Boeing funds will benefit, science, math

$75,000 gift will go toward training high school AP teachers

By CHARLOTTE KEEGAN Staff reporter

They haven't graduated yet, but Missouri high school students might one day be studying classes made possible by Truman State University and Boeing.

The Boeing Foundation has committed $75,000 to develop a program that will provide much-needed AP computer science, AP physics, and AP statistics courses to high school students in Missouri.

With this program, both the University and Boeing hope to improve high school students' preparation for college and further their education in the school's area of expertise.

"There's a lot of evidence that AP classes lead to a greater number of college stays and in particular that they lead to greater college graduation rates," said Mark Gambaiana, who is working as a Boeing Foundation official.

"We are a recognized leader in the area of preparing for the AP exams," said Michael Maier, the Boeing's education manager.

The grant is large enough to pay for in-service training for AP teachers and for AP class development at Missouri high schools.

The AP program will be developed over the next two years. Within that time, national standards for the AP program will be implemented and Missouri high schools will be able to apply for AP courses.

The AP program will provide Missouri schools with a copy of the course, a student user's guide, a teacher's guide, and a handout for students to take home.

"We're focusing on four major AP programs," Maier said. "They include AP computer science, AP physics, AP statistics, and AP psychology.

Boeing's announcement of the AP program was made at the annual convention of the National Science Teachers Association, which was held in Kansas City last month.

"Boeing is very pleased to be part of this program," said Maier. "We have several goals for this program.

One goal is to really promote AP science and AP math courses throughout Missouri but particularly in districts that do not have these courses, which often suggests in rural areas.

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