

JUN 25 2012



University embraces summons

National report is a wake-up call.

By BRADY DEATON

Sunday, June 24, 2012

The National Academies' National Research Council report "Research Universities and the Future of America: Ten Breakthrough Actions Vital to Our Nation's Prosperity and Security" issues both a wake-up call about the alarming direction of higher education because of financial exigencies and a sound remedy to change course. Indeed, the council's report, released earlier this month, offers real hope for revitalizing public higher education's dynamic role in our society by offering a financial model of shared responsibility among citizens, business, government and philanthropic organizations.

In essence, the council's report calls for a new social contract that includes federal responsibility earmarked specifically for research and graduate education support; each state's commitment to increase support for undergraduate education; and greater investment from the private sector to promote innovation, technology, human capital and their support facilities. This is necessary to ensure America's economic strength, national security and quality of life and to avoid the nation's further decline in these same areas. We are fortunate in Missouri that our state's leaders have responded to our efforts to contain costs and do more with less by keeping our operating budget stable for the coming year.

The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution declares that the role of government includes efforts to promote the general welfare of the citizenry. From the outset of this nation, we, as a people, have known with certainty and espoused with conviction that "education is America's ticket to the future" in its role of providing an educated citizenry and workforce.

Equally vital to the nation's prosperity is the impact of breakthrough research at institutions of higher education. This fuels the innovation and creativity that, in turn, expand our economy and improve all aspects of our lives. Moreover, in the late 1800s, this country's creation of the land-grant system of public higher education became a unique world model for increasing access to higher education and for using research findings to inform the decision-making of citizens and leaders at the community and state levels.

The University of Missouri heralds the National Research Council's report. We state our full support for its broad concept, and we look forward to exploring the specific strategies laid out in this document. We remain committed to efficiency and effectiveness in all our operations and to a partnership with our state government and our colleagues in the University of Missouri System and other institutions across the state. MU accepts this call to arms from some of America's most prominent thinkers and leaders and invites support from all those who share our vision for a greater university, state and nation.

Brady J. Deaton is chancellor of the Columbia campus of the University of Missouri.



Nixon cites shortfall, cuts \$9 million from higher ed

Associated Press

Friday, June 22, 2012

JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri's public colleges and universities will be taking a state budget cut for the third straight year.

Gov. Jay Nixon announced a nearly \$9 million cut for higher education today while signing Missouri's \$24 billion budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1. He cited concerns about state revenue, including whether the Missouri Lottery can generate enough money to meet budget expectations.

Nixon said he believes the budget passed by lawmakers is \$50 million out of balance.

But he made just \$15 million of cuts today and said he will re-evaluate the need for more cuts later.

If circumstances improve, funding also could be restored.

Besides the higher education cuts, most of today's reductions were to new initiatives or programs that had been slotted for funding increases.

Missouri officials were counting on the lottery to generate about \$35 million more than originally expected. The plan was to plug that extra lottery money into education, thus freeing up general revenue to go to programs that had received tobacco funds before they were diverted to early childhood initiatives, which lost their dedicated casino fees to veterans homes.

Nixon's budget director, Linda Luebbering, had previously acknowledged it would be "a challenge" for the lottery to generate an additional \$35 million in funding.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Nixon withholds higher ed funds for third year

BY ELIZABETH CRISP • ecrisp@post-dispatch.com > 573-635-6178 | Posted: Friday, June 22, 2012 2:00 pm | [\(5\) comments.](#)

NO MU MENTION

JEFFERSON CITY • Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon is withholding about \$15 million from the \$24 billion spending plan lawmakers drafted for the coming year.

The withholds Nixon announced today include a nearly \$9 million hit to higher education, signaling the third straight year of cuts to public colleges and universities.

The first-term Democratic governor has put a restriction on the funds, which means they could be released later in the year if revenue projections improve.

During a news conference in his office, Nixon said the budget that lawmakers approved last month is out of balance by \$50 million, so the holds are an attempt to balance the budget.

He said further reductions could be ahead as officials watch the state budget outlook. Nixon would not speculate about the agencies that could be affected if additional cuts are needed.

The Legislature's budget relies on a \$35 million increase in lottery revenues.

"Everyone knows that's a rosy projection," Nixon said.

Aside from the withholds, Nixon vetoed three sections of the budget because he said they didn't follow the normal process or had technical flaws. The vetoes eliminated \$240,000 that would have gone to a Blues in Schools program, legal fees for Boone County and port assistance.

Among the list of 26 programs that face withholds, Nixon stripped \$100,000 lawmakers designated for a literacy program run by Southeast Missouri State University.

State Rep. Genise Montecillo, a Democrat from St. Louis who had requested the funding, said she was "deeply disappointed" by the governor's decision to withhold.

"Children who can read proficiently at an early age are more likely to achieve academic success," she said.

Nixon also withheld the literacy program funds during the current budget year but eventually released them.

“I am hopeful the governor will again recognize his error and follow the legislature’s lead on making early literacy education a priority,” Montecillo said.

Nixon also is holding \$40,000 for a program that was intended to address the “low wage trap” that some families face when paying for child care.

The pilot program would have helped parents avoid a sudden loss of child care subsidies if they receive a bump in income that puts them just over the state limit.

Budget director Linda Luebbering said the state still has a transitional program that will help some families.

Nixon plan gives University of Missouri System \$4 million less

By [Jordan Shapiro](#)

June 22, 2012 | 5:39 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri System would receive \$4 million less than a spending plan approved by the state legislature under budget cuts announced Friday by Gov. Jay Nixon.

The announcement in the state Capitol comes as Nixon prepares to finalize the state's \$24 billion budget before the fiscal year begins July 1.

At Friday morning's news conference, the governor announced that he was withholding \$8.8 million total from all public universities, marking the third straight year for higher education funding cuts. This year it's a 1 percent cut; last year it was 7 percent. Senate Appropriations Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, called the withholds to the university "unfortunate" and "not necessary."

In January, [Nixon called for a 15.1 percent cut](#) to all public universities when he announced his spending plan in the State of the State address. Leaders from both political parties, however, made it a priority to reverse those proposed cuts and hold higher education funding level.

In this year's budget the legislature gave the four-campus system \$398.2 million, the same amount as last year. Nixon's withhold brings the system's money from the state down to \$394 million.

Of the \$398.2 million in state money the system got last year, MU received \$227.1 million. The state spent \$850.4 million on higher education in the 2012 fiscal year. The legislature's plan had the state spending that same amount again in 2013.

Nixon said the higher education cuts were necessary because he expects that the legislature's spending plan is \$50 million out of balance.

The legislature's "rosy" projection of \$35 million in lottery money beyond what was originally projected led to the withheld funds, Nixon said.

Nixon also took issue with the legislature's \$11 million cut to disaster relief. He said the state still owes money for the cleanup of the Joplin tornado and floods last year.

"We must continue our steadfast fiscal discipline," he said during the Friday morning news conference.

Schaefer said he did not agree at all with Nixon's statement that the budget is \$50 million out of balance. If state revenues perform better throughout the next fiscal year, Nixon has the authority to return the money to the public universities. He also has the authority to cut additional funds if necessary. By withholding, rather than vetoing, Nixon gives the General Assembly no chance to reverse his decision.

The Missouri Constitution allows the governor to line-item veto budget bills, but it also allows him to prevent state agencies from spending money if revenues fall below projections. The legislature can override a veto, but not a withhold.

Overall, Nixon announced \$15 million in withholds. Other programs he cut were an urban teaching program, the eating disorder council and advertising for abortion alternatives.

Nixon's budget director Linda Luebbering said more withholds may happen in order to ensure the budget is balanced. She said the governor's office would evaluate the budget situation monthly to determine if more restrictions were necessary. Nixon did announce some vetoed items that the legislature will have a chance to override, including \$30,000 for Boone County government legal fees.

Schaefer said he has put those funds in the budget for the past three years to help pay for legal expenses associated with a mental health facility in Boone County. Every year, Nixon has vetoed the funds. State law allows counties with a state-owned mental health facility to collect certain legal fees. Boone County, however, is not listed in the statute as a qualifying county and therefore receives no money from the state.

Nixon also announced a \$100,000 withhold from the Missouri State Historical Society. The legislature gave the historical society a \$200,000 funding increase from last year in its spending plan.



Higher ed cuts could have been worse, some say

By Janese Silvey

Published June 22, 2012 at 4:13 p.m.

Updated June 23, 2012 at 2 a.m.

The University of Missouri System is expected to lose roughly \$4 million in state funds this coming fiscal year after Gov. Jay Nixon announced a cut in funding to higher education yesterday.

But it could have been worse, those who fought to preserve state funding to public colleges agreed.

"It still means in the General Assembly, we were able to put in about \$50 million more than the governor had proposed," said Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia. "I certainly don't agree with the governor that the withholding is necessary, but it's still a huge victory to have that additional funding at such a critical time."

In January, universities and colleges were bracing for a 12.5 percent cut, more than \$100 million, when Nixon outlined his budget proposal.

Nixon later lessened the cut by plugging \$40 million into the budget using a national mortgage settlement.

"We're way ahead of where we started," said Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia.

Xavier Billingsley, president of the Missouri Student Association, didn't see it that way.

"I'm really disappointed in the governor," he said.

Billingsley's "More for Less" campaign attracted letters from thousands of university students opposing Nixon's cuts. He said he's concerned that Nixon made the announcement during the summer when students aren't on campus.

"He's hitting us in a weak spot because he knows we're not here," Billingsley said. "What we can do is tell 30,000 students — about 15,000 of whom can vote here — that Nixon withheld money from the university without being honest to his constituents. He didn't want to fund it from the beginning."

The UM Board of Curators is meeting Tuesday and Wednesday in Columbia in part to approve the 2013 budget. Curators will discuss potential cuts in programs and services during the meeting, spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said.

Under UM System President Tim Wolfe, administrators have been eyeing cuts in areas not considered priorities to reinvest funds into six areas identified as priorities, such as attracting and retaining top-notch faculty, expanding research and economic development and more effective communication efforts.

Administrators previously identified \$30 million "to be invested in strategic initiatives," Hollingshead said. "What the" state "cut means is we're just going to have less to invest in strategic initiatives."

Nixon blamed the withholding on concerns that revenue would not increase as much as the budget reflected, and he also cited expenses from disasters such as last year's tornado in Joplin, The Associated Press reported.

But the General Assembly's budget took Joplin into consideration, said Schaefer, who served as the chairman of the Senate's appropriation committee.

"The budget was adequately funded," he said. "If he chooses to withhold, there's not much we can do about that."

Rep. Mary Still, a Columbia Democrat who is challenging Schaefer for his Senate seat, argued that the budget Schaefer sent to Nixon was "balanced on hope and chance," mainly that people would buy more lottery tickets.

The withholding was not unexpected, she said.

"They're putting together budgets to say, 'We didn't cut from the university,' knowing full well the governor would turn around and have to do that," Still said. "I don't think" Schaefer "was shooting straight with the public or the governor."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Editorial: Restart the press at University of Missouri

By the Editorial Board | Posted: Monday, June 25, 2012 12:15 am | (3) comments.



Cover of the University of Missouri Press catalogue

Why does it often seem to come down to academics vs. athletics?

To scholars vs. squads?

To validity vs. victory?

And it's not just that way in universities, although in this case that's what we're talking about.

Specifically, regarding the University of Missouri, it may be that a glib headline in The Nation — "Score So Far at the University of Missouri: Books 0, Football Coach \$2.7 Million" — doesn't make much work for the imagination.

This begs the question: Why can't the university system's new president, Timothy Wolfe, come up with \$400,000 a year to save the University of Missouri Press? If it can't come out of next year's tight \$2.7 billion budget, can he appeal to alumni? The business community? Supporters who have signed protest petitions (but not checks)? Why give up so quickly?

The amount needed to keep the press open is less than the \$650,000 raise given to Mizzou football Coach Gary Pinkel in 2010. True, the athletic department is self-funding. The football

operation pays for itself and underwrites much of the rest of the athletic department. But Pinkel vs. the Press is a story about priorities.

Mr. Wolfe, 53, is a businessman, as was his predecessor, Gary Forsee, who served as president of the system from 2007 to 2011. Mr. Wolfe is a former software company executive and a 1980 Mizzou grad.

Unlike football, the university press doesn't make millions, generate headlines, show up on TV every week or pay for itself. It's easy to understand why a bottom-line businessman might want to whack it.

A university president who came up through the academic ranks might have a different outlook.

A scholar would recognize the value of a significant literary arm that has published "an impressive catalogue" of offerings, according to "Inside Higher Ed," a daily online publication focusing on college and university topics.

The 54-year history of the press includes the publication of some 2,000 titles, including "The Collected Works of Langston Hughes," "The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson," a biography of Stan Musial, the "Mark Twain and his Circle" series and the recent release "On Soldiers and Statesmen" by John S.D. Eisenhower, son of the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Dwight Browne, interim director of the press, said Thursday that he was caught unaware by Mr. Wolfe's decision. He confirmed that he had not spoken to Mr. Wolfe before Mr. Wolfe and the board of curators made the decision last month to stop the press.

Mr. Browne said that he and others in the press operation had been working steadily to pare back expenses and were on track this year to reduce the operating deficit to less than last year's \$30,000. The deficit was on top of the \$400,000 university budget for the operation.

Back to sports: This move leaves the University of Missouri as the sole educational system in the Southeastern Conference (Mizzou's new athletic conference) without a university press. That's embarrassing.

Perhaps the book lovers who toil in the university's press operation missed the boat when they didn't glom onto the latest in literary lunacy. We can see it now: "Huck Finn: Vampire Hunter."



Opponents of UM Press closure plan protest

By JANESE SILVEY

Sunday, June 24, 2012

Armed with a petition and national media coverage — some critics admonishing the University of Missouri for spending money on sports but not books — those who oppose the decision to close the UM Press plan to show up in protest at a Board of Curators meeting in Columbia this week.

Ned Stuckey-French, who is in the English department at Florida State University, sent emails to MU faculty groups yesterday asking them to attend and submit statements of opposition.

Opponents hope a large turnout, along with other efforts, ultimately will convince UM President Tim Wolfe to keep the press running. In May, Wolfe announced the 54-year-old UM Press would be phased out starting next month. He cited a bad business model that has kept the operation in the red and needing an annual \$400,000 university subsidy.

Faculty and administrators at MU are now in the process of developing a plan for a new press, although details still are sketchy.

"We understand the prominence and stature a university press brings to a university, so we continue to work on a new model that's more sustainable going forward," UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said.

The press' administrative house is key but also complicates the story. Right now, the press is under the helm of the system that governs all four campuses, and that system has a separate budget than each campus. Closing the press was not an MU decision, but rather a system one.

And it's tricky to try to compare the press' expense of \$400,000 with MU's Athletics Department budget, although the comparison is showing up regularly in headlines, editorials and Internet comments regarding the closure of the press.

"Score so far at the University of Missouri: Books 0, Football Coach \$2.7 Million," was the headline on a Katha Pollitt blog entry on the Nation website.

An editorial in Inside Higher Ed compared hefty coaching salaries to the press' interim director's salary of about \$75,000.

"It's frustrating because that is just not at all a fair comparison," Hollingshead said.

The MU Athletics Department's budget is made up of revenues from ticket sales, TV contracts and boosters. MU pays \$250,000 a year from its general operating budget to the department in exchange for \$5 million worth of discounted tickets for faculty, staff, students and university guests, spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said.

The Athletics Department also pays \$15 million into MU's general operating budget to offset services such as utilities, campus parking and police services, as well as through the scholarship funds that pay for athletes' tuition.

Bruce Joshua Miller, a publisher's representative from Chicago who started a Facebook page opposing the press closure, said the comparison is meant to "illustrate the misplaced priorities of the university system."

Foes aren't arguing the university should choose between sports and the press, Stuckey-French said, but rather that a flagship university should support both.

Although neither Hollingshead nor the MU development office knew of any endowment fund that exists to support the press, it's unclear whether the decision to close it will end up costing the university money.

"I personally can claim my two-comma gift will go elsewhere," Mary Ratchford Douglass wrote on the Facebook page.

She declined to be interviewed, but later posted that she told MU Alumni Association officials to remove her from their database and that she would redirect gifts to other institutions.

Donations likely would not keep the current UM Press intact.

"The possibility of getting a one-time donation is not going to substantially change the model for the press," Hollingshead said. "We need to substantially change the model for the press so it's viable in the long term."

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MU participates in land grant milestone

By JANESE SILVEY

Sunday, June 24, 2012

World hunger has been a topic of discussion over family dinner tables across America for decades.

It goes something like this: "Eat. There are starving children in China."

Actually, most Chinese families aren't starving now — their ability to buy food is driving up your grocery bill — but there are plenty of hungry kids across the globe, and the number is expected to rise with the population.

And it will take more than mailing table scraps to feed everyone. Agricultural production will have to spike by some 70 percent if the world's population hits 9 billion by 2050 as expected.

That's why the University of Missouri's land-grant mission is as relevant now as it was 150 years ago, when Vermont Congressman Justin Morrill pitched his plan to make American colleges more practical and accessible to a society being built on farming and industry. Today, MU remains on the forefront of future food production, and Chancellor Brady Deaton is at the head of the table.

Last year, President Barack Obama appointed Deaton chairman of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. In the position, it's Deaton's job to help come up with policies that will make it easier to meet growing demands.

It's appropriate, then, that MU will showcase food as part of a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act next week in Washington, D.C. MU is one of two dozen universities participating in the Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Festival on the National Mall. For two weeks, the land-grant universities will highlight the ways campuses connect with communities.

MU booths will showcase seasonal fruits and vegetables and will teach younger attendees where their favorite foods originate, be it from a hog or a wheat field. The focus on food not only highlights MU's emphasis on feeding the future; it also gives a nod to the historical significance of the congressional act that put agriculture into an academic spotlight.

GAME-CHANGING GRANT

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act into law July 2, 1862. The legislation that gave rise to land-grant universities shifted the higher education landscape in a young America. Public colleges existed then but were mostly focused on classical studies available to wealthier citizens.

Morrill wanted colleges to add agricultural and mechanical studies and to make those programs accessible and practical for a wider audience.

Through the act, states were granted land to sell to raise money for agricultural and mechanical schools. Missouri received 330,000 acres.

It would take another eight years for Missouri lawmakers, mostly Republicans, to agree to attach the new agricultural college to the existing MU campus in Columbia. William Switzler, in his "History of Boone County," blamed the political struggle on "unreasonable and inveterate prejudice" among Republicans who wanted to use the funding for other purposes. He credited state Sen. James Rollins and then-MU President Daniel Read for persistent efforts to bring the school to Columbia.

The Morrill Act of 1862 would have been a signature achievement for any Congress, but it's especially notable because the 37th Congress also was dealing with the Civil War and approving the largest direct tax ever on Americans, as well as going into debt, to pay for it.

Agriculture in general proved to be a priority. The same group of lawmakers also passed the Homestead Act, which granted 160 acres of public land to anyone willing to farm it, and created the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Later federal laws would expand the mission of land-grant universities. In 1887, the Hatch Act authorized payments of federal grant money to establish agricultural experiment stations at land-grant schools. A second Morrill Act was approved in 1890, in part to help institutions that served black students. Lincoln University in Jefferson City became a land-grant college at that time.

Although closely related, MU Extension won't celebrate its milestone anniversary until 2014. That will mark the 100th birthday of the Smith-Lever Act, which created the Cooperative Extension Service and allowed MU to extend research findings to people across the state.

Today, research, especially in agriculture, not only crosses state borders but also international boundaries.

CHALLENGES CONTINUE

It's fitting that Deaton is at the helm of MU as the university celebrates the anniversary of the land-grant act. Raised on a farm in rural Kentucky, he has a long history of studying agricultural practices and economics. Deaton served in the Peace Corps in Thailand and has worked in developing countries to help improve farming techniques and increase production.

As chairman of BIFAD, Deaton leads the board in discussions about policies that can solve some of the problems surrounding global hunger. He outlined some of those issues during an hourlong conversation with the Tribune about his BIFAD position last year.

There are political, cultural and natural barriers. Foreign aid is often used as war strategy instead of good will. In some areas, new agricultural practices are taught to men even though women are the ones actually working in the fields and gardens.

Some countries refuse to accept genetically modified crops — which means the majority of sugar beets, corn and soybeans produced in America cannot get to the people who would benefit from them.

And Asia's growing wealth complicates the food picture: Now that more people there can afford meat, the demands are rising and causing instability in the market.

MU researchers are tackling some of the problems at the university's research farms and agriculture experiment stations.

At the Bradford Research and Extension Center, for instance, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources faculty are using drought simulators to test plants and determine characteristics that might make them more resistant to the droughts that plague some parts of the world.

At MU's Beef Research and Teaching Farm south of Columbia, researchers are studying how DNA sequences might affect a calf's ability to gain weight eating a minimal amount of feed. The multimillion-dollar project ultimately aims to boost beef production to meet international demands.

Other CAFNR researchers have figured out cheaper ways to fatten up turkeys, developed a soy chicken product and created healthier ice cream.

And the emphasis on food has crept beyond the agriculture school.

"The fact is, food is really a strength of Missouri's," said Jo Britt-Rankin, associate dean of the College of Human Environmental Sciences. "Whether it's in English looking at food literature throughout history or through composting or developing drought-resistant crops, we have a unique collection of research."

MOMENT TO MARKET

Britt-Rankin is the facilitator of the Food for the Future Initiative, part of Mizzou Advantage. The goal is to more closely align research and studies from departments across campus.

At the Smithsonian festival, she and other MU representatives will show visitors how Missouri advances agriculture, nutrition and health.

Armed with the motto "Live Like Your Life Depends on It," nutrition specialists from MU Extension work with more than 350,000 Missourians a year promoting healthy eating habits. The youth program 4-H, also a university-run activity, provides similar food messages to children across the state.

The latter program is so popular on its own, sometimes Missourians don't realize it is part of MU's land-grant mission.

"We've tried hard in the past five to 10 years to ensure that we've branded ourselves and 4-H with the university, but I think there is a disconnect," Britt-Rankin said. "You say, 'Do you know about 4-H?' and people will say yes, but when you ask whether they know it's part of MU, they don't. Still, 150 years later, there's a marketing component we need to do."

She hopes the estimated 1 million visitors at the Smithsonian festival leave with a better understanding.

"It's great exposure for the university," she said.

Organizers hope to display the exhibits again on campus, possibly during Homecoming festivities in the fall to make sure Missourians also realize the scope of the land-grant mission.

"I would say many people don't understand what a land-grant university is," Britt-Rankin said. "One hundred and fifty years ago, the Morrill Act was signed so we could take research being done in a large institution and we could translate that and bring that into educational programming for anybody in the state. We still do that today."

That knowledge has the potential for wider application.

"We know so much," Deaton said. "We can feed the world if we put it together in the right way."



MU med school puts focus on LGBT health needs

By JANESE SILVEY

Sunday, June 24, 2012

The University of Missouri's School of Medicine is starting to focus on making sure a new generation of physicians is prepared to serve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered patients.

It's a population that studies show comes with specific health challenges. Not only are LGBT patients more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol and contemplate suicide, but they also are at higher risks for specific diseases, data from a 2011 Institute of Medicine report says.

Specifically, the study shows young black men who have sex with men are more at risk of contracting HIV, and lesbians have higher rates of breast cancer and obesity. Lesbians also are less likely to get the annual health screenings that are required when women access birth control.

The medical school push is part of MU Health Care's emphasis on improving individual patient care, said Debra Howenstine, assistant professor of family and community medicine.

"Like most institutes across the country, we're recognizing this is an important thing to work on," Howenstine said. "From my personal standpoint as a family physician, I am not able to optimally provide care to patients if I don't know them and about them as individuals, if I don't know the supportive people in their lives, the resources they have in their lives and if I don't know lifestyle issues that might impact their health care. Race, ethnicity and religion are some traditional ways of looking at diversity, but sexual orientation and gender identity are components of an individual's culture that really impacts their health."

Historically, medical schools have not taught health providers to address concerns specific to the LGBT community, Howenstine said. That might have led to some bad experiences in the past that make some LGBT patients leery of disclosing sexual orientation, she said.

In an ideal world, she said, health care settings would be safe places for people to talk about their sexual orientation or gender identity and the provider would use that information "to help them receive better health care."

Medical school administrators are in ongoing discussions about how to best incorporate LGBT-specific care into existing courses and educational experiences.

Last year, the school hosted an orientation for new students specifically designed to help them understand unconscious biases that could affect the way they interact with each other and their patients, Howenstine said. The same program is expected to be held next month for students starting medical school this fall.

Complementing the administration's work are efforts spearheaded by John Cummins, a third-year medical student.

Although he said he's had "nothing but fantastic" experiences at MU, "the truth is most medical schools don't have the curricula necessary to teach medical students how to treat LGBTQ patients with respect and competence. There's a huge deficit in medical education, and Mizzou has been wonderful about wanting to rectify that."

Cummins founded MizzouMed Pride, a student group aimed to improve an understanding of LGBT patients, and has hosted several forums to expand the dialogue. About 100 people, including faculty and physicians, attended the first, he said.

He's hopeful that students take the information with them when some return to more rural areas of Missouri to set up practices.

"I've had a lot of folks whose goal is to return to their hometowns and start rural clinics ask me about suicide prevention services and other support they might need" when working with LGBT patients, Cummins said.

He's especially interested in making sure transgendered individuals are part of the discussion.

"Transgendered folks are shafted by health care," he said. "Even if" a doctor is "comfortable with LGB people, the 'T' tends to throw people for a loop. That's a big umbrella that includes anyone from individuals who are seeking to transition from one gender to another to folks who are questioning their own gender identity and anywhere along the spectrum."

BUSINESS JOURNAL

MU Medical School emphasizes needs of LGBT patients

The University of Missouri Medical School is concentrating on teaching future doctors about special needs and challenges of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender patients, *The Columbia Daily Tribune* reports.

School officials said medical schools haven't taught students about addressing concerns of the LGBT community, which has led patients to avoid disclosing sexual orientation. This can be a problem because LGBT patients are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, are at higher risks of specific diseases and may require differences in annual exams.

The new focus is part of the MU Medical School's emphasis on improving care for individual patients, the *Daily Tribune* reports.



The★Star ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Compromise put to the test on Missouri Senate race

By DAVID A. LIEB

MU mention page 2

JEFFERSON CITY -- Standing in front of about 100 supporters seated on the folding chairs of a Teamsters union hall, U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill recently laid out the centerpiece of her re-election strategy in Missouri. It was prefaced with a warning of sorts.

“There are some of you who won't like me to say this,” McCaskill told the Democratic loyalists. “But ... I'm a moderate. I believe in compromise.”

“Compromise” is not a word regularly uttered by McCaskill's three leading Republican opponents – U.S. Rep. Todd Akin, former state Treasurer Sarah Steelman and businessman John Brunner. When it is spoken, it is not generally in favorable terms. Instead, some of the Republicans have been emphasizing their commitment to stand firm for conservative values – essentially mounting a no-compromise campaign.

The contrasting messages could provide an interesting choice for voters in the November election. Do you prefer principle over pragmatism? Or results over resolve? There are a variety of reasons for the differing rhetoric coming from the Democratic incumbent and her Republican challengers.

One factor may be the current stage of the 2012 campaign season. In a primary, candidates must appeal to the party faithful, who tend to be more conservative (for Republicans) or more liberal (for Democrats) than the population as a whole. After winning a primary, candidates often move toward the center to pick up votes from independents.

Because McCaskill has no Democratic opposition in the Aug. 7 primary, she can afford to take a more centrist approach far earlier in the campaign.

Another factor in candidates' contrasting approaches may be the state's political tendencies. Although Missouri has a history as a swing state, voters in the Show-Me State also have earned a reputation of being a little more conservative than residents on the East and West coasts. And although Democrats currently hold most of Missouri's statewide executive offices, many political scientists say the state has

increasingly leaned toward Republicans – citing, among other things, the inability of President Barack Obama to win Missouri in 2008 despite easily carrying the national vote.

“A Democrat winning statewide in Missouri has to say that he or she will work with Republicans, because there are more Republicans than Democrats in the state among the voters,” said David Kimball, an associate professor of political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

So perhaps it's not surprising that McCaskill told the crowd at the Springfield union hall: “I don't dislike my Republican colleagues. I work with them.”

In that regard, the ability to compromise is a matter of political survival for McCaskill. Yet McCaskill is not the only one espousing compromise as a virtue.

Former Republican Sen. John Danforth, who represented Missouri in Washington for 18 years, recently delivered a speech in St. Louis declaring that “government is broken” because of the uncompromising nature of partisan politics. Danforth called for everyone to give a little, suggesting Republicans should consent to a tax increase and Democrats should concede to substantial changes in entitlement programs.

Brunner has said he's willing to work with anyone in Washington, so long as they are willing to work with him and – ideally – follow his lead.

“People have been trying to compromise in Washington, D.C., for years and nothing gets done,” said Brunner spokesman Todd Abrajano. But “when somebody takes a principled leadership stance, other people have a tendency to follow.”

During his dozen years in Congress, Akin has co-sponsored some bills with Democrats. But during a speech to the Missouri Republican State Convention, he highlighted some high-profile instances when he refused to compromise – touting his opposition to the federal No Child Left Behind Act in 2001 and what he dubbed the “Wall Street bailout” bill in 2008.

“What we think the people of Missouri want is someone who is going to stand strong on those conservative principles,” said Akin spokesman Ryan Hite. He added: “It's really not popular right now to go around and say, ‘We want to compromise with the Democrats.’ That's what (House Speaker John) Boehner's done, and it hasn't gotten us anywhere.”

Conservative websites have been circulating a fundraising email sent by Steelman in which she declares: “I'm a no-compromise conservative woman.”

“Compromise has become, to a lot of people, selling out or giving in,” said Steelman spokesman Patrick Tuohey. He added: “People want to draw a line, and they want to be confident that their candidate gets to Washington and doesn't fall prey to the leadership that say, ‘Hey, we need your vote on this one.’”

Associate Professor Mitchell McKinney, who teaches courses on political communication at the University of Missouri-Columbia, views the Republicans' reluctance to embrace compromise as an extension of the tea-party inspired, anti-government sentiment that propelled Republican victories in the 2010 elections. Yet McKinney said there also is an emerging theme among other candidates trying to tap into the public's desire for politicians to work together on difficult problems.

Which sentiment is stronger? That's what voters will decide.



MU freshmen find their footing at Summer Welcome

By Janese Silvey

Friday, June 22, 2012

Camryn Bates wasn't sure whether she wanted to participate in the Tiger Climb after her freshman orientation yesterday at the University of Missouri.

The Summer Welcome orientation can be exhausting, with multiple campus tours and intensive workshops that attempt to cram everything an incoming student needs to know about college life into a day and a half.

More than 6,000 students are participating in this year's Summer Welcome, a decades-old program aimed to prepare freshmen for academics and social life on campus.

The climb is an optional activity at Alpine Tower near MU's athletic complexes and aims to give like-minded teens a chance to get to know each other, said Bryan Goers, coordinator of Venture Out, the Student Life program that operates the tower.

Bates' mom, Amy, talked her into going, saying she would have regretted it had she not participated.

Not only did Camryn show up, but she also climbed the most difficult side of the tower, opted to use the most challenging way to get to the top and ultimately scaled the 60-foot-tall obstacle like a vampire in a "Twilight" flick.

"When I got to the swinging ladder, I didn't think I was strong enough, but I figured out a strategy," the 18-year-old said after her climb.

Figuring out strategies to conquer challenges is just one of the benefits incoming freshmen get when they opt to participate in Tiger Climb during orientation. And it's one they can apply when overcoming obstacles they will no doubt face as they climb toward a college degree.

The comparisons between scaling the tower and starting and finishing college are abundant, Goers said, but he doesn't emphasize them to students. The Tiger Climb mainly emphasizes teamwork.

"They walk away with respect for each other and new friends," he said.

Still, the metaphor wasn't lost on Lauren Rittman, whose first attempt to climb to the top failed. She attempted to get there via a hanging net, but her arms became too shaky and she had to come down.

After her second try proved successful and she made it to the top, her mom, Kathy Ginestra, said she hoped her daughter learned to "try again when it's really scary."

Rittman, 18, of Platte City later admitted she wasn't sure whether she could do it.

"It's a good feeling of accomplishment," said Rittman, who wants to go into forensic psychology. "If you can do this, it feels like you can do a lot of things."