

EQUALITY | Missourians for Equality hosts rallying events, gains approval for petition circulation

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of remedying the exclusion of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" from Missouri's nondiscrimination policy, according to a press release by Missourians for Equality.

"We're a political action committee that is trying to further LGBT rights in Missouri, and we're accomplishing this through a ballot initiative process," Nelson said.

Missourians for Equality is expecting most of their signatures to come from big cities like St. Louis, Kansas City and Columbia, Nelson said.

"If you look at past elections they're the ones that tend to vote for more liberal ideals," Nelson said. "We're expecting quite a few from Truman itself. We feel that the Truman population is pretty open-minded."

The group has until May 2014 to collect the roughly 105,000 signatures they need, Nelson said. However, she said they were aiming to reach the goal by the end of the year, and were confident they could reach it.

Missourians for Equality will be hosting events about once every other week in all the major cities, and these events will become more frequent as the weather warms up, Malin said. He also said there will be a major campus kick-off in Kirksville sometime within the next two to three weeks.

For more information about events or to volunteer, visit morequality.virb.com.

He said he's hoping for a turnout of a couple dozen supporters at the Kirksville event, and maybe twice as many at the other events, with St. Louis having the most potential for supporters.

Volunteers will run the Kirksville event and will provide food and drinks, Minch said. He said he was approached by Truman State professor Sherri Palmer on behalf of Missourians for Equality to talk about Trinity Episcopal Church as a possible site for the event, and he agreed to help.

"It's a topic that I feel pretty strongly about and that's how I got on board," Minch said.

Minch said despite the fact that he isn't directly involved with Missourians for Equality, he'll continue to support the organization after the event.

"I have an administrative role here at the university so I'm pretty busy — I haven't had a whole lot of time to get involved outside [the university]," Minch said. "Having this event in January, the timing was good to get the church involved in something and [Missourians for Equality] certainly lines up with the mission of the church I attend."

Missourians for Equality is a non-partisan political action committee founded during July 2012 with the goal



Submitted Photo

Missourians for Equality fundraising staff Sara Bloomquist, left, and Brenda Fraser, right, discuss campaign business and planning the kickoff events for the coming months at a meeting Saturday, Jan. 5 in Chesterfield, Mo. The kickoff event in Kirksville will be 7 to 8:30 p.m., Jan. 19 at the Trinity Episcopal Church, and refreshments will be provided.

KIPLINGER'S | Truman State ranks No. 19 on Kiplinger's Best 100 Value list for 2012

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uate students creates an environment that's very special," Chambers said.

Despite economic conditions, Chambers said she thinks the University has done great work keeping the education they provide affordable.

Chambers said Truman has continued to invest in the scholarship program, helping students afford the University.

"That lucrative scholarship program is one of the pieces that is also helping keep us not only on the radar for a ranking like with Kiplinger's, but potentially helping it rise as well," Chambers said.

Alumnus Zack Miller said he attended two colleges prior to attending Truman. One of them was a community college that lacked rigor, Miller said.

"The second school I went to was Missouri Baptist, and I was doing a business administration program in the evenings there," Miller said, "so it was essentially a joke, and I didn't learn a single thing, and it was expensive."

Miller said he transferred to Truman as an anthropology major because it sounded interesting. He said because he was a junior, he transferred into 300 and 400 level classes without understanding what was going on and had to work very hard.

"I sought the professor's help as

often as I needed to and I think that is something of value in itself," Miller said.

Miller said he thinks Truman is a great school, which he's left feeling like he's obtained something of worth. It has also made him more passionate about learning. If the cost of Truman is taken into account, Miller said, he doesn't think any other Missouri school compares.

"I don't think I could have received as good or better of an education at another school such as Missouri State or Webster if I went there for two years," Miller said. "Each one of those is roughly twice as much as Truman costs."

Miller said he would recommend Truman to prospective students because of the relationship made with professors and faculty, students, and community members.

"[I have] a really great relationship with one of my professors and he and I still talk on a regular basis," Miller said. "He's been a mentor in my life and I just met him two years ago."

Students at Truman are dedicated to learning what they came there to learn, Miller said.

"They're not just running through the motions of course work; they have aspirations and really want to do good things," Miller said.

BOARD | Gov. Jay Nixon appoints new members to the Board of Governors

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understood student issues. I would like to meet with students and get an update on [the issues] they are facing today."

Bonner currently works for the Illinois Attorney General's office. He said he works with civil litigation, including violations of minimum wage laws and wage payment collections.

University President Troy Paino said he looks forward to seeing what the new appointees will bring to the Board.

"Governor LaBeth is someone I've gotten to know in Kirksville, and he's committed to the success of the University," Paino said. "Governor Bonner is a graduate of Truman and we're always excited to have graduates come back and serve on the Board."

Paino said it isn't a requirement for Board members to be University alumni, but a significant number of alumni apply to serve on the Board sometime after they graduate during the past.

"We have Board members who come from all backgrounds and experiences, and that's important for the different perspectives, but one thing you want in common between them all is their love for the University," Paino said.

Two other Board members terms also have expired, Paino said.

Matthew Potter's term expired Dec. 31, and Cheryl Cozette's term expired Dec. 31, 2011, but Paino said both governors are continuing to serve those roles until Nixon appoints new members.

Paino said interested persons apply through the Governor's office and then one person is appointed, then confirmed by the Senate.

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FARM | The Farm to School program's request to continue funding for a salaried staff member was denied for the coming year

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been comfortable having this position managed by the Academic Affairs Office because to have an academic administrator manage a food delivery and production position, like the Local Foods Coordinator, would be a disconnect from how the University handles its food services. However, Paino said serving local foods in the dining halls is still important to the University and Sodexo will continue to serve these foods.

The program is beginning to implement a short-term plan to continue operating on campus without the Local Foods Coordinator position, Seipel said.

Production of crops during the upcoming spring and summer will be scaled back, Seipel said. The program likely will grow produce that Sodexo would most like to purchase and narrow down what produce is sold at the Market on the Mall, he said. At this time, no decisions have been made about how exactly this will be done.

Seipel said student interns will be hired again for the upcoming summer using money the program earns through produce sales.

Those funds will not be enough to cover the cost of the Local Foods Coordinator position, which is why the program is looking for other funding sources, Seipel said.

This year, the interns will be mentored by the farm manager, Bill Kuntz, and Seipel himself, instead of the Local Foods Coordinator, he said.

"Hopefully we can hire back one of the students that interned last summer and has more experience," Seipel said. "And they would also play a mentoring role."

He said part of the short-term plan is to repeat the staff request next year and hope more funds will be available for this position.

Seipel said if the second request also is denied, the program will have to reevaluate how it operates and whether or not it can continue to run without the Local Foods Coordinator role.

Seipel said the program also will be applying for new grants from all levels to help support the program.

Senior Francois Makarewicz, a previous Farm to School intern, said he is disappointed that the University did not fund the position.

"We've proved that [the program] can be successful and expanded upon," Makarewicz said.

"And all that needed to be provided was this paid staff position which would in turn give a lot to the University."

He said he is upset the University used the Farm to School program as a promotional tool through online videos of the program in action and then did not help provide the funds to continue its operation.

Kuntz, the University Farm manager will voluntarily take on a lot of the responsibility previously maintained by the Local Foods Coordinator, Makarewicz said. He said the manager will receive no extra pay for this work.

Makarewicz said other interns and himself will continue to work with the program and help it to move forward.

"If we can continue to show that it's a growing program and continue to gain [student] support, then we can see [the position] funded by the University," Makarewicz said.

For additional information about the Farm to School program, check out agriculture.truman.edu/farmtoschool/

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