

MLK challenge



Sophomore Michael Baharaeen (middle) watches a slideshow about Martin Luther King Jr. Monday morning in Violette Hall at the MLK challenge. Baharaeen got involved in the challenge through Student Senate. The challenge was an event where 150 students were placed into teams and they completed volunteer missions around Truman's campus and for local Kirksville organizations. Joyce Wong/Index

63 students lose grant

BY CHRIS STEINAUER
Staff Reporter

During a time of budget cuts and increased tuition, some students are learning that a grant they were anticipating is no longer available to them.

The Academic Competitiveness Grant, which provides money to students who enrolled in challenging classes in high school, is unavailable to many students this semester because of a little-known stipulation, that the scholarship is based on credit hours, not semesters.

Truman students who received the Academic Competitiveness Grant in previous semesters were made aware that they do not qual-

ify for the grant for Spring 2011 because of credits accumulated in high school from dual-credit courses.

Junior Amanda Schultz received a mass e-mail from Financial Aid on Jan. 7 in which she and others were told if they had more than 55 hours they would not receive the grant.

Financial Aid Director Kathy Elsea said 71 students lost ACG funding this semester. Of those students, 63 lost the grant due to of hours. Eight students lost money because their GPA dropped below 3.0.

While the e-mail clearly states the grant is based on hours, the way it was originally presented on the federal financial aid website implied the grant was based

on years at Truman. The installments are labeled ACG Year One and Year Two, and many students, including Schultz, weren't made aware of the hours stipulation until receiving the e-mail.

"I didn't know the grant was based on hours," Schultz said. "The way they offer the grant makes it seem based on years."

Sophomore Fallyn Lee said she was upset by the lack of forewarning.

"There was definitely a lack of communication," Lee said. "If they had told us about the grant before break, students who need the money could have worked while at home."

While the e-mail was sent before the end of the school year, Elsea said Fi-

ancial Aid had issues with getting the e-mail out sooner to students.

Elsea said many students rely on grants to reduce the future burden of loans and without the guaranteed money, many students need a new source of funds. Both Schultz and Lee met with Financial Aid shortly after receiving the mass e-mail.

They said the office was understanding and helpful. Financial Aid offered the students work-study hours as an alternative to the lost grant funds.

While the availability of funds is an issue, Elsea said Financial Aid will try to find funding for students that need it, whether through work-study hours or available Foundation Scholarships.

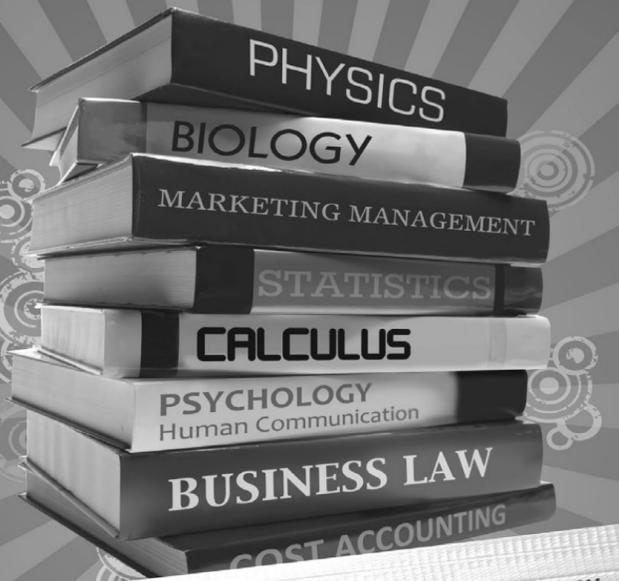


Junior Fallyn Lee was one of 63 Truman students who did not receive the Academic Competitiveness Grant this semester because of credit hours she received in high school. Joyce Wong/Index

Get your textbooks fast with

FREE

Two-Day Shipping
for students



We're always open and only a click away

Free two-day shipping available to customers who qualify for our free Amazon Student program

amazon.com/textbooks

Get The Latest School
News Without Getting Ink
All Over Your Hands.

www.trumanindex.com