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## State higher education spending sees big decline

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### No MU mention

State funding for higher education has declined because of a slow recovery from the recession and the end of federal stimulus money, according to a study released Monday.

Overall, spending declined by some \$6 billion, or nearly 8 percent, over the past year, according to the annual Grapevine study by the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University. The reduction was slightly lower, at 4 percent, when money lost from the end of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act was not taken into account.

The funding reductions, seen across nearly every state, have resulted in larger class sizes and fewer course offerings at many universities and come as enrollment continues to rise.

A report released by the National Science Board last week found similar reductions in state higher education spending, with nearly three-quarters of the nation's 101 top public research universities experiencing cuts in state funding between 2002 and 2010.

"It's quite severe," said Jose-Marie Griffiths, chairwoman of the National Science Board committee that produced the report and vice president for academic affairs at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island. "The question is, are they ever going to recover to the level they were before? I think all of us are somewhat concerned because the future is a little bit uncertain."

Only nine states reported increases in total state higher education spending, including the federal stimulus money. In the 41 states where there were funding reductions, declines varied drastically, from about 1 percent in North Carolina to 41 percent in New Hampshire. The hardest-hit states include Arizona, Wisconsin and Louisiana, where spending reductions were nearly 20 percent or higher as federal stimulus money dried up.

James Palmer, editor of the Grapevine survey, said state capacity to finance higher education had also been reduced by diminished tax revenues.

In a statement, the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association said states with the largest declines will likely see higher tuition rates and more pressure to recruit out-of-state

students. That raises concerns about access to higher education, particularly for those students who need financial aid, another area where state support has declined.

Educating more students from out of state and less access will have "implications for the availability of an adequately trained workforce in those states," the organization said.

The group specifically highlighted California, where a \$1.5 billion spending reduction, including stimulus funds, over the past two years represents 26 percent of the national decline.

Florida is another state that has seen sustained spending cuts. Over the past five years, state support for higher education has declined 17.5 percent, according to the study. As the state proportion of funding has declined, universities have relied more on tuition, now nearly 50 percent of their operating budget.

Overall state funding appropriations in Florida are about the same as they were 10 years ago, after having risen leading up to 2007-2008. Meanwhile, enrollment has increased by more than 24 percent.

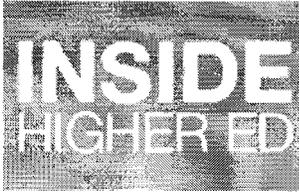
To compensate for the loss, Florida universities have merged departments, instituted hiring freezes and used more adjunct professors, among other actions.

"Each university has been diligent in developing cost-saving strategies to help offset — but not fully replace — the budget shortfalls," according to a brief from the Board of Governors, which oversees Florida's State University System.

The National Science Board noted the funding decline could have implications for how well the United States is able to educate its workforce and be competitive in a globalized, knowledge-based economy.

Already, the United States has been trailing Asia in science and engineering degrees. Fifty-six percent of all engineering degrees were awarded in Asia in 2008, compared with 4 percent in the U.S. The United States produced 248,000 graduates in the fields of natural science and engineering, while China produced 1 million, a dramatic increase from 2000, when they awarded 280,000. South Korea, Taiwan and Japan produced 330,000 natural science and engineering graduates in 2008 — again, a larger number than the U.S., even though their population is smaller.

"Right now our aspirations for higher education I think far exceed the vitality of our economy," Palmer said, referring to the push to increase access to college and degree completion. "In other words, we can't depend on that state funding as the way we're going to meet those goals."



## **NO MU Mention**

### **State funds for higher education fell by 7.6% in 2011-12**

Submitted by [Doug Lederman](#) [2] on January 23, 2012 - 3:00am

The news will come as no surprise to the public college administrators and faculty members who've seen their budgets slashed over the past year. But an annual study of state spending on higher education finds that state appropriations for colleges and students sunk by 7.6 percent in 2011-12, the largest such decline in at least a half century.

The [annual Grapevine study](#), [3] conducted by the Illinois State University Center for the Study of Higher Education and the State Higher Education Executive Officers, finds that all but nine states experienced one-year declines from their 2010-11 totals. The 41 states that cut their spending did so by widely varying proportions, from as little as 1 percent (in Indiana and North Carolina) to as much as 41 percent (New Hampshire), with a full third seeing double-digit drops (see table below).

The declines, which were driven heavily by the depletion of federal funds from the 2009 stimulus legislation, leave many state higher education systems in significantly worse shape than they were in before the economic downturn began. Twenty-nine states allocated less money to higher education in 2011-12 than they did in 2006-7, and nearly half -- 14 -- provided at least 10 percent less than they did five years ago.

The Grapevine study does not examine state funding in the context of enrollments; the more-expansive annual review that the SHEEO group will publish later this winter will provide those data in a way that makes it possible to assess funding per student, which is likely to have shown an even steeper decline because public college enrollments in many states are growing. (The Grapevine figures are also not adjusted for inflation.)

Regardless, the cutbacks in state funding come at a time when many states -- and the country as a whole -- are striving to increase the number of people they educate and the number of degrees, certificates and other credentials they award. As such, "the tension between the nation's attainment objectives and drive and our fiscal condition is put in stark relief" by the Grapevine report, said Paul Lingenfelter, president of the state executives' group.

"The economy will recover, is recovering, but it's clear that a quick resurgence" in public spending on higher education -- or anything else -- is unlikely, Lingenfelter said. As a result,

"institutions and decision-makers in states are going to have to figure out how we meet our attainment goals in light of the fiscal situation."

Added James C. Palmer, who directs the Illinois State center: "The question is how do we meet our stated goals for increased educational attainment in an era marked by stagnant or diminishing economic growth. It seems like we aren't going to be able to meet them by increased state funding for higher ed, at least in the near term."

As with so many public policy matters in the U.S., nowhere is that tension more acute than in California, which provides about one in seven of all higher education dollars spent by states. California cut its appropriations for higher education by \$1.5 billion, or 11.8 percent, in 2011-12, to \$9.656 billion from \$11.160 billion.

Many of the state's public institutions, two-year and four-year alike, have restricted enrollments in the last several years, citing the cuts in state support. That outcome directly clashes with the needs of the state's rapidly expanding population, Lingenfelter said, and, "I don't think there's any question that it's going to have long-term consequences for California" and for the nation.

Governor Jerry Brown is asking Californians to approve a tax increase in November, and possible, partial recovery for public colleges in that state is heavily dependent on the outcome of that vote. But politicians in few states seem to have an appetite, or in some cases any inclination whatsoever, to raise taxes.

With revenues in many states leveling off and in some cases even beginning to climb, as the mostly jobless recovery progresses haltingly, governors in several states are proposing to increase spending on higher education this year; see [Virginia](#) [4] and [Georgia](#) [5] as examples. But nearly as many, it seems, are proposing additional cuts, as in [Missouri](#) [6] and [Kentucky](#) [7]. And pressure is undoubtedly going to continue to grow on public higher ed systems to consolidate their operations, as leaders in Georgia and New York have done (with varying degrees of aggressiveness) in the last year.

### State Support for Higher Education, 2006-7 to 2011-12

	State Support 2006-7 (000s)	State Support 2010-11 Including Stimulus Funds (000s)	State Support 2011-12 Including Stimulus Funds (000s)	1-year % change, 2010-11 to 2011-12
Alabama	\$1,685,067	\$1,543,661	\$1,470,952	-4.7%
Alaska	286,003	342,154	355,185	3.8%
Arizona	1,196,750	1,087,207	814,458	-25.1%

Arkansas	796,304	916,441	903,590	-1.4%
California	11,032,260	11,159,881	9,656,052	-13.5%
Colorado	689,786	765,512	647,496	-15.4%
Connecticut	923,951	1,076,131	944,555	-12.2%
Delaware	233,226	212,456	213,194	0.3%
Florida	4,390,185	4,117,296	3,622,862	-12.0%
Georgia	2,774,268	2,972,740	2,631,581	-11.5%
Hawaii	503,627	511,556	512,328	0.2%
Idaho	375,282	348,064	333,670	-4.1%
Illinois	2,848,130	3,200,025	3,585,962	12.1%
Indiana	1,456,514	1,564,731	1,549,460	-1.0%
Iowa	804,449	758,712	739,052	-2.6%
Kansas	788,721	795,182	739,612	-7.0%
Kentucky	1,253,992	1,279,424	1,235,422	-3.4%
Louisiana	1,459,847	1,582,177	1,290,048	-18.5%
Maine	256,024	276,690	270,803	-2.1%
Maryland	1,450,215	1,596,129	1,598,431	0.1%
Massachusetts	1,256,793	1,214,704	1,150,151	-5.3%
Michigan	2,035,388	1,869,659	1,641,659	-12.2%
Minnesota	1,400,500	1,381,065	1,283,690	-7.1%
Mississippi	879,466	1,018,694	954,184	-6.3%
Missouri	978,772	1,000,998	930,090	-7.1%
Montana	171,369	209,542	202,105	-3.5%
Nebraska	604,026	653,935	647,843	-0.9%
Nevada	593,776	550,169	473,256	-14.0%
New Hampshire	123,966	141,870	83,300	-41.3%
New Jersey	1,973,721	2,050,400	1,998,300	-2.5%
New Mexico	954,683	886,624	784,092	-11.6%
New York	4,568,118	5,032,313	4,673,772	-7.1%

North Carolina	3,466,353	3,967,452	3,927,065	-1.0%
North Dakota	215,719	311,678	343,964	10.4%
Ohio	2,208,184	2,282,711	2,013,797	-11.8%
Oklahoma	1,033,365	1,105,825	945,260	-14.5%
Oregon	640,984	650,163	598,020	-8.0%
Pennsylvania	2,153,998	2,108,381	1,826,879	-13.4%
Rhode Island	196,361	171,275	193,746	13.1%
South Carolina	1,127,265	928,624	859,409	-7.5%
South Dakota	178,778	196,616	179,516	-8.7%
Tennessee	1,505,274	1,659,586	1,409,996	-15.0%
Texas	5,709,137	6,270,812	6,464,047	3.1%
Utah	718,209	734,890	728,929	-0.8%
Vermont	85,923	94,227	88,225	-6.4%
Virginia	1,854,731	1,903,978	1,624,027	-14.7%
Washington	1,631,059	1,592,882	1,362,200	-14.5%
West Virginia	455,445	527,396	536,383	1.7%
Wisconsin	1,166,362	1,458,596	1,153,559	-20.9%
Wyoming	276,930	384,795	336,098	-12.7%
<b>Totals (State Support)</b>	<b>75,369,253</b>	<b>78,466,026</b>	<b>72,528,273</b>	<b>-7.6%</b>

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Letter to the Editor: Higher Ed in the back seat

Jan. 24, 2012

The editorial, "Contented Inertia" (Jan 19) raised some very important issues regarding higher education in Missouri. If the Missouri Legislature goes along with Gov. Jay Nixon's 12.5 percent cut to the higher education budget, our state probably will be dead last in per-capita funding.

After more than a decade of seeing the higher education budget slashed, all of our state colleges and universities need more support from the state. Where will that money come from? Based on history, not from the state. Regrettably, increasing tuition appears to be the only way to offset this chronic shortage.

**If these cuts remain, the University of Missouri system will receive less funding than it did in 1997, even though enrollment at the University of Missouri's four campuses has grown by more than 20,000 students since then. In addition, faculty salaries have not increased in years, and many of the university's buildings are in desperate need of repair, maintenance and renovation. Moreover, the University of Missouri provides more than \$23 million in unreimbursed health care each year to Missouri citizens.**

Higher education in Missouri has taken a back seat for decades; our state universities (and our students) are suffering from the consequences. When will our elected officials understand this and do something about it? I'm scared they never will.

**W. Dudley McCarter, Creve Coeur**

**The★Star.**  
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**AP** Associated Press

## **Mo. plans savings from debt refinancing**

**The Associated Press**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. -- Missouri is planning to refinance more than \$500 million of debt as part of Gov. Jay Nixon's plan to balance the state budget.

Nixon's budget proposal for the next fiscal year assumes the state will save \$41 million from the debt restructuring.

**The governor's budget office says the state already has refinanced \$20 million of principal from the debt used to build Mizzou Arena at the University of Missouri-Columbia.**

Budget director Linda Luebbering said the state also hopes to refinance \$317 million of principal from bonds issued by the Board of Public Buildings, and \$175 million of principal from bonds issued by the state Board of Fund Commissioners.

# Fleisher, Sewell honored for work with MU Veterans Center

By Ryan Finan

January 23, 2012 | 7:18 p.m. CST

**COLUMBIA – MU's Carol Fleisher and Daniel Sewell were recognized Monday with the Outstanding Public Service Award, the second-highest honorary public service award given by the U.S. Department of Defense.**

Fleisher and Sewell were honored for their development of the University of Missouri Veterans Center, which helps veterans adjust to campus life.

In accepting the award, Fleisher, the center's first director, warmly credited Sewell, former president of the Mizzou Student Veterans Association and national vice president of Student Veterans of America.

"When students think they can't make it through because they are married, have a child, haven't been to school in years, they can," she said. "Dan showed us all that was possible."

Sewell said the award could go to many people at the university as well as many people around the country.

"I just happened to be in the right place at the right time," he said. "I think everyone here at the university would be proud of what we have done." The afternoon ceremony in Stotler Lounge in the Memorial Union was standing-room-only. In opening remarks, Dalton Wright, civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Missouri, said the outcome of Fleisher and Sewell's collaboration has been outstanding.

"Our country did a bad job of reintroducing Korean veterans," said Wright, also a member of the Missouriian Publishing Association's board of directors. "This center helps to fight that." Joseph McCoskrie, executive officer of MU's ROTC program, said this was the first such award Wright has presented in Missouri.

"They received this for recognition of public service and helping veterans integrate back into society," McCoskrie said. "Fleisher and Sewell kind of put together a program to help them transition back to college — set the conditions for success."

Fleisher and Sewell were nominated for the Outstanding Public Service Award by Navy Vice Admiral Ann E. Rondeau. Recipients have "rendered service or assistance at considerable personal sacrifice, motivated by patriotism, good citizenship and a sense of public responsibility," according to an MU news release.

The Veterans Center was created following the recommendations of a Task Force for a Veteran-Friendly Campus established by MU Chancellor Brady Deaton. At the time it opened in November 2008, it was one of the first such centers nationally to provide support, share information and advocate for members of the armed forces.

At the ceremony, Deaton reflected on the importance of the center to veterans, the university and the country. As for Fleisher and Sewell, he said, "We're applauding two extraordinary individuals who are heroes of our day."

## Blast of gas that could replace dentist's drill and make fillings stronger

By Roger Dobson

Last updated at 8:52 PM on 23rd January 2012

A new 'gas-firing' device may offer a pain-free alternative to the dentist's drill — and could make fillings even more hard-wearing.

The device, which resembles an electric toothbrush, cleans out cavities in rotten teeth in only 30 seconds, according to new research.

It works by generating high-energy gas and liquid particles to kill bacteria and blast out the decayed pulp of the tooth.

**The researchers at the University of Missouri who developed the device say it means less discomfort for patients, as it does not affect the highly sensitive nerves in the teeth.**

Conventional drills cause pain because the vibrations from the drill trigger signals in these nerves.

Tooth decay is the second most common health problem after the common cold.

It is caused by bacteria in the mouth — one of the bacteria's main food sources is sugar, which is why sweet treats accelerate tooth damage.

Most cavities are discovered by dentists in the early stages during routine check-ups.

The surface of the tooth may be soft when probed with a sharp instrument, but there is often no pain until the advanced stages of tooth decay.

Dentists fill teeth by drilling out the decayed material and replacing it with white or amalgam fillings made from a variety of different metals including tin, silver, copper and mercury.

An estimated eight million cavities are filled each year in the UK.

Estimates suggest that around one-in-four of us fear going to the dentist, leading to many people not visiting at all.

The new device — the 'non-thermal argon plasma brush' — fires out particles that carry a tiny electrical charge; these cut through the enamel to the middle of the tooth, instantly killing all bacteria they come into contact with.

The charged particles also clear out the inside of the tooth more cleanly, say the developers. As a result, the filling bonds more strongly to the tooth.

Fillings can last up to ten years, but many people find they fall out sooner — the problem is that each tooth can support only two to three fillings before it has to be extracted.

Laboratory studies with the new plasma brush show that fillings are 60 per cent stronger.

‘Non-thermal gas plasma treatment will be a painless, tissue-saving method for dental cavity preparation because of its non-destructive nature, and rapid sterilising capability,’ say the researchers.

Human clinical trials are expected to start at the University of Tennessee-Memphis early this year, and if the studies go well, the researchers believe the plasma brush could be available to dentists as early as the end of next year.

Commenting on the new device, Professor David Bartlett, head of prosthodontics at King’s College London Dental Institute, says: ‘In principle it sounds a good idea.

‘In order to access decay it is often necessary to drill through the enamel, which is the hardest material in the body.

‘If this mixture of gas and liquid can be shown to remove enamel it would be a big step forward for dentistry.

‘However, we know that conventional drills can get through the enamel and are relatively cheap devices — a few hundred pounds — whereas this new device is likely to be more expensive.’

# Actor Larry Wilmore to speak at MU's belated Martin Luther King celebration

By Allyson Wilson

January 23, 2012 | 10:26 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Larry Wilmore isn't afraid to talk about controversial issues.

Wilmore, who is the senior black correspondent on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," uses comedy to give commentary on the otherwise intense topics in American society and politics.

**The Los Angeles-raised actor, television producer and author will be the keynote speaker Wednesday night at MU's belated ceremony to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

"What the committee did — really wanted to do — was find someone who has mass appeal," said Cynthia Frisby, co-chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. planning committee. "Someone who would be able not just attract people from the university community but also the Columbia community."

Wilmore said it won't be a formal speech.

"A lot of what I do is anything but politically correct," Wilmore said. "And I think for a lot of students it's kind of refreshing to hear something that isn't constrained by how you're supposed to talk about things."

The planning committee has opted for an entertainment value to the speaker — someone who uses humor as well as challenges the audience to think.

"I am a cross-cultural journalism professor here at the J-School, and I always show from 'The Office,' the diversity day clip," Frisby said, referring to an episode of the television show where the boss humorously fails at teaching his staff about diversity.

"I read somewhere that Mr. Wilmore wrote it based on his experiences and what goes wrong with diversity training," she said. "I also saw some other clips that he did. He addressed Congress, he won an Emmy and he dealt with race issues in his work."

Frisby later found out that Wilmore was with the American Program Bureau, an organization that connects celebrity speakers with events, and was able to book him.

Wilmore, who has only been to the state of Missouri once before, said he looks forward to coming back.

"I love college campuses," he said. "There's so much great energy there, and (students) are a lot of fun."

This theme for this year's ceremony is "Share the Dream, Live the Reality." The planning committee chose the speakers in hopes that they would embody the theme.

"If the turnout on Wednesday is anything like the buzz that's been heard, oh my God, the committee did the right thing by picking him," Frisby said.

The ceremony, run by the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative, will also reveal this year's recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. award, which is given to a group or individual in the Columbia area who has made significant contributions to the community in race relations, justice and human rights.

Ty Christian, a 1977 MU graduate, will also speak at the event, which will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Missouri Theatre.

## Vet students pump up MU spirit



August Kryger |

Tony Dank pets Sadie Anderson Scott's dog, Skye, on Friday at the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine. The two students are leading an organization that aims to boost school spirit and unity among their classmates. The portraits hanging behind them are part of that effort, featuring veterinary students and faculty members with their pets.

By Janese Silvey

Monday, January 23, 2012

**When Tony Dank first entered the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine, he didn't need much coaxing to become a Tiger after he started attending football games.**

"I immediately bled black and gold," said Dank, a second-year student who previously attended the University of Minnesota. "But without that, I don't know if I would have" felt school spirit. "A lot of people don't have that tie or have that tie to their undergraduate" college.

That's why Dank, along with third-year veterinary medicine student Sadie Anderson Scott, is leading an effort to boost MU pride among classmates. They've formed a group called Veterinary Outreach and Leadership at the University of Missouri, or VOLUM, which is spearheading several projects within the college.

Most College of Veterinary Medicine students come to Columbia with bachelor's degrees from other institutions, said Charles Wiedmeyer, an associate professor of veterinary clinical pathology who is assisting the group. They also tend to carry loyalty to those previous schools.

"We want to get everybody loyal to this university," he said.

It can be tougher to instill a sense of pride among professional students who are often too busy with coursework to get involved in campus activities, said Ron Cott, development director for the college.

"One of the reasons students get tied back to their undergraduate" university "is because of sports" and other clubs, he said. "When they come to a professional program, it's much more intense."

Cott thinks VOLUM will help. "The more we can encourage them to become part of our community while they're getting their education, the more likely they are to have an understanding of the needs of the institution in the future," he said.

One of the first projects VOLUM took on was to spruce up the drab walls of the veterinary medicine building by hanging portraits of students and faculty members with their pets. Wiedmeyer's brother is a professional photographer who agreed to take the pictures, which were then printed on canvas. Some 140 students and faculty members participated, Wiedmeyer said.

Having a portrait displayed makes students feel like they're part of the college, Dank said. "It personalizes the school."

The portraits hang between the building's two main classrooms, in a commons area and along stairwells. Dank envisions the displays continuing, with portraits of new students every year.

VOLUM also is hosting sporadic "pride days" in which it asks faculty, staff and students to sport black-and-gold attire. And Scott is starting an initiative called "lunch and learn," during which third- and fourth-year students will present veterinary cases to first- and second-year students. "It will give underclassmen a snapshot to show them why everything they're learning now is relative to what they'll be doing," she said.

The College of Veterinary Medicine already had some traditions: First- and second-year students interact through a mentorship program, and third- and fourth-year students have a year-end celebration. But previously it had nothing to bring all four classes together.

"We're trying to get the classes to interact more," Scott said. "We're literally separated by a parking lot. ... It's a way to really get the faculty and staff and students all on the same page."