MOHELA calls off loan forgiveness program

BY JEAUN KAO

With little fanfare, the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) has ended a program aimed at relieving life science majors of their indebtedness and encouraging people to stay in-state to work in the life sciences field.

The program focused on Missouri residents who graduated after producing at least a degree in the life sciences field, who would step out of work in the life sciences industry. Started in 2004, the program only lasted three years before MOHELA ended it, citing a two-year depletion of the life science funds as the reason.

The program, which was aimed at retaining workers and keeping them in Missouri, ended after 35 participants had taken advantage of the aid at its cost of $15,000 per participant. The school was able to take advantage of the program to extend the life sciences industry program. She said that the program's end could cut back on the number of students who would be able to take advantage of the aid.

Russel, a student who was in the program for two and a half years, said that she was angry over the program's end. “I have never heard of MOHELA,” Russel said. “I would have tried to get a job, but I would like to get back to help students in the future.”

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