MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

February 9, 2018
GUEST COLUMN: Reviving rural Missouri

By MUN CHOI

In December, The Chronicle of Higher Education published “A Dying Town,” a story about the challenges facing the Missouri Bootheel. It details the struggles many Missourians face in staying healthy and prosperous, including the stories of several residents who, without a college degree, had no safety net when jobs left their towns, the economy stuttered or medical bills piled up.

The story lights a fire under anyone working in the fields of public health or education. As we continue to strive toward making higher education as beneficial and accessible as possible, it is vital that we ensure no community falls between the cracks.

Higher education has real, proven benefits, but unfortunately we often hear only about the obvious ones. It’s true — college graduates earn about 65 percent more over their lifetimes than those with only a high school education. But money doesn’t tell the whole story. Those with a college education are less likely to suffer from debilitating conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure. These characteristics have economic components, but studies show that a college education plays a role.

Public higher education does not operate solely on the individual level. As a land-grant institution, the University of Missouri has an obligation to carry the benefits of university research beyond the campus. We stridently support our student and faculty researchers, who are making strides toward bettering lives in Missouri communities and in society.

For example, Mizzou scientists, cardiologists and engineers are fighting heart disease by working to develop revolutionary new cardiovascular stents, a project that has received millions of dollars in federal grants.

At Missouri University of Science and Technology, we empower teachers to educate the next generation of researchers through Project Lead The Way, a precollege program that inspires students to become involved in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. More than 3,000 elementary and secondary education teachers have attended Project Lead The Way classes at Missouri S&T, giving them the tools they need to provide their students with quality science and engineering education.
We are committed to improving the lives of Missourians, and this means cost must not be a barrier to quality higher education. Recently, we signed the Missouri Land Grant Compact, which allows all Pell Grant recipients who are residents of Missouri to attend Mizzou tuition-free, provided they meet admissions requirements. We also have lowered the cost of educational materials by adopting open source and lower-cost textbooks. For students from low-income families, these efforts mean the prospect of a college education is less burdened by financial concerns.

Mizzou is helping to broaden access to medical care across the state with the Springfield Clinical Campus and Missouri Telehealth Network through Mizzou’s School of Medicine. One telehealth initiative, Show-Me ECHO, helps rural physicians treat chronic pain and conditions like hepatitis C.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City houses the UMKC School of Dentistry, which, as the only public dental school in Missouri, includes courses that deploy students to provide dental care in underserved areas. In addition, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, together with Mizzou, recently received a joint $1.8 million federal grant to train social workers to serve underserved populations with educational and health access programs.

Our mission is service, an ethic that guides us in all the work we do. To see what that ethic looks like, look no further than Freda Kershaw, who was profiled in The Chronicle’s story. Freda works in Pemiscot County for Mizzou’s ParentLink program, which provides research-based information and resources to parents and youths across Missouri. ParentLink has expanded its services in the Bootheel, and with the help of community liaisons like Freda, the program inspires communities to work together to improve the health and wellness of their residents.

For some, wellness means planting a garden where there was an empty lot. And just as that garden serves as a symbol of the will to change lives for the better, our hope is that the University of Missouri is more than a system of brick-and-mortar institutions. It is an ethic, and we are striving to ensure that ethic continues to spread across Missouri in all its forms.

*Mun Choi is president of the University of Missouri system.*

**MACC students transferring to Mizzou have new scholarship option**
The University of Missouri recently announced that for the 2018 to 2019 academic year, the university will offer a one-time, $3,000 Residential Experience Award to any Moberly Area Community College (MACC) transfer or dual-enrolled student who chooses to live in an MU residence hall.

“This award is another example of Mizzou’s commitment to the state of Missouri,” said Jeffery C. Lashley, president of MACC. “Through awards like this, MACC students can access Mizzou in an affordable way. It serves as an excellent example of two institutions working together and keeping students as the top priority.”

In May 2017, officials from Mizzou and Moberly Area Community College signed a memorandum of understanding to ensure students can transition between the two schools seamlessly. Called MizzouMACC, the initiative includes academic advisers, faculty and staff at MACC and Mizzou who work together to help students succeed. The program provides enhanced academic advising to ease the transfer of credits and increases campus involvement to foster student success.

Residential Experience Awards are part of Mizzou’s effort to reduce living and dining expenses for students. Other initiatives include:

- A new ROTC scholarship that will cover room and board costs for the freshman year for incoming ROTC students who are national scholarship winners from the Army, Air Force, Navy or Marines.
- A reduction in the cost of Mizzou’s most common housing and dining plans.
- The Missouri Land Grant Compact, which covers the tuition gap for any Pell-eligible Missouri resident.
- A textbook initiative encouraging Open Educational Resources (OER) in classes, as well as the AutoAccess option for textbooks at all four campuses. As a result, textbooks at the Mizzou Store this fall are, on average, 18 percent cheaper than they were in fall 2016.

“Living on campus helps students integrate into the Mizzou community and provides easy access to involvement opportunities and academic support programs,” said Gary Ward, interim vice chancellor of Student Affairs and vice chancellor of Operations. “The Residential Experience Awards will help to reduce the cost of a Mizzou degree and give students and their families even more confidence in choosing Mizzou.”

Moberly Area Community College students do not need to apply for this award — it will be awarded automatically upon admission to Mizzou and completion of a housing contract. Eligible students are encouraged to reach out to the Mizzou Admissions office for more information about this award and other opportunities for transfer students.
Mizzou political scientist to U.S. during Olympics: Speak quietly and carry a big stick

FEBRUARY 9, 2018 BY ALISA NELSON

A Mizzou political scientist says the U.S. should not engage in aggressive statements toward North Korea while the Winter Olympics are underway in South Korea. Cooper Drury is responding to Vice President Mike Pence saying a new round of sanctions against North Korea is expected that Pence calls the “toughest and most aggressive” to date.

“The thing to do would be to make sure that there’s a good U.S. military presence so that you’ve got the 7th Fleet hanging around relatively close to the Korean Peninsula,” says Drury.

“Not that it’s going to be used but sort of a Teddy Roosevelt move, right? Speak quietly and carry a big stick. You’ve got the whole world looking. The stakes are much higher. I think it’s better to play that Roosevelt card. Speak softly right now. When the Olympics are over, have at it. Right now, I would be quiet and have a couple of aircraft carriers hanging around.”

Pence’s comment is right down President Donald Trump’s alley. Trump has had plenty of bold exchanges with North Korea dictator Kim Jong Un.

Pence and Kim Jong Un’s sister are attending today’s opening Olympics ceremonies. South Korean officials consider their northern neighbor’s action to be a sign of calming tensions. Drury tells Missourinet the action eases tensions temporarily.

“With his sister there, it seems very unlikely that the north would actually try to attack or cause some terrorist incident there. I don’t think that was going to happen anyway because you’re really playing with fire then, but with his sister there you can probably say ‘Wow, they are trying to engage in a sense.’ It shows the north is playing along by the rules and they want to be involved in the games.”

He says the move is definitely to exploit the Olympics on the world stage for propaganda purposes.

“You want to be in the picture. This is a great move on the North Korea regime’s part,” he says.

The winter games are underway through February 25.

No Missourians are listed as competing in the winter games.
Fracking chemicals linked to precancerous lesions in mice

Posted by Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri February 8th, 2018

Generated by News Bureau press release: Exposure to chemicals used during fracking may cause pre-cancerous lesions in mice, MU study finds

Female mice exposed to chemicals used in unconventional oil and gas (UOG) operations before birth may develop precancerous lesions and other abnormalities on their mammary glands later, a new study suggests.

Additionally, some of the mice involved in the study developed precancerous mammary lesions that may suggest they will be more sensitive to chemicals that cause cancer.

Using more than 1,000 different chemicals, UOG operations combine directional drilling and hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” to release natural gas from underground rock.

“Our earlier research showed that both male and female mice had alterations to hormone levels and reproductive organs resulting from exposures to these UOG contaminants,” says Susan C. Nagel, an associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and women’s health at the University of Missouri.

“We felt this could indicate that exposures to UOG chemical mixtures can produce a range of defects in animals exposed during vulnerable periods, such as development in the womb. So, we examined 23 UOG contaminants and compounds commonly used or produced in the fracking process.”

In the study, female mice were exposed to various amounts of the 23 UOG chemicals from gestational day 11 to birth. Although no effects were observed on the mammary glands of these females prior to puberty, in early adulthood, female mice developed mammary lesions and hyperplasia, a condition that causes enlargement of an organ or tissue.
“We chose varying amounts of the UOG mixture in order to mimic a range of human exposures to these chemicals,” Nagel says, who is also an adjunct associate professor of biological sciences.

“These suggest that the mammary gland is sensitive to mixtures of chemicals used in unconventional oil and gas production. Determining whether these fracking mixtures affect human populations is an important goal, particularly as the number of fracking sites within human population centers increases.”

The findings appear in *Endocrinology*.

Additional, long-term studies are needed to evaluate these outcomes, the researchers say. Coauthors are from Duke University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health supported the work.

**State reps say higher education a priority**

By Waverly Colville Columbia Daily Tribune

State representatives pledged during a Columbia forum Thursday night to fight funding cuts that public higher education officials warn would have dire consequences for state colleges and universities.

Gov. Eric Greitens’ proposed budget for the 2019 fiscal year cuts higher education by about 10 percent. The University of Missouri System would take a $41.8 million hit compared to its appropriation for the current fiscal year.


All of them said they would fight to restore at least some of the funding.

Reisch also spoke in support of community and technical colleges as an alternative to four-year universities.

“We’re going to be trying to restore as much funding to higher ed as possible, but I’d also like to put in two-year colleges and the state technical school,” Reisch said. “We need a more skilled workforce right now. Maybe a four-year degree isn’t for everybody, but we need to help young people to get careers to get them out into the workforce.”
The questioning included gun regulations and whether any of several gun-related bills filed this session address parental responsibility for keeping firearms from children.

Basye said he is not aware of any bill that specifically addresses parental obligations involving guns, but the issue is one of personal responsibility.

Jeanne Mihail, a member of the gun-control group Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, said there wasn’t time for a nuanced discussion of the issue at the forum, but the representatives’ responses provided a general understanding of their views.

Answers to budget-related questions beyond higher education varied. Stevens criticized tax-credit giveaways, Kendrick and Reisch stressed the importance of balancing budgets and Basye and Walsh praised federal tax cuts.

The federal tax cuts put “more money in the hands of people who earn it,” Basye said.

Cutting taxes isn’t the answer to all budget issues, Kendrick said.

“We need to have a conversation about not growing government but funding it appropriately where we can support our businesses, infrastructure, public education, the list goes on and on,” he said.

Growing jobs while cutting higher education? Many question governor's proposal

By WAYNE PRATT

Gov. Eric Greitens talks often about growing jobs in Missouri.

It was one of the major themes in the Republican governor’s State of the State address last month. He told members of the state House and Senate that he would continue to focus on several areas to create jobs:

“Making sure that we have the right laws on the books to be fair to family businesses, and making strategic investments in education, infrastructure, and workforce development,” Greitens said.
Yet just a few days later, the governor proposed a roughly $68 million reduction for public colleges and universities. The suggested cuts to higher education for the second year in a row drew criticism almost immediately, including from Greiten’s own party.

Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard signaled that he’s ready for a budget battle, with higher education at the center of the fight.

"We're not going to allow those cuts to happen," Richard told reporters at the State Capitol. "The governor can propose a budget, but we're going to do what we have to do."

It is the second consecutive year public colleges and universities in Missouri are coping with likely state funding cuts. Lawmakers approved a nearly 7 percent reduction last year. Greitens increased it to 9 percent when he signed the fiscal 2018 budget.

The University of Missouri system is among higher education institutions that would be affected by proposed cuts. University officials say the most recent proposed cuts add up to a reduction of $71 million over the past three years for the four-campus system.

The potential impact of another drop in higher education funding drew strong criticism from U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., during an appearance at Harris-Stowe State College in St. Louis.

"He thinks we're going to get jobs in the state. It's not going to happen if we keep kicking higher education in the teeth," she told the crowd to applause.

The St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce, which has been supportive of many of the governor’s proposals, estimates two-thirds of jobs in the region will require some form of post-secondary education in just two years. Greg Laposa, vice president of education strategies, said the proposed cuts are a "significant concern."

"And so, when you look at where our investments need to be going as both a region and as a state, it should be in workforce," Laposa said.

The former high school English teacher also expressed concern about the impact state funding reductions could have on college affordability. Laposa said investments in higher education should improve access, instead of making people feel discouraged because of rising costs.

The governor has proposed a small increase in some student aid programs, but it probably won't be enough to offset any potential cuts and the possibility of students paying more to make up for the drop in state funding.

A skilled workforce, or talent, can be a big factor in attracting companies to the region or growing businesses already located here. Clifford Holekamp, a senior lecturer in entrepreneurship at Washington University's Olin Business School, said investing in STEM is especially important.
"It is possibly the most strategic investment a state can make, to invest in the labor pool and make sure they have the skill sets needed for the 21st century jobs," Holekamp said.

At the same time, having strong academic programs even outside STEM is important to attracting and retaining students. Holekamp cautioned that without first tier programs, the best high school students will go elsewhere.

"And there's a very high probability that if we let them go elsewhere that they may not come back to Missouri," he said.

Budget negotiations at the Missouri legislature are expected to resume late this month or in early March.

Missouri Auditor Nicole Galloway, D, has released a report saying the state’s budget is under mounting stress due to a shrinking tax base coupled with increasing expenses.

She contends tax cuts sold by lawmakers as generators of economic growth aren’t fulfilling that promise. Galloway says Missouri’s recent pattern of tax reductions followed by cuts to state services reflects trouble being experienced on a larger scale in an adjacent state.

“I think we’re starting to walk toward the bridge to Kansas,” said Galloway. “They have seen serious cuts to their budget because their economic promises were not fulfilled. We are not there yet, but we’re walking toward that bridge.”

Kansas passed large individual and small business tax cuts in 2012 and 2013 that never generated economic growth to offset the decreased revenues brought on by the tax cuts.

As a result, Kansas lawmakers approved tax increases on items such as cigarettes, but ultimately repealed the original tax cuts last year.

Galloway’s report concludes that no level of income tax rate reductions will result in a net increase in state revenues in Missouri.
The analysis shows that tax cuts do trigger more economic activity, but as with Kansas, not enough to compensate for the resulting loss in revenues.

Galloway contends numerous factors including a failure to monitor items such as the state’s legal expenses and tax credit liabilities have left the budget unstable and ill equipped to handle future economic downturns.

“If there are economic bumps in the road ahead, our state is not prepared,” Galloway said. “There will be additional cuts. Those cuts, as we know the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior, and those cuts are going to come from education. We know that.”

The analysis also says an increased reliance on individual income tax revenue has made the budget more sensitive to economic downturns, and a lack of sufficient emergency reserve funds will not allow enough cushion to prevent drastic budget cuts during such a time.

Because the state constitution limits the state’s reserve fund to 7.5% of general revenue collections, the fund is currently more than $300 million short of a balance suggested by a Moody Analytics report.

Another constitutional restriction in Missouri is what is commonly referred to as the Hancock amendment. It requires voter approval before taxes or fees can be increased by the legislature beyond a certain annual limit, which in 2017 was $101.5 million.

The Auditor’s analysis points out that the Hancock Amendment ties the hands of lawmakers because it does not allow them the flexibility to reverse cuts to revenue that may exceed expectations.

Another finding of the analysis is that taxpayers are increasingly being called upon to foot the bill for government though higher local taxes and an increased share of the state budget. The state auditor, who was appointed to her position in 2015, says decisions have been made to benefit the few at the expense of citizens.

“This is due to special interest giveaways, corporate giveaways and changes in policy over the last several years, meaning that government is basically balanced on the backs of working Missourians” Galloway said.

The analysis shows that individual income taxes now supply 65% of the state’s general revenues versus 53% in 2003.

**The Auditor’s office teamed up with economists at the University of Central Missouri and the University of Missouri on the research, which showed that reliance on sales taxes and corporate taxes have decreased as the dependence on individual taxes has risen.**

Auditor Galloway is the only Democrat to hold a statewide office in the Missouri government. She’s up for reelection this year.

Republican Governor Eric Greitens responded to Galloway’s report, during a briefing with reporters at the Governor’s Mansion. Greitens said Galloway’s math is wrong.
As Greitens touts tax cut proposal, he declines to get behind fuel tax increase

By JASON ROSENBAUM & ERIN ACHENBACH • 14 HOURS AGO

Gov. Eric Greitens reiterated Thursday that his plan to cut the state’s tax will not be paired with a fuel tax increase.

The governor’s comments to members of the Missouri Press Association come as both Republicans and Democrats are getting behind the idea of raising taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel to pay for fixing the state’s roads and bridges.

Greitens’ tax cut plan includes reductions in Missouri’s income and corporate taxes. It also includes substantially paring down popular tax breaks, including a deduction for federal income taxes and a 2 percent discount businesses get for turning in their withholding taxes on time.

But unlike other legislative tax cut proposals, Greitens told reporters he won’t include fuel tax hikes in his plan.

“As you saw in our tax plan, we are not planning to raise the gas tax. We are not planning to raise the diesel tax in our plan,” Greitens said. “I think what needs to be done this year is to engage in our plan or some version of it that will help to cut taxes for 97 percent of Missourians.”

Any substantial gas or diesel tax increase would likely have to go to Missouri voters. Greitens didn’t necessarily rule out the idea of a fuel tax increase going to a statewide vote in the future.
“I think the work that has to be done this year is to get a worker’s first tax cut passed so that we can help 380,000 of the hardest working Missourians across the state,” he said. “And the fact is in future years, absolutely the people of Missouri should have a say.”

The governor’s comments weren’t well received by some lawmakers angling to shore up funds for roads and bridges.

“Let me ask this: If we can’t even build roads and bridges anymore, then what the hell are we doing here in Jefferson City?” said state Rep. Greg Razer, a Democrat from Kansas City who was on a task force that recommended a fuel tax increase. “Hopefully the General Assembly can lead on this issue — because obviously Eric Greitens isn’t interested in that job.”

During his news conference, Greitens noted that his proposed budget includes more money for transportation projects. But lawmakers have expressed wariness about that idea.

Here’s what else Greitens told reporters at his press conference:

- He said he hasn’t been contacted by any law enforcement or prosecutors regarding his 2015 extramarital affair. “We’ve answered all those questions and you know that the answer is no,” he said. The governor has admitted to having an affair before he was governor, but denied he took a photo of the woman to keep her from revealing the infidelity.

- He said he’s been “working really closely” with lawmakers to get a tax cut passed before the end of session, May 11. The governor said he’s had great meetings with GOP senators Andrew Koenig, Wayne Wallingford, Mike Cierpiot and Mike Kehoe. “In fact, we’ll work with anybody who shares our vision of more jobs and higher pay and putting money into the pockets of the people of Missouri,” Greitens said.

- Regarding Missouri’s budget, Greitens said the situation is “much better than it was last year.” But he said that he had to “make tough choices,” including further cuts to colleges and universities. “Our priority was to make sure that our kids in our K-12 classrooms
were getting all the funding that they needed,” he said. “We wanted to make sure we were taking care of the most vulnerable children in the foster care system. So we invested an extra $29 million in that program.”

- He said that his administration worked “really closely” with a number of higher education leaders. “I’ve been really pleased with the work [University of Missouri System President Mun] Choi has been doing,” Greitens said. “Outside consultants came in, looked at the University of Missouri system and identified $70 million a year in administrative savings that could be taken. And that was just looking at the University of Missouri system.”

**Kemper Fellowship lecture highlights 'junk food media' diet**

MORGAN KEITH

**With the instant accessibility of digital media, it's no surprise that average Americans are inclined to indulge every now and again, but Stacey Woelfel, an MU professor, is worried about America's "junk food media diet."**

Woelfel, who is the director of the Murray Center for Documentary Journalism, presented on America's lack of education on responsible media consumption as part of the Kemper Lecture Series on Thursday.

An intimate turnout of around 20 students and faculty gathered to hear Woelfel's expertise on the evolution of media and its effects.
In his presentation, Woelfel compared the way we consume news with the food pyramid by breaking down online content into five categories: news and current events, reality and competition, scripted entertainment, sports and viral content.

He asked attendees to look at the usage of their time online, posing the question, "Are we being good citizens?"

According to Woelfel's data, the average American will spend approximately two months of their lifetime reading for leisure while spending nearly two and a half years watching sports. Woelfel questioned the "servings" of each of these categories and how much we should consume of each on a daily or weekly basis.

Having 24 years of experience as director of KOMU, Woelfel emphasized the growing importance of media literacy and internet safety.

"The news that most of us consume is commercially driven for ratings," Woelfel said. Teaching children and teens how to responsibly consume media has become a bigger priority.

With technology being introduced to children at progressively younger ages, media literacy and internet safety are beginning to be integrated into state legislation for schools, he explained. Our most recent generations, Woelfel noted, are "developing from birth with screens."

Woelfel referenced a Stanford University study that had students judge the credibility of information online. The results of the study showed that "more than 80 percent believed a native ad, identified with the words 'sponsored content,' was a real news story."

In a time where teenagers spend around nine hours a day using screens and media, Woelfel would like to see the distribution of types of content being accessed become more equal.

At the end of the presentation, after a brief period of audience discussion, Woelfel encouraged those in attendance to create their own pyramid of media consumption. Gathering markers and paper, listeners ranked news content from what they found most essential to least essential.
While some stuck with the pyramid format that Woelfel suggested, others crafted their own representation of media consumption, and the results came in many shapes and sizes.

Woelfel was awarded the Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence in March 2017. Each year, five MU professors are recognized with the award, which includes $10,000. Lecture organizers describe the prestigious award as "essentially the highest award possible for teachers at Mizzou."

Woelfel plans to release a consolidated version of the audience's responses as a singular diagram.

Why multi-level marketing works for some and not others

By MEGAN JUDY


JEFFERSON CITY - There’s a social media trend blanketing everyone's Facebook feed - women calling themselves “Boss Babe,” “Mom-preneur,” or selling their “side hustle.” There are companies galore - Rodan and Fields, It Works, Lip Sense - the list goes on. Multi-level marketing seems to be everywhere.

The Better Business Bureau defines multi-level marketing as a company that encourages distributors to build their own sales force by recruiting. Distributors then earn a percentage of the
sales from their sales force. If it’s reputable, a multi-level marketing set up can be a great secondary income; if it’s not - it could be a pyramid scheme.

Erin Clark, a Jefferson City resident who quit her corporate job five years ago to start an It Works business, said the business has "tons of moms."

"It’s a ton of women," she said. "What a cool way to make an extra income with your kids."

Clark said the freedom that comes from running her own business was a really attractive quality. Her husband, Aaron Clark, said he was supportive when she started her business, but he had no plans of joining her until he saw how successful she’d become.

Aaron Clark stepped away from his job as an undercover police officer for the Kansas City Police Department once he saw the success.

“I saw that we didn’t really have to have our full-time jobs anymore,” he said.

The Clarks had some years of success with It Works, but their business flat-lined.

“It was no longer growing even though we were working harder,” Erin Clark said.

After dabbling in a few other multi-level marketing companies, the Clarks have transitioned out of that business model.

Erin Clark said, “It wasn’t ever the product that’s the problem. For people like us, this is what we do for a living so we have to be able to build a sustainable income on product sales, not on your team of people religiously ordering - that is a pyramid scheme.”

The Clark's big beef with multi-level marketing is how misleading the hype is.

Erin Clark said some people may have earned a $100,000 bonus, but they may have spent $30,000 to get it.

"What do you do with $30,000 of vitamins or face cream or wraps?” she said.

Aaron Clark said it's not the easy work some people might think.

“The image that most people in this industry paint for those who are not in it makes it seem like it’s a dream. It is a lot of work. In my opinion, you don’t have more time because it’s not a traditional 9-5.”

**Sherry Mariea, a business law and ethics professor at MU, said multi-level marketing models could easily be mistaken for a pyramid scheme.**
“The main thing you’re looking for is - how much of the independent agent’s revenues comes from the direct sales of product vs. how much comes from their recruitment and commissions of the sales of those you recruit,” she said.

Mariea said Missouri has taken steps to regulate multi-level marketing companies by modifying existing deceptive practices laws.

Mariea thinks the model can work, if done correctly.

“I think because we have such a high percentage of the workforce looking for better work/life balance that these types of models have some value to them,” she said.

A few weeks ago, KOMU 8 News posted to Facebook asking if any local moms have started selling products. Within about 12 hours, we received almost 100 responses and only a handful were negative.

A significant number of positive responses referenced Rodan + Fields. According to Forbes, R+F has become the #1 skincare company in the world, boasting $1 billion in sales in 2016.

Most people responding said a key reason for taking on a multi-level marketing enterprise is a need for work/life balance.

While the Clarks aren’t working within a multi-level marketing company anymore, Erin Clark said she still wants to empower other women. She and her mentor do a Facebook Live on Sunday nights called #mlm-exposed.

“It has to be a legitimate company that already has its kinks worked out, that has a plan that takes care of its customers, isn’t built on hype, doesn’t always dangle that next carrot that gets you through the next month,” she said.

Mariea suggested people resist the temptation to get in on the ground floor of a new company. The safest bet is to join a multi-level marketing company that’s been around for awhile and has proven it’s making money off sales, not its people.
Local doctor says more pregnant women are abusing opioids

By JASMINE RAMIREZ


COLUMBIA - Physicians are seeing the opioid epidemic impact a specific demographic - pregnant woman and their newborn babies.

"We are seeing more and more pregnant patients," said Dr. Gaurav Kaulkarni, a psychiatrist practicing in mid-Missouri.

He said pregnant women addicted to opioids bring in an entirely different set of challenges. Opioids cause birth defects, premature birth and in some cases miscarriage.

"Many times we get patients who are two or three months into pregnancy but haven't received any care," he said.

More than 20,000 pregnant women in 2016 across the country reported using heroin or abusing pain relievers in the past month.

Guarav said the reason many pregnant women do not seek treatment is because they do not have insurance or any financial support.

Fortunately, there is a state-funded program available to help pay for treatment. Comprehensive Substance Treatment and Rehabilitation or CSTAR is funded by Missouri's Medicaid program and the Division of Behavioral Health's purchase-of-service system.

CSTAR offers clinical and supportive services. This includes temporary living arrangements, physician services, therapy and medication.
Dr. Naomi Lauriello at the MU Women and Children's Hospital specializes in Neonatology. She said she sees three different kinds of moms who abuse opioids.

"Those in already defined programs and receiving subutex, those using illicit drugs and those using prescribed drugs and medications," she said.

When the hospital is aware of opioid use ahead of time, the baby is observed in the well-baby nursery. Lauriello said they try to let the baby and mom stay together.

A recent study showed babies may have better outcomes if they stay in the hospital room with their mother. Newborns were 63% less likely to receive drugs like morphine for their symptoms and left the hospital about 10 days sooner.

The findings also proved to lower re-admission rates and lower inpatient costs.

The Journal of the American Medical Association said "rooming-in" should be recommended for inpatient care.

"If the baby starts showing significant signs of withdrawal, then we admit the baby to the NICU," Lauriello said.

She said she encourages the mother to breastfeed as long as she is not using illicit drugs and to hold the baby as much as possible. If non-pharmacologic methods do not work, the baby is then given morphine.

Babies experiencing withdrawal symptoms have an increase in jitteriness, don't eat well, throw up, cry inconsolably and have problems sleeping said Lauriello.

**Racist Bullying? Religious School In Texas Argues Courts Can’t Intervene.**

A religious school is being sued after it punished alleged racist harassers with one-day suspensions.

A teenage student and his family have sued a religious private school in Texas after the teen allegedly experienced bullying of a racist nature. The student claims the school did next to
nothing to stop the bullying. But the school says its religious doctrine makes it immune from legal repercussions.

Legal experts told HuffPost the school’s argument is highly unusual in this context.

The school’s counsel filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit on these grounds in August. A judge is expected to decide whether to move forward with the lawsuit later this month, per public documents obtained by HuffPost.

Maureen Beans and her son, C.R., had a horrible experience at Trinity Episcopal School in Galveston, Texas, according to the lawsuit filed in May.

C.R., who attended Trinity for sixth and seventh grade, starting in 2014, was a black student at the overwhelmingly white private school. He claims he was relentlessly bullied, sometimes in ways that appeared racially motivated.

In one incident, his three tormentors allegedly gave him pieces of origami designed to resemble hoods worn by Ku Klux Klan members.

Throughout this time, school administrators ignored the problem, even after C.R.’s family brought it to their attention, the lawsuit says. Even though the students admitted to the bullying, according to the lawsuit, they were only given one-day suspensions and required to apologize — consequences the plaintiff deems sorely lacking.

Days after the school doled out the punishment, Beans decided to pull her son from Trinity and enroll him elsewhere.

Now, in a move that’s raised eyebrows among lawyers and legal experts, the school is trying to get the lawsuit dismissed by invoking the ecclesiastical abstention doctrine.

This legal principle, also called the church autonomy doctrine, holds that religious institutions do not need to follow the same laws as non-religious entities, like public schools, if it conflicts with their religious doctrine.

It applies in cases where a decision from a civil judge would infringe on the internal religious organization of a group, like how a religious organization can choose to have only male or female clergy members perform specific tasks.
Trinity says it disputes the assertions made in the Beans’ lawsuit. But it is also essentially arguing that because it is a religious organization, it is allowed to maintain its own discipline system, which may or may not involve consequences for racist bullying.

Experts told HuffPost they are surprised a religious institution would make this argument with regard to racist bullying. Some say this is a step too far.

Robert Tuttle, professor of law and religion at George Washington University, said if the law were applied this way, courts would not have been able to intervene, for example, in cases where sexual abuse was reported at Catholic churches.

“There is very little reason to think that religious institutions should be immune from the state to the degree that they claim,” Tuttle said.

But Trinity Episcopal School is attempting to claim that immunity.

“As a religious institution, Trinity has a constitutionally-protected freedom to make decisions regarding the discipline of its students without judicial interference,” the court document states in the school’s motion to dismiss. “The courts cannot second guess those decisions, even in the guise of purportedly ‘secular’ causes of action.”

Lawyers for C.R. and his family reject the school’s argument.

The family is suing the school and its former head for negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress, saying the school failed to protect C.R. The parents of the three alleged bullies are also defendants in the suit.

The bullying had a deep, scarring effect on the teen, the lawsuit says. C.R. was so traumatized by the alleged bullying that at one point he spray-painted the word “hate” on the walls of his home.

C.R.’s grades dropped precipitously. He experienced depression and anxiety, and was unable to attend the four subsequent educational institutions in which he has been enrolled.

“This is a simple negligence case — whenever you send your kid to a school you expect a certain standard of care,” Sounia Senemar, the family’s lawyer, told HuffPost. “They allowed this kid to be bullied, and they are trying to use religion as a shield.”
When asked to comment for this story, lawyers for Trinity said in a statement that the school is “committed to upholding standards that reflect our mission in Christ.”

“The school has a policy that prohibits any form of bullying or discrimination,” the statement read. “As soon as the school was informed of an issue over a year ago, it addressed it immediately, consistent with its policy.”

Multiple experts told HuffPost that Trinity’s tactic will almost certainly not succeed.

“The defendant here certainly qualifies as a religious school,” said University of Missouri School of Law Professor Carl Esbeck. “That’s not the problem.”

School bullying, however, is “not a matter of internal ecclesiastical governance,” he added. “They argue that it is, but it’s not. And it’s not even close.”

Attorneys say they will be closely watching the outcome of this case.

The story continues…

Report shows tourism spike for Boone County

BY DAYTONA EVERETT AND TANA KELLEY

COLUMBIA - Tourism-related spending in Boone County increased by $8 million last year, according to The Convention and Visitors Bureau's (CVB) Annual Report. It increased from $412 million in 2016 to $420 million in 2017.

The report showed several year-end measurement areas, a review of projects from the year and a review of projects to come this year.

The increase is due to a variety of events such as the eclipse, Roots and Blues Festival and the Show-Me-State Games, according to Megan McConachie, CVB strategic communications manager.

“Over the past few years we’ve been able to raise the level of awareness of Columbia as a destination,” McConachie said.

Although MU brings in a lot of tourism, McConachie makes it clear the increase isn’t only university-related.

“When we look at Columbia as a whole, we still have a lot to offer,” she said.

The CVB sales team made an effort to bring more events to Boone County by awarding almost $142,000 to 25 tourism development programs and events, including MU Concert Series, True/False Film Festival, We Always Swing Jass Series, Family Fun Fests and Fire in the Sky.

“I think it’s great, the population is growing, and we’re starting to see a lot more people relocating here,” Lori Nevins, a Columbia resident, said.

According to the report, tourism-related employment also increased to 12,272 jobs. McConachie said jobs have increased because of two new hotels built on the southside of Columbia.

McConachie said CVB plans to continue its tourism efforts. The bureau will refresh its leisure marketing with the unveiling of a new creative campaign this spring.

“It’s going to involve getting to know some of the more lively personalities who live here in our communities,” McConachie said.

**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**Stephens College to host active assailant training**
By Columbia Daily Tribune

**Stephens College has partnered with the Columbia Police Department, the Columbia Fire Department and the University of Missouri Ambulance Service to coordinate an active assailant training exercise from 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28.**

The training exercise will take place near the Pillsbury Science Center and Windsor Auditorium on the Stephens campus, and these buildings will be inaccessible to students and others during the exercise, according to a CPD news release. East Walnut Street will be temporarily closed between College Avenue and Ripley Street, and Ripley Street will be closed between East Walnut Street and East Broadway.

The goal of this exercise is to evaluate local response agencies’ ability to handle an active assailant incident. Those near the exercise should expect to see emergency services operating as if the exercise was a real-life emergency. Authorities are asking onlookers to refrain from calling 911.

---

**THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**How One University Connects Students and Mentors With Surprising Success**

**NO MU MENTION**

By BECKIE SUPIANO

Close relationships with professors or other mentors can make a big difference for students. Having a mentor in college is linked to academic success, and even predicts well-being later in life. At the most basic level, mentorship requires interaction. So small, residential colleges might imagine that their low student-to-faculty ratios and well-trafficked common areas give them an edge in fostering those important relationships.

But research from the Gallup-Purdue Index, which has conducted national polling and examined alumni outcomes for more than 100 colleges, suggests otherwise. Institution type didn’t correlate with the share of recent alumni who strongly agreed they’d had a mentor.

In fact, the college that performed best on this measure was Western Governors University, which enrolls more than 67,000 undergraduates, all of them online. Sixty-nine percent of the university’s recent graduates indicated they’d had a mentor in college — more than double the share of young alumni nationally, according to Gallup polling. That suggests student mentorship can be done at scale.
Proponents of mentorship take pains to distinguish it from advising. Mentorship, they say, is relational, while advising is transactional. Still, it’s worth remembering that many colleges wrestle with the best way to provide even transactional support. At some colleges, advising is the work of faculty members; at others, designated professionals. Which approach works best is the subject of continued debate.

Either way, some students never meet with an adviser at all, and many others have only quick, superficial conversations about meeting their degree requirements. And while some colleges dig into student data to intervene proactively when students hit an obstacle, that has yet to become common practice.

Western Governors’ success suggests that mentorship — which Gallup defines as having someone who "encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams" — can be done at scale.

The university’s success on this measure is surprising for several reasons. One is its unusual model: a nonprofit institution offering competency-based instruction — in which students move through material at their own pace — to adult learners online.

What is more, the university made headlines this past fall, when an audit from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General found it did not follow requirements that distance-education programs be designed to provide students with "regular and substantive interaction" with their instructors, and recommended that the department make it return more than $700 million in financial aid.

That’s right: The same university that boasts an "off the charts" share of alumni who report having had a mentor in college, according to Gallup’s Brandon Busteed, executive director of education and work-force development, is in the government’s cross hairs for failing to ensure students have enough contact with their professors.

At issue is one of the key innovations of Western Governors’ approach. The university breaks the traditional work of professors into its component parts. Course instructors teach. Evaluators grade. And program mentors (previously called student mentors) guide students through their programs.

That disaggregation explains the disparity between the inspector general’s opinion and the view held by Western Governors, its accreditor, and its fans. It comes down to a disagreement over who serves as the university’s faculty.

The parceling out of faculty roles also helps explain Western Governors’ high rates of mentorship. When alumni tell Gallup they’d had a mentor who "encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams" in college, they don’t indicate who fulfilled that role.

While it’s certainly possible that some Western Governors alumni have a course instructor in mind when they say they had a mentor, it’s more likely that they’re thinking of a program mentor; that role is designed to give students access to just this kind of support.
How does the program-mentor model work? What might other colleges learn from it? Why aren’t they copying it now? Let’s take a look:

**A Designated Role**

Program mentors bring to their work an unusual collection of skills. They must be deeply familiar with the WGU program whose students they’re supporting. They are expected to be subject-matter experts in the field, with at least a relevant master’s degree as well as real-world experience. And they need to have an orientation toward helping others, says Margaret Simonis, director of program faculty in the College of Business.

Some of the model’s success, then, is probably the result of having people suited to and interested in playing this specific role with students. But the way their work is structured also makes a difference.