

Truman has highest Mo. graduation rate

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

Students attend college with the goal of graduating and Truman students are some of the most successful in Missouri.

Truman has the highest six-year graduation rate, as calculated by the Missouri Department of Higher Education, at 75.3 percent, of all four-year public Missouri colleges and universities. The University of Missouri-Columbia came in second with a rate of 72.9 percent.

The average graduation rate in Missouri for public four-year institutions from the MDHE list is 50.2 percent. In 2010 the National Center for Education Statistics released that the national average six-year graduation rate for public four-year institutions, as of 2008, is approximately 55 percent.

The numbers derive from students who had their first semester in Fall 2003, and graduated in or before Spring 2009.

Eamon Ferlazzo, MDHE research associate, said the list consists of data from Missouri public institutions' enrollment files, term files and completion files.

"The enrollment [file] is like fall enrollment, term [file] is like how a student performs that whole year, like at the end

of each semester and then the completions file is if they're awarded a certificate or degree," Ferlazzo said.

The MDHE uses a computer program to calculate how many students have graduated in the six-year period, and that number is divided by the original amount in the enrollment file, he said. The list is compiled annually in the spring.

Regina Morin, associate vice president for enrollment management, said the high graduation rate stems from the type of students that attend Truman, who typically have high GPAs, high ACT scores and earned credit before arriving at Truman.

High graduation rates also provide credibility to an institution, she said.

"You're making an investment — not just in money, but in your time and effort, and that is significant," Morin said. "And knowing that your chances of walking across that stage are better here than they are in many of those 3,500 or so institutions that are

across the country, that's where the real value is."

She said maintaining high graduation rates could become more challenging in the future for Missouri schools due to demographic shifts.

"The pool of high school graduates in the Midwest is shrinking," she said.

"You're making an investment — not just in money, but in your time and effort, and that is significant."

Regina Morin
associate vice president for enrollment management

70,000 high school graduates between now and 2014."

She said this information is evident in studies done in 2003 and 2008 by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Within that shrinking pool, the number of first generation college students is increasing, but they typically are less prepared for college and have a more difficult time finding resources, Mo-

rin said. Institutions will have to adapt to that change, she said.

Martin Eisenberg, associate provost and economics professor, said Truman's graduation rate has been close to 70 percent since 2000.

"But the four-year graduation rate has somewhat increased from ... 38 percent to 46 over the decade ... which means people are going through Truman faster," Eisenberg said.

The change in the four-year rate cannot be attributed to anything in particular, he said, but it could be a result of the economy and students wanting to finish as quickly as possible.

Approximately 1 percent of students graduate in three years, he said.

Eisenberg said Truman's high and fairly steady six-year rate reflects the quality of Truman students and their determination.

Eisenberg pointed out that the graduation rates from the federal government do not include transfer students or students who enter during the spring semester.

"It wouldn't change these numbers dramatically, neither of these groups would," he said. "But we have to remember that not everyone is in these types of things."

NEWS IN BRIEFS

Local author hosts book signing

Today at 2 p.m. in the Truman Bookstore, local historian Lawrence Iles will sign copies and read from his recently published book, "Progressive Left Centre Animal Lover Legacy." The book is a history of George Greenwood and Vera Terrington, two British activists in early twentieth century who advocated animal rights, feminism and anti-militarism.

NASA scientist lectures

Marc Imhoff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration will present two lectures on two topics in Kirksville today. The first lecture is at noon in the Mehegan Classroom of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. The second lecture is 8 p.m. in the SUB Alumni Room of the SUB at Truman. His visit is sponsored by the Kirksville chapter of Sigma Xi, a scientific research society. The lectures are free and open to the public.

Man faces charges after car crash

Bradley Turner of Queen City, 21, is charged with resisting arrest, second-degree assault and driving while intoxicated. During the night of Jan. 14, Turner crashed his pick-up truck into a van that had pulled onto the shoulder of Highway 63 to yield to emergency vehicles at the north end of Kirksville. At the time of the crash, police already were looking for Turner in connection with a hit and run crash in a parking lot on the east side of Kirksville. The driver of the van had minor injuries and was taken to Northeast Regional Medical Center for treatment.

Missouri scholarships increase

Gov. Jay Nixon announced Jan. 13 that Access Missouri scholarships will increase for the 2010-2011 school year. The Missouri Department of Higher Education will distribute money to 46,000 students at Missouri community colleges, as well as private and public institutions during the Spring 2011 semester. For qualifying students at four-year public institutions, the scholarship will increase from \$950 to a maximum of \$1,010.

Global Colloquium series continues

The TSU International Students will host a panel discussion on cultural perspectives on plagiarism, group work and citing sources at 7 p.m. on Feb. 3 in the Baldwin Little Auditorium. The panel will consist of international students who will share their cultural perspectives on intellectual property and how they have adjusted to different expectations in the United States.

STUDENT SENATE IN BRIEF

• Student Senate passed a resolution to fund the Educator of the Year award in the amount of \$2,000.

CRIME REPORTS DPS & KPD

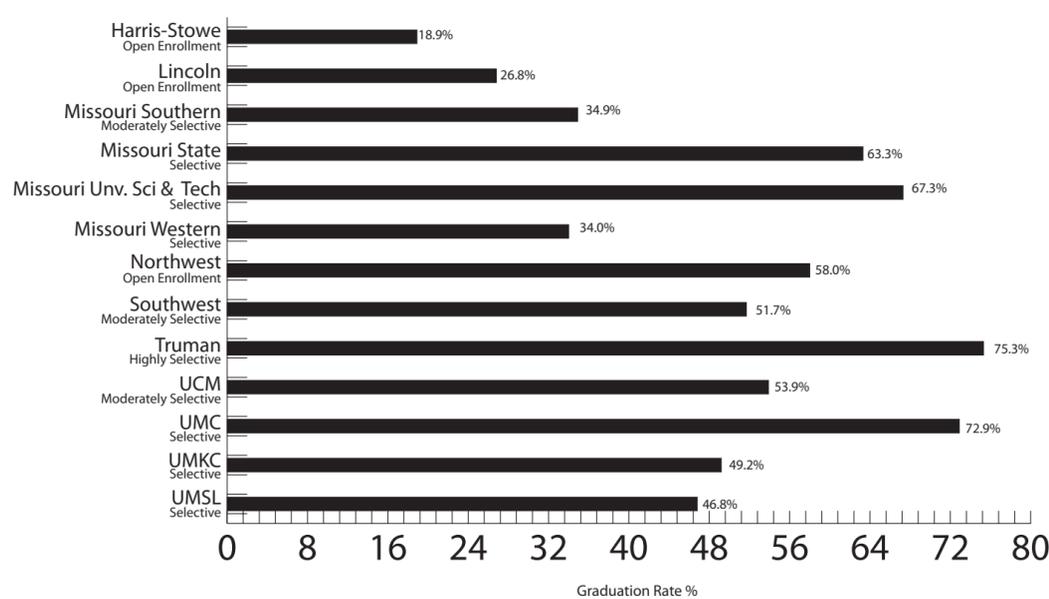
1/13 A theft between \$500 and \$25,000 was reported from 1304 S. Porter.

1/11 Freshman Christian Pile was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and unlawful use of drug paraphernalia.

1/17 A credit card theft and report of fraudulent use of a credit card was reported from 120 S. Franklin.

1/17 Sophomore Scott Lemon received a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for Minor in Possession of Alcohol and a summons for a noise violation.

Public Baccalaureate and Higher Degree-Granting Institutions: Graduation Rates



Missouri senate reboots

BY REBECCA SMITH
Staff Reporter

A new year has begun, which means a new congress for Missouri, and it will be looking into ways to "reboot" Missouri's system, including education.

Rebooting is a process allowing small committees to meet and discuss concerns from around the state and discuss the senators' own suggestions about various topics.

David Pearce, senator from the 31st senatorial district and chair of the education group, said the education committee and seven other committees reported their findings Jan. 19 about ways to restructure state programs to make them more efficient based on suggestions from citizens and expert advice.

One of the committees presented their

findings on restructuring education to be more efficient.

"Rebooting is a very short-term exercise," Pearce said. "We met last Tuesday [Jan. 11] and reviewed educational topics."

One of the important topics of discussion in last year's education rebooting committee was whether the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Missouri Department of Higher Education should be combined.

Mark Van Zandt, general counsel for the DESE, said this issue was part of the education committee's report last year, and while legislation was filed, the plan was not adopted.

Van Zandt said the same committee met this year but combining education departments was not addressed because it failed to pass last year.

The committee reviewed e-mails from Missouri citizens and ideas from the senators on

the committee, Pearce said.

The four-person education committee received 95 e-mails from citizens, he said. Modes of sharing education and how education is provided to students in public schools were brought up often in the discussion, he said.

Kathy Love, the public information officer for MDHE, said the deputy commissioner of MDHE gave testimony to the rebooting group and restructuring wasn't part of his testimony. "There is not a lot of impetus toward merging the two departments this year," Love said.

Pearce said he thinks the issue will be brought up again, but he doesn't see it being a high priority like it was last year. He is not confident that a combination of the departments would pass this year.

"We need to work together," Pearce said. "No matter what, I think that what is probably going to come from this [is] the importance of us all working together."

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photography by George Barlow
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