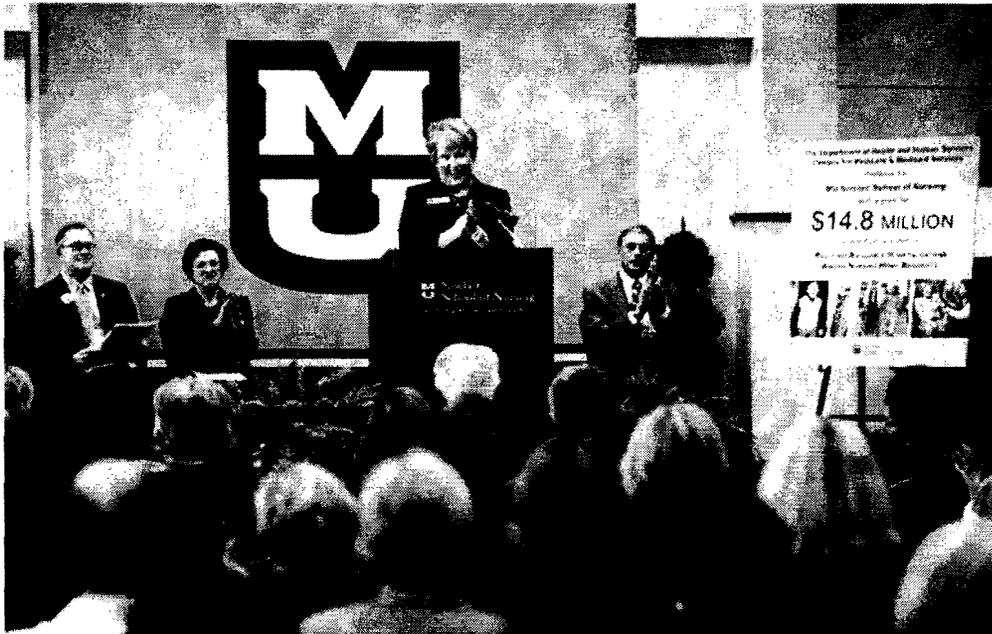


COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

MU announces \$14.8 million grant for nursing home care



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Marilyn Rantz announces a \$14.8 million grant for MU's Sinclair School of Nursing Monday at the Reynolds Alumni Center.

By [Catherine Martin](#)

[Monday, November 5, 2012](#)

The University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing announced this morning that it had received a nearly \$15 million grant for a nursing home project.

The project will aim to reduce avoidable hospitalizations for nursing home residents, improve patient care and lower health care costs. The grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will help provide funding to put advanced practice registered nurses in 16 nursing facilities in the St. Louis area and will be distributed over four years.

Advanced practice nurses have the right education and skills to recognize changes in conditions of nursing home residents very quickly, said Marilyn Rantz, curators' professor of nursing and leader of the project.

"They can help intervene before the condition gets too far gone," she said.

Pneumonia and other acute infections are some examples of illnesses these nurses can detect early, Rantz said. If discovered early, she explained, these conditions can be treated in the nursing home instead of patients being sent to the hospital. Transitions to the hospital can be difficult both physically and mentally for older patients.

Letting people "age in place," or make few transitions in their golden years, also is the focus of Tiger Place, where Rantz is the executive director. Much research backs the effectiveness of advanced practice registered nurses in nursing homes, specifically in reducing the those transitions for residents.

Fewer hospital visits also mean cost savings, Rantz said. Potentially avoidable hospitalizations amounted to more than \$7 billion in 2011, according to a news release about the grant.

Rantz said she hopes the model spreads across the country. With the grant and support from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, she said she is confident that can happen.

"If anybody can make a difference, this team can," said Amy Vogelsmeier, assistant professor in the school of nursing.

Vogelsmeier is an advanced practice registered nurse with many hours of clinical experience and said she has helped work "build interventions" nurses can use when they detect an illness early.

In general, residents at nursing homes with advanced practice registered nurses have better outcomes, she said. It can also lead to retention of staff, improve communication and help build relationships with family and staff.

Working with staff is essential because they can recognize an early illness and intervene, Vogelsmeier said. Working with families and residents allows everyone to talk about care and come up with an end-of-life plan, which doesn't always mean going to the hospital as a first response.

"They think they're going there to get better, but the transition itself might be the problem," she said.

Work on the project has already begun, Rantz said. The nursing homes are already working together, and the advanced practice registered nurses will be in place by Dec. 12.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



MU Nursing School gets \$15M grant to help elderly

21 hours ago

The University of Missouri school of nursing will use a four-year, \$15 million federal grant to help reduce the need to re-hospitalize nursing home patients.

The university's Sinclair School of Nursing announced Monday that it had received the grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Led by nursing professor Marilyn Rantz, researchers will design a project to reduce avoidable re-hospitalizations of nursing home residents.

The university said in a news release that previous research suggests nearly half of hospitalizations among nursing home residents enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid could have been avoided. The cost of those hospitalizations was estimated at more than \$7 billion in 2011.

The university will partner with federal and state Medicaid workers to improve care for residents at 16 St. Louis nursing facilities.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Sinclair School of Nursing gets \$14.8 million grant

COLUMBIA – MU's Sinclair School of Nursing announced Monday that it has won a \$14.8 million research grant – the largest research grant in university history.

The money will fund a project aimed at reducing avoidable rehospitalizations among nursing home residents. The 100 or so people gathered at the Reynolds Alumni Center erupted with applause when Judith Fitzgerald Miller, dean of the Nursing School, and Marilyn Rantz, principal investigator of the project, revealed the grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, a federal agency within the Department of Health and Human Services.

"I can't tell you how long I prayed" that the grant application would be successful, Rantz said after the announcement.

The project will send advanced practice registered nurses – those with graduate training as well as a nursing degree – to 16 nursing homes in St. Louis. The nurses will implement the use of health information technology and methods advocated by INTERACT – Interventions to Reduce Acute Care Transfers. It is a program that focuses on implementing tools and strategies in long-term care facilities, Rantz said.

The nurses will provide these services to nursing home residents while educating staff about early symptom recognition.

Rantz, recently admitted into the Institute of Medicine, has more than 20 years of experience researching aging and the elderly. She and her eight-person team represent different schools at MU including the College of Human Environmental Sciences and School of Social Work. Rantz said the interdisciplinary team is an asset to the research.

"That's such a strength at MU, and it's something that I think is sometimes a very well-kept secret," she said. "What we do so well is we work with complex problems and develop good solutions to those complex problems because we put a lot of minds together."

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton praised the School of Nursing for its research on aging and elderly care. He said the concept of aging in place has enabled older adults to stay in residential living as they age.

"The concept, in fact, of aging in place was developed in the Sinclair School of Nursing and is now a national model of care coordination," Deaton said.

Marcia Flesner, a clinical instructor and part of the team, said the grant was a wonderful reward for all of the work they have done since receiving notice of the grant opportunity.

"The extra hours spent on the effort paid off and showed the commitment of the team," she said.

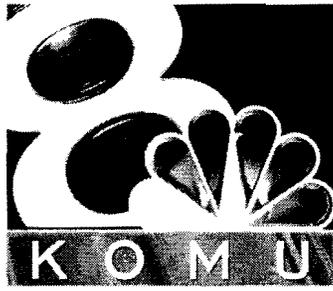
Of 300 organizations that applied only seven grants were awarded throughout the U.S., Flesner said. She said they now have a four-year opportunity to make a difference in the rest of the country.

"At the end, hopefully we can have the results to have this model really make a difference," she said.

Flesner said the goal of the project is to save Medicare and Medicaid money, to improve quality of life and to demonstrate the value of having advanced practice registered nurses in nursing homes.

Rantz's previous research has shown that advanced practice registered nurses in nursing homes improve quality of care for residents and reduce costs and hospitalizations, but she says the backing of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will make a difference.

"If there was ever a time that we could really advance the care for older people in America, it's now," Rantz said. "Now, we have the opportunity, and we are going to take this grant and run with it."



MU School of Nursing Receives Largest Grant in University's History

Posted: Nov 5, 2012 8:31 AM by Marisa Breese

Updated: Nov 5, 2012 1:01 PM

COLUMBIA - Researchers at the University of Missouri's Sinclair School of Nursing received a grant of \$14.8 million Monday morning. The grant is the largest in the university's history. The grant comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The university will use the funds to start a four-year project that aims to reduce avoidable re-hospitalizations among nursing home residents. MU School of Nursing officials hope the research will create a model for senior care that health care professionals can use nationwide.

MU plans to partner with CMS and state Medicaid programs to improve care for residents at 16 different nursing facilities based in St. Louis. The money will allow a team of MU researchers to recruit and place one advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) at each nursing home.

"APRN's going to nursing homes improve the quality of those nursing homes, they improve the outcomes for those residents, they reduce costs and they reduce hospitalizations. What we need is a good way to pull those resources together and demonstrate that widely in this country, and we now have a way to do that," said Curators' Professor of Nursing Dr. Marilyn Rantz, who led the pursuit of the grant.

Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer was also present at the event, and spoke about his personal interest in the project.

"My mother spent about six or seven years in a nursing home at the end of her life...and my family tried to keep her at home for as long as possible. But you reach a point where you can no longer do that and function as a family. And that's why these care centers are so important," Luetkemeyer said.

Dr. Rantz said she hopes the grant will allow researchers to create improved methods of care that will lower costs and better the overall experience of nursing homes for senior citizens.

the Atlantic

Sick of the Presidential Race? Here Are 2 Education Ballot Measures to Watch

Emily Richmond

MU Mention Page 2

When it comes to education, there's much at stake Tuesday beyond the race for president. Voters in several states are being asked to approve significant changes to how public schools operate and are funded.

There are two particularly interesting ballot measures in play: in Washington State, where voters will be asked to allow the formation of charter schools; and in Missouri, where a significant hike in the state's tobacco tax could raise badly needed revenues for both K-12 and higher education. Both votes serve as important reminders that the policies that most directly affect students, educators, and communities are typically not federal directives. Rather, it's the initiatives enacted at the state and local level -- with voter support -- that often spur the most visible reform.

Let's start in Washington, which is one of just nine states that currently prohibits charter schools -- campuses that receive public dollars but are operated more or less independently. (The degree of independence of a state's charter schools depends on the restrictiveness of that state's individual law.)

Washington voters have rejected proposed charter school legislation three times in the past 16 years. To give its readers a better understanding of the debate, the Tacoma Times Tribune smartly sent education reporter Debbie Cafazzo to visit three charter schools in neighboring Oregon.

"Everybody in Oregon thinks Washington is a hopeless backwater," Rob Kremer, the Oregon's Republican Party treasurer who helped pass the state's charter school law, told the Times Tribune. The Evergreen State has 124 charter schools, serving about 4 percent of the state's K-12 public school students.

But education officials in Washington State contend a more cautious approach is merited. Approving charter schools simply because they've been popular elsewhere "is a simplistic answer to a complex problem," Tacoma School Board member Karen Vialle told the Times Tribune.

Nationally, performance among charter schools has been mixed -- not unlike their traditional public school counterparts. Much depends, as it always does, on the quality of the programs, staffing, and community support. There are pockets of excellence, with some charter schools scoring high in national rankings for student achievement. But there have also been some high-profile failures, including the recent messy shutdown of a network of charter campuses in St. Louis that had been managed by for-profit Imagine Schools Inc.

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools points out that there's plenty of enthusiasm for alternatives to traditional public education: Charter school enrollment has doubled nationally since 2007 to more than 2 million students, with another 600,000 estimated to be on waiting lists.

Nina Rees, president and chief executive of NAPCS, told me that Washington's ballot measure is "a pretty modest attempt," given that the legislation would limit the number of charter campuses to 40 over the next five years. In rating the aggressiveness of the proposed legislation, Rees compared it to "dipping a toe in the water," rather than a deep plunge. With high-profile backers of this year's ballot measure, including Microsoft founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen, there's hope that "this year is the tipping point," Rees said.

"There's certainly a lot of momentum," Rees told me in an interview. "But track records of referendums generally, not just for education issues, is dicey. People go to the polls typically to vote for individuals, and they often don't pay much attention to particular questions."

In Missouri, voters are being asked to back a significant hike in its tobacco tax, which at 17 cents per pack is the lowest in the nation. If voters say yes on Tuesday, the tax would jump to 90 percent. Half of the new revenue would be earmarked for K-12 schools, 30 percent for higher education, and the remaining 20 percent for programs to dissuade individuals from using tobacco.

As the Associated Press' Alan Scher Zagier reported, this is Missouri's third attempt in a decade to raise its tobacco tax. A proposed expansion of the University of Missouri's medical school depends on new funding.

University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe said he's confident that "voters will support the measure, particularly with the stipulated benefits for funding education," the AP reported.

"The (political) environment is much more ready for a positive vote on this than it was previously," Wolfe told the AP.

Currently 14 states earmark cigarette tax revenues for education-related spending. Another 11 states add the tobacco-tax money to their general funds, which could include education among other expenditures. (For more on this topic, check out the American Lung Association's comprehensive online database of State Legislated Actions on Tobacco Issues.)

Danny McGoldrick, director of research for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, told me that Missouri's ballot proposition is "win-win" for the state. The price increase will reduce smoking, "saving lives and health care dollars in the state," McGoldrick said. And, in addition to improving public education, "Missouri will be way ahead of most states, as very few spend tobacco tax revenue on tobacco prevention."

UMKC says no to name change

By **MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS**

The University of Missouri-Kansas City won't be changing its name — not for the foreseeable future.

It will stay UMKC, just as it has been for nearly 50 years.

Earlier this year, university officials were mulling over the idea of changing the name of Kansas City's only urban research university to help boost undergraduate enrollment and philanthropic giving. The idea bubbled up in response to a trend of declining financial support from the state.

But after a series of public opinion surveys, officials gauged reaction to a change and decided to keep the name that identifies the school as one of the campuses in the University of Missouri four-campus system.

In a statement released this afternoon, UMKC officials said that survey results “showed that while prospective students and the community at large had strong interest in the name change, several other important groups — current students, faculty/staff and alumni — do not favor a name change at this time.”

University Chancellor Leo Morton said that contrary to what some may have thought, the idea of a name change never meant that UMKC intended to break from the University of Missouri System.

What he learned, he said, is that the connection UMKC students, alumni, staff and donors have with the University of Missouri, is a lot stronger and a lot more widespread than officials had expected.

“Going forward, we will focus — as The University of Missouri-Kansas City — on two primary goals: continuing to be Kansas City's university, and a university of national and global impact and significance,” Morton said.

“And we will find ways to make sure that the value we generate will be clearly understood, from every corner of Kansas City to every corner of the planet.”

UMKC was founded in 1933 and originally named the University of Kansas City. Thirty years later in 1963 when it became part of the University of Missouri System in 1963 it adopted its current name.