



University of Missouri System Creates 56 Scholarships

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NO MU MENTION

JEFFERSON CITY - The University of Missouri System announced Monday it will leverage the \$1.1 million released by Gov. Jay Nixon from lottery proceeds by raising an additional \$1.1 million to create 56 new need-based endowed scholarships for undergraduates.

"We are excited about developing these new need-based scholarships and hope it will enable more students to attend one of our University of Missouri campuses," said UM System President Tim Wolfe.

"We appreciate additional appropriations, such as the \$1.1 million recently received from Governor Nixon that allow us to do even more to make the college dream a reality for Missouri students."

Wolfe said these new scholarships underscore the university's support for the Governor's effort to increase college-going and college graduation rates across the state.

"We understand the economic hardships many Missouri families face, especially when deciding to send their children to college," he said. "These scholarships can help make access to college more affordable for high-need students."

In fiscal year 2011, the UM System provided \$102 million in institutional grant aid, and more than 80 percent of Missouri undergraduate students received some type of aid. Over the past decade the system's four universities have increased institutional financial aid by about 80 percent.

The university has also increased tuition on average only 2.7 percent during the last five years, compared to 6.1 percent in surrounding states.

Each scholarship will be funded through a \$40 thousand endowment—a combination of \$20 thousand received from the state and \$20 thousand raised by the university's four campuses—that will initially produce 56 \$2,000 need-based scholarships, which will grow over time as the endowments increase in value.

Additional funding from donors beyond the minimum contribution will also contribute to the university's ability to provide enhanced or additional scholarships. The scholarships are targeted to those students with the highest financial need.



Chemical in bottles and cans is fueling obesity, says scientist

A controversial chemical called Bisphenol A (BPA), which is used to harden plastics, is contributing to the global obesity epidemic, according to new research.

The claims by biologist Frederick vom Saal come as the Food and Drug Administration is expected to rule this week -- after four years of study -- on whether to ban the plastic additive from use in food packaging.

Vom Saal told The Daily he will soon release a new study showing that mothers who expose their fetuses to BPA run the risk of having obese children.

"During the development of the fetus, BPA exposure alters the development of stem cells," vom Saal, a professor at the University of Missouri, said. "Think of it as tripping a switch in the DNA. BPA turns out to be a major factor in the number of fat cells that a person will have later in life."

BPA first came to public consciousness in 2007 when concerns were raised that it was leaching from reusable water bottles, leading to most companies reformulating their containers. But the organic compound is still so ubiquitous that it has been found in the urine of 93 percent of Americans over age six. It is used to line metal food and beverage cans, and is found in dental sealants, household appliances and sports equipment.

Critics label BPA an "endocrine disruptor" that acts like synthetic estrogen and link it to a wide range of ailments, including cancer. But its scientific defenders -- as well as regulatory agencies in the United States, Australia, the European Union, Japan, and New Zealand -- say there is no evidence that the minuscule exposure that consumers receive poses a health risk.

Vom Saal said his study shows that even trace amounts of the chemical are enough to disrupt a developing child's genetic structure and lead to metabolic disorders.

His findings are just the latest new evidence that BPA may be playing a role in the global obesity epidemic. Another study released in February by a Spanish research team showed that even small amounts of BPA cause human adult islet cells to produce more fat in the body.

After long declaring that BPA was safe in low doses, the FDA amended its position on the chemical in 2010, stating that ongoing research showed that there was cause for "some concern" for its effects on fetuses and children. In response to a court order, the FDA is now reviewing whether BPA should be removed from food containers, and has agreed to make a decision by Saturday.

St. Louis Business Journal

SLU, Mizzou students competing in 2012 Rice Business Plan Competition

Greta Weiderman

A student group from University of Missouri and one from Saint Louis University are among 42 teams who will vie for more than \$1 million in prizes at the 12th annual Rice Business Plan Competition April 12-14.

Teams were chosen from more than 400 entrants. Each group will have 15 minutes to present a business plan for the grand prize valued at more than \$460,000 and the opportunity to ring the closing bell at NASDAQ OMX this fall. Judges will rank the presentations based on which company they would most likely invest in.

More than 100 corporate and private sponsors support the business plan competition, which includes more than 250 judges from the investment sector. Competitors this year include teams from across the United States and countries including India, Germany, Spain and Denmark.

More than 133 past competitors have launched their ventures and are still in business. They have raised more than \$417 million in funding and created more than 600 new jobs in their early stages.