for this, I don’t think I’d be able to afford Mizzou,” he said. He started working at Harpo’s Bar & Grill last summer and hasn’t stopped despite earning residency status last year. Now he’s able to help pay his own tuition as he goes.

Selman said her team hears anecdotal stories all the time about students who couldn’t attend if it wasn’t for the ability to receive in-state tuition as early as their sophomore year.

“It’s not necessarily always a hardship, but like any of us, if there’s a way to save money.”

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

MU recognized as “best buy”

Generated from News Bureau direct pitch.

In the 2018 edition of “Fiske Guide to Colleges,” **The University of Missouri will be recognized as a school on the rise.**

The guide will dub MU a “best buy.” The publication has been a resource for parents and students in the U.S. as well as the U.K. and Canada for more than 30 years. MU was one of two Missouri schools and three SEC schools to gain the recognition for 2018.

All “best buy” schools are considered inexpensive or in a moderate-price category. The Fiske guide’s MU profile highlights the university’s “high-profile” academic programs, including journalism, agriculture, business, health sciences, music and engineering. It also highlighted diversity initiatives, a service trips program, study abroad opportunities and freshman interest groups.

The 2018 list also includes Truman State University, the University of Iowa, Texas A&M University, Wheaton College and Principia College.

MISSOURIAN

MU Libraries director wants to expand Ellis, find ways to preserve collection

LORETTA LEE, 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Ann Campion Riley's wish list for MU Libraries looks like this:

- Expand planning and coordination efforts with MU faculty
- Complete an addition to Ellis Library
- Cooperate with other libraries and outside sources to meet students' needs
- Build and extension of the off-site book depository

“It includes our archives, too, which is currently in the news,” Riley said, referring to the recently flooded Lewis Hall where University Archives is housed.

Riley, who has served as acting director since 2015, became vice provost for libraries and university librarian July 1. She oversees Ellis Library and all eight branch libraries on campus, as well as two off-site depositories. Riley also manages the consortial resources services, federal documents and rare books and special collections.

Library expansion, other plans

Riley said Ellis Library could extend about 20 feet to the south, facing the MU Student Center. She hopes to work with Campus Facilities in the fall to plan and discuss cost estimates for the expansion, which she hopes to achieve in the next five years.

Expanding Ellis southward was planned in the 1980s when other additions were put on the building, she said.

"The wall that faces south is a temporary wall, so we hope to follow through with the original plan," Riley said. "We want to get a better space for the archives and rare books and special collections area."

Riley is looking to cooperate with MU's Student Success Center and Disability Center for the space on the lower level of Ellis Library, after the State Historical Society of Missouri moves out of the building in fall of 2019. The historical society will move to Sixth and Elm streets and will be renamed the Center for Missouri Studies, [according to previous Missourian reporting](#).

As many old microfilms are deteriorating, MU Libraries is working with the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago to preserve and to digitize library materials.

As part of the HathiTrust Digital Library, a partnership of academic and research institutions, MU Libraries will also expand its digital contributions and unique items that only Mizzou holds or very few libraries hold to help build an international collection of digitized materials.

'Probably the worst (budget) I've ever seen'

With about 30 years of experience as a librarian in several institutions, Riley has seen budget challenges in both private and public colleges.

"Ours right now is probably the worst I've ever seen. It's very bad," Riley said.

MU Libraries does not have materials funds and acquisitions money to buy the books and journals that students and faculty need, Riley said. She feared that online databases and online journals could be cut, which will hurt researchers, faculty and graduate students.

“They'll have to subscribe to things or buy things themselves online,” Riley said. “We will help as much as we can, but there'll be some things that we can't get for them.”

Riley plans to increase development efforts with donors and to work with the University Libraries Student Advisory Council, a group made up of about 25 representatives from student organizations.

“We are going to look at a renewed focus on our services and work with our student advisory counsel to be sure that with scarce resources, we're spending them in the areas that make the most impact,” Riley said. “We are going to look at more cooperation with other libraries as far as sharing materials also.”

Lewis Hall flooding

A burst pipe soaked [all eight floors of Lewis Hall](#) on July 7. Lewis Hall houses the School of Health Professions and University Archives, which includes photographs, manuscripts, letters and other documents of everyday life.

"We think that most of the materials are safe now, although we are very worried about the conditions in Lewis Hall going forward because of the dampness. And dampness is very bad for books and archival materials," Riley said.

MU Libraries also faces physical facilities challenges such as the preservation of an aging collection. One of the two off-site depositories has reached its capacity. The other rented depository does not seem suitable for preserving books because of leaking and air-conditioning problems.

"We spent a lot of money to save the books after we had a mold outbreak in our previous rented depository," Riley said. "I just don't want to go down that road again to have to spend money to conserve materials when we just need to build a place to put them."

Riley succeeds James Cogswell as head of MU Libraries. Before Riley was acting director, she served as the associate director for access, collections and technical services. Her new annual salary is \$205,000, according to MU spokeswoman Liz McCune.

Riley was elected the president of Association of College & Research Libraries on 2014, where she led the board and about 12,000 members to help make guidelines, policies and standards for college libraries and for hiring special collections libraries. Riley has worked at Southern Illinois University, St. Louis University, the University of Missouri–St. Louis and New Mexico State University.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

TOP DRAWER: ONWARD & UPWARD

Ann Campion Riley, acting director of MU Libraries, has been appointed to the new position of vice provost for libraries and university librarian. The promotion was effective July 1. Riley is a nationally recognized leader with nearly 30 years of professional service in academic and research libraries. She joined MU in 2007 as the associate director for access, collections and technical services and was appointed acting director of MU Libraries in July 2015.

KUDOS

For the second time, **The University of Missouri has been recognized as the “best of the best” in energy management for its high level of performance,** efficiency and reliability in providing energy services. The International District Energy Association presented MU with its System of the Year Award, the highest honor IDEA confers on a district energy system. The University of Missouri is one of only four universities to receive this prestigious award and the only university to be recognized as the organization’s System of Year twice, first in 2004 and now in 2017.

University of Missouri Health Care has been recognized for the seventh consecutive year as one of the nation's "Most Wired" health systems, according to the 2017 Most Wired Survey. To achieve Most Wired designation, hospitals must make continuous advancements in the implementation of new technology.



[Doctors warn against popular chocolate energy powder](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/doctors-warn-against-popular-chocolate-energy-powder/588448160>

By: Jordana Marie

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Coco Loko, a chocolate powder infused with energy-boosting ingredients, is gaining in popularity in the U.S. but health officials believe it could be a danger for kids.

The product, which is marketed to be snorted, is described as infused raw cacao with a special energy blend. The ingredients are the same as those found in many popular energy drinks.

"The energy drinks in excess quantities are unsafe," said Dr. Chris Sampson with MU University Hospital. "I think in moderation they have been proven to not be harmful. But with this product, nobody has tested it and has no idea whether its effect has health benefits or if it could be detrimental to them."

The website says the product is for adults 18 years and older but lawmakers are considered the chocolate base will draw children to the product, creating a potentially dangerous situation.

"To my knowledge it has not been approved by the FDA and there have been no research studies or any type of investigations looking into it whether the safety of it or the effects on human beings,"

The company's website claims Coco Loko gives users an endorphin rush, similar to a "runner's high" or the feeling after exercise. It also says the product will provide a serotonin rush that "will produce an elevated mood and a state of euphoria similar to ecstasy."

Users could also experience euphoric energy according to the product description.

"Raw cacao will give you a steady rush of euphoric energy and motivation that is great for party goers to dance the night away without a crash."

The site also claims the cacao will give the user a calm focus so they are able to accomplish many tasks at once.

"The cocoa bean itself is a stimulant that contains caffeine," Sampson said. "But with this product you have an unknown amount of caffeine that you may be ingesting on top of the other products that are contained in it."

Health professionals also warn against snorting the product as its marketed.

"I would say it's dangerous to snort anything that hasn't ever been tested in research or on human subjects," Sampson said. "There are a few effects it could cause. One could be it's just an irritant to the nose which could cause pain or burning. It could irritate the sinuses which could lead to sinusitis or an infection of the sinuses. Potentially by snorting it too, you could aspirate it or get it into your lungs which could also then cause harmful effects as well [as an] irritant to the lungs or in the worst case even pneumonia."

U.S. lawmakers are calling for the FDA to look into the product and its safety risks.

"This suspect product has no clear health value" Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement seen by AP. "I can't think of a single parent who thinks it is a good idea for their children to be snorting over-the-counter stimulants up their noses."

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Face the music

By Aarik Danielsen

The composing life isn't as solitary as perhaps it once was.

In order to thrive — both in terms of creative satisfaction and sheer sustainability — composers increasingly are creating music in league with collaborators that range from fellow musicians to dance troupes, filmmakers and performance artists.

Still there can be a certain sense of isolation to the process of translating emotion or social reality into notes and rhythms, whether on staff paper or through software.

The Mizzou International Composers Festival exists, at least in part, to open up the act of creativity and to foster community between composers in varied stations of life, and between musicians and their audience.

Each year, the festival selects eight resident composers, songsmiths who are in the process of becoming established names in the field. They travel to Columbia from all corners of the country — and globe — to widen their personal and professional circles.

These resident composers experience coaching, both formal and informal, from two guest composers whose musical bonafides have long been recognized; this year, they are Georg Friedrich Haas and Dan Visconti. Resident composers also engage with one of the new music world's true shining lights, entrusting a world premiere of their work into the very capable hands of acclaimed ensemble Alarm Will Sound.

And they shorten the gap between themselves work and a living, breathing audience, interacting with the musically curious right here in Columbia. That interaction between old guard and vanguard, artist and audience, has helped the festival find its footing and earn a reputation as a singular event.

[Story continues.](#)



Teens head to MU to learn storytelling strategies for eclipse

By: Casey Edwards

Watch the clip: <http://www.komu.com/news/teens-head-to-mu-to-learn-storytelling-strategies-for-eclipse>

COLUMBIA - Teens hoping to learn more about next month's eclipse are attending a camp to learn skills so they can pass along the story of the eclipse.

The [St. Louis Storytelling Festival](#) and 4-H Center for Youth and Development are hosting the “Telling the Story of the Stars” summer camp at MU. Teens came to the camp from all over Missouri, and Camp Director Lisa Overholser said there’s even one student from Texas.

Over the course of the camp, campers will first learn the science behind eclipses from MU Director of Astronomy Angela Speck. They’ll then learn oral and digital storytelling skills from Professional Storyteller Sherry Norfolk and MU Digital Media Professor Katina Bitsicas they can use to explain the eclipse in an artistic way.

“Whenever you can use digital and artistic skills and combine them, then I feel like the students are able to use both sides of their brain, and that’s a pretty awesome experience,” Bitsicas said. Campers will learn storytelling skills like digital stop-motion animation as well as oral techniques from cultures around the world to create projects they can show at the annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival in 2018.

Speck is a local expert on eclipses and said she’s looking forward to working with the teens this week.

“Teenagers have this mixture of disdain but curiosity, and trying to get over the disdain and pull them in, that’s a challenge that I look forward to,” Speck said.

The camp lasts until Thursday, July 20, but these teens will work to perfect their stories about the eclipse until the storytelling festival in May 2018.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

There’s nothing partisan about the value of higher education

NO MU MENTION

There have been several recent news stories over the last several days about a study from the Pew Research Center that found a partisan divide regarding opinions on the perceived value of colleges and universities. As the executive director of the Council on Public Higher Education, the association of the 15 presidents and chancellors of Missouri’s public universities, I would like to address this issue.

Historically in Missouri, and today, we certainly do not see higher education as a partisan issue or in terms of liberal versus conservative. Public higher education is, and will remain, a key component of a prosperous state with prosperous citizens that drives our economic competitiveness.

Take for example lower unemployment and higher paying jobs for those with an associate or bachelor degrees. The best investment a person can make to avoid unemployment is to earn a college degree. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for bachelor's degree holders is 2.7 percent, almost half of the rate for those with only a high school diploma (5.2 percent). Degree holders also have much greater earning power. According to the BLS, average weekly earnings for those with a bachelor's degree are 67 percent higher compared to those with only a high school diploma.

In addition, no matter one's political leanings, all citizens want colleges and universities to be efficient and effective. Missouri's public universities are very appreciative of the investment that the taxpayers of Missouri make in our public institutions — both in the form of state funding and tuition. We have and will continue to be more efficient and effective with the dollars we receive. Already we receive a much smaller portion of our citizens' tax effort than our neighboring states.

On a per student basis, we receive 28 percent less than Kansas, 37 percent less than Arkansas, and 44 percent less than Illinois. But we have not made up this difference by raising tuition. Over the past five years, tuition and fees at Missouri public universities have barely gone up more than one percent a year, only 5.4 percent total over the past five years. This is far below basic inflation (7.9 percent) and below our neighboring states like Illinois (7.2 percent), Arkansas (16.4 percent) and Kansas (21 percent).

While we have been more efficient with all taxpayer dollars and held tuition increases well below the national average, we have also delivered on the promise made to our students and their families: we have increased the number of graduates walking across our stages by over 5,000 individuals per year.

The value that Missouri's public universities and community colleges bring to this state, its citizens, its employers, its businesses, its farms and its communities is far too great and far too important to get tied up in political labeling or make it subject to any divide that is not focused on accruing benefits to all Missourians.

Missouri's public universities will continue to work with and on behalf of all Missourians. Supporting public colleges and universities is one of the best investments that the state makes, and one of the best investments a citizen can make. College degrees equal jobs, higher paying jobs, and there's nothing partisan about that.

Paul Wagner is executive director of the Council on Public Higher Education.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Editorial: Federal work-study program could use tinkering, but not major cuts

NO MENTION

A successful federal higher-education program enjoys bipartisan support, isn't a government handout and requires recipients to work for the money they receive. What is there for a Republican president not to like? The decades-old federal work-study program speaks to the Republican principle that hard work is the path to prosperity, but the program faces major cuts in President Donald Trump's proposed education budget.

Higher-education advocates and students in the program are scratching their heads, trying to figure out why work-study is on Trump's chopping block. Tamara Hiler, a senior policy adviser at the centrist public-policy think tank Third Way, calls it "one of the most Republican-friendly higher-ed spending programs we have, because you're basically asking folks to work their way through college."

Even Missouri's Trump-friendly Republican Sen. Roy Blunt, chair of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on education spending, said funding reductions would be hard to accept, if not impossible. Trump's proposal doesn't list specifics but calls for reducing the approximately \$1 billion program "significantly" and reforming it to spend the money on "undergraduate students who would benefit most."

The program is a life-changer for some students, opening them up to opportunities and educational benefits they wouldn't have otherwise. Federal work-study jobs are supposed to be related to students' majors or to help them build workforce skills. Studies show that students who

participate are more competitive for jobs after graduation and are more likely to graduate than other working students.

Low-income students at public universities get more of a boost to their futures from the program than recipients with higher incomes and those at private institutions. The jobs also provide experience for students on campuses located far from areas with high numbers of entry-level jobs.

Supporters agree the program, started in 1964, could use some tweaking, specifically by awarding more money to students from lower-income families. Only 46 percent of dependent undergraduate recipients in 2013-14 came from families with incomes under \$46,000, and more than a third of the money went to those with family incomes of \$60,000 or more. Only 8.2 percent of the aid went to students whose family incomes were below \$6,000.

Much of that is due to the way the program operates. Money goes to the colleges and universities, which have broad discretion over how to break up the funding and award it to students. Also, a bigger chunk of money in recent years is being sent to schools as a way to protect them from year-to-year funding shocks. These tend to be more established institutions that attract wealthier students.

Fine-tuning the program makes sense. It should be aimed at low-income students who value the experience and are willing to work for money to attain an education. Something this extensively road-tested and worthwhile shouldn't be reformed out of existence.

Preventing predatory student loans

Other Views: editorial

NO MENTION

Given Donald Trump's frequent campaign promises to wipe out "job killing" regulations on Day One, no one should be surprised that the Trump administration is going after federal safeguards that protect consumers at the expense of corporate profits. And it's no secret that new Education Secretary Betsy DeVos shares the president's wish for fewer rules, and more freedom and money for the private sector.

But surely there's some limit to that. Even the leaders of a wholly dysfunctional administration must recognize that fraud is fraud. Out-and-out cheating, lying to potential customers, isn't just unethical. It's illegal. And the worst fraud in the higher education world during recent decades has been perpetrated by for-profit colleges that grossly overstate their graduates' ability to land good jobs, that talked students into applying for loans they would almost certainly be unable to repay and that bamboozled them into signing away their right to sue should they discover how dishonestly they had been treated.

Nevertheless, in mid-June, DeVos announced that she was holding off on implementing two key Obama-era rules designed to prevent colleges from luring students into sizable loans that they would have very little chance of repaying and to provide loan-repayment relief to students who had been defrauded by bad operators in the vocational higher ed sector. DeVos said the regulations might be too burdensome for the colleges, and she wanted to look into creating a new set of rules. Last week 19 attorneys general, including California's, sued, arguing that the administration lacked the authority to single-handedly put the brakes on regulations that had already gone through the required, extensive rule-making procedures, and aiming to force DeVos to make good on what students had been promised.

These colleges' practices have been costly to taxpayers as well as to students, with default rates on federally-guaranteed student loans that were sky-high compared with those at other schools. That's what happens when pricey institutions draw in low-income students who then can't find the jobs that have been rosily dangled in front of them.

Corinthian Colleges closed in 2015 after the Education Department fined it \$30 million for exaggerating job-placement rates. Among its misdeeds: paying employers to hire graduates for just a few days so that they could be listed as having gotten jobs and counting fast-food workers as employees holding professional positions. ITT Technical Institutes closed in 2016 after the Education Department said it no longer would provide federal financial aid to the school's students, after allegations emerged that ITT was misrepresenting its graduates' job-placement rates and providing a substandard education.

And then the federal government began the process of cleaning up the mess left behind. The “borrower defense to repayment” rule, which was scheduled to take effect July 1, would allow defrauded students to apply to have their federal student loans forgiven. It also would prohibit colleges from forcing students into binding arbitration when there’s a dispute, eliminating the students’ right to seek relief in the courts. DeVos put that rule on hold, as well as announcing that she would delay implementation of provisions of the “gainful employment” rule that requires colleges to show that their graduates generally earn enough to pay back their student loans. If colleges can’t meet that reasonable standard, their students could lose access to federal student aid, which would in effect lead to the closure of many for-profit trade schools; federal loans make up the bulk of their income.

DeVos has promised that the 16,000 students who already have filed claims for loan relief, after the collapse of Corinthian and ITT, will have their cases decided under the old rule. But the delays she announced would put off protections for anyone else until at least 2019, because of the time required for hearings and public comment.

It’s of course reasonable for DeVos to review the regulations bequeathed to her by the previous administration. There have been complaints from colleges, for example, that the borrower-defense rule is written so loosely that students could too easily claim fraud where none had occurred. But the administration’s deregulatory zeal seems to have blinded it to federal law, which requires agencies in most cases to go through just as open and evidence-based a process to change or end a rule as to create one.

Responsible for-profit colleges — and they exist — should support strong, protective rules; the reputation of the industry as a whole has fallen under the shadow of its worst members. Leaving the public with no protection from the predatory players within the college industry — and leaving taxpayers to pick up the tab for the defaults that would inevitably follow — would be the higher education equivalent of repealing Obamacare and leaving Americans with no health insurance at all.