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tmn.truman.edu/theindex

Best Value Colleges

Name (ranked by in-state)	Total Cost per year (in-state)	Average debt at graduation
1 University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill	\$19,676	\$16,983
2 University of Virginia	\$23,415	\$21,591
3 University of Florida	\$16,863	\$19,636
4 College of William and Mary	\$26,285	\$24,344
5 University of California - Los Angeles	\$28,852	\$20,409
6 University of Michigan	\$24,186	\$27,815
7 University of Maryland - College Park	\$19,972	\$25,276
8 University of Wisconsin - Madison	\$19,957	\$24,700
9 University of California - Berkeley	\$29,280	\$17,964
10 University of Georgia	\$20,424	\$19,621
11 New College of Florida	\$16,867	\$18,276
12 Truman State University	\$15,768	\$22,922
13 University of Washington	\$24,355	\$20,800
14 University of California - San Diego	\$26,701	\$20,474
15 Binghamton University (SUNY)	\$21,832	\$23,710

Key: more expensive than Truman less expensive than Truman *according to Kiplinger.com

Program funding expires

SPECTRA program grant for science students expired after five years

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
Staff Reporter

The Scientists Prepared Enriched and Challenged Through Research-based Activities program is in need of a new source of funding now that the grant that launched the program has expired.

SPECTRA is a Truman program to aid science students. A five year grant from the National Science Foundation funded the program during 2009 and funded it until its expiration. The grant expires this year, but program leaders have enough money to keep SPECTRA running until July 2015.

Biology professor Tim Walston said while the program leaders are searching for other funding sources to keep some aspects of the program running after July 2015, other aspects no longer will continue. He said SPECTRA leaders have been discussing ways to keep parts of the program running with the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce and have been submitting proposals for grants through the NSF.

"It's important for Truman to keep trying to get money to do things like this," Walston said. "I think we've found ways to help our students be successful. The things that we've done have made science and math stronger at Truman."

Walston said the original grant was \$1.2 million for a five-year period. He said the grant was for programs that recruit and retain science and math majors, part of a national effort by the NSF to increase the number of professionals throughout the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Walston said he applied for the grant during 2009 with chemistry professor Barbara Kramer and former math professor Jason Miller. After Miller left Truman last year, math professor David Garth took his place.

From this grant, Walston said three components of the SPECTRA program were formed.

Walston said the first component is the SPECTRA Summer Scholars program. This summer program brings 10 to 18 students for eight weeks the summer before they begin their freshman year at Truman, he said. The students take Introduction to General Chemistry, College Algebra, Plane Trigonometry and study skills courses, he said. The students also take various field trips that relate to science and math and are tutored by upperclassmen, he said.

Walston said the summer program is the most expensive component because SPECTRA pays for the students' room and board, tuition as full-time students, tutors, administrative support and transportation for field trips.

The second component is the SPECTRA Scholars Academic Year program, Walston said. He said this program is for high-achieving freshmen who want to take an interdisciplinary approach to science and math. These 10 to 15 students take a freshman seminar course during the fall semester and an interdisciplinary seminar during the spring semester.

Chemistry professor Barbara Kramer said it can be challenging to find and receive a grant because much of the NSF grant money has been cut during recent years. She said the original grant was through an NSF program called Proactive Recruitment in Introductory Science and Mathematics, a program which since has been cut.

Kramer said these students receive a scholarship of \$1,400 for the first year participating in the academic year program and \$2,000 for the second year.

Walston said the third aspect of the program involves working with Moberly Area Community College, Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City and St. Charles Community College. He said scholarships are awarded to three to six students at each of these colleges who show promise in science and math.

"Those students get scholarships with the goal that they'll eventually be transferring to a four-year institution to complete a four-year degree in science and math after earning their associations degree," Walston said.

The SPECTRA program has allowed Truman professors to develop new courses such as Analytical Chemistry for the Life Sciences, which Walston said helps biology majors

Truman State named top value college

BY AUSTIN HORNBOSTEL
Staff Reporter

Truman State was ranked No. 12 on Kiplinger Personal Finance Magazine's list of top value public universities in March.

Truman is the highest-rated Missouri school on the list and the only university in the state included in the top 65, according to "Kiplinger's Best College Values, 2014." Additionally, Truman ranked third on the "25 Best College Values Under \$30,000 a Year, 2014" list, published separately from the full list of the top value universities, according to kiplinger.com

Kiplinger ranked Truman at No. 19 out of their top 100 during 2013, and during 2012 Kiplinger ranked Truman at No. 23, according to kiplinger.com.

Susannah Snider, Staff Writer at Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine and author of the article "Find a College That Fits Your Finances," said the rankings for the list of value colleges was compiled completely based on numbers. She said this means they are not listed in terms of student, faculty or parent opinion but in terms of cost and quality. Snider said 45 percent of the ranking data is based on cost — including data such as the amount of financial aid awarded by the University and the average debt of a graduating student — and 55 percent of the data is based on quality, such as admission rate, graduation rate, student-to-faculty ratio and other statistics. She said all of the data is entered into a formula, which then determines the school's ranking in compar-

son to the other schools.

"Truman does well in both academic quality and cost," Snider said. "All the way up to the 28th [school on the list], it seems like the in-state home cost for Truman State is the lowest. So up front, it has a lower cost. It's the same with out-of-state cost, very low in terms of other states, so that's something that's going to help [Truman] move up in the rankings."

Snider said the list aims to join cost and quality to help prospective students find a "happy medium" when they are looking for a school. She said while students looking for a college might not be interested in a school exclusively because of its cost and academics, those two factors are still the most important to students. Snider said Truman's ranking should continue to rise if it stays on the right track.

"I think if [Truman] continues to keep cost low and academics high, there's no reason [it couldn't continue to move up]," Snider said. "There's no real reason it wouldn't but again, this is a rank. It does depend on how other schools are doing."

Regina Morin, Vice President for Enrollment Management, said Truman's inclusion in Kiplinger's lists could help the University

from a recruitment standpoint. She said the information can help prospective students find a bottom line and think realistically about their college choices between all the schools to which they have been admitted.

"I think it all rolls together in a pretty significant way," Morin said. "These kinds of things that highlight Truman from a value-

"There is so much substance that we can offer and it's at an incredibly affordable price when you start looking at it between comparable institutions."

Regina Morin, Vice President for Enrollment Management

cost ratio, that's all good for us because we have so much to offer. There is so much substance that we can offer and it's at an incredibly affordable price when you start looking at it between comparable institutions."

Morin said Truman's task now that students have been admitted for the next school year is to lead them to a "bottom line" and show them the cost to attend Truman compared to other universities. She said this allows the admissions department to prepare more for the future and develop a message that resonates with younger students and their parents.

"It's kind of a way of saying it's about quality, but it's also about what you will pay for that quality," Morin said. "Things like this, that are unsolicited, are absolutely invaluable to us because they can only help us."

Students might see tuition increase

BY ROSALIE SWINGLE
Staff Reporter

Though Truman State continuously is recognized as one of America's best-buys for a liberal arts education, there still is a price to pay.

Governor Nixon's recommendation for an 8 percent increase to the state's budget for higher education still is being debated in the Missouri legislature. In anticipation of the results, public institutions across Missouri, including Truman State, must consider their own options to increase their budget.

Dave Rector, the director of Truman's budget office, said predictions are not optimistic that the government funding increase will come through state funding alone. As a result, the budget office has proposed a 1.5 percent increase in graduate and non-resident students' annual tuition, Rector said.

The Missouri House of Representatives only has offered a 3 percent increase so far, but the bill still has to make its way through the Senate, Rector said. Rector said increasing in-state tuition hasn't been completely ruled out as an option.

"The tuition increase of 1.5 percent is based off the hope that Congress gives us 5 percent," Rector said. "If they don't, we might

have to increase in-state tuition too."

Rector said other higher education institutions throughout Missouri have increased their tuition anywhere from 1.5 to 6 percent for non-residents. He said Truman has not had a significant tuition increase since 2004.

"2004 was a year with significant tuition increases from budget cuts," Rector said. "They have not been large increases recently because inflation has been lower the last couple of years."

Admissions counselor Dawn Howd said non-residents make up about 25 percent of Truman's total student body. Howd said increasing tuition is one of the few ways to cover increasing costs. She also said out-of-state recruitment is facing some challenges.

"We are facing competition with other public Missouri institutions that are waiving out-of-state rates for students from any of the eight, contiguous states," Howd said.

University President Troy Paino said even though Truman favors no tuition increase at all, he supports the proposed increase because it is very modest in the grand scheme of things and keeps in line with inflation. Paino explained the importance of public colleges like Truman being institutions of access, opportunity and public service.

Graduate and out-of-state students might see annual tuition increase by 1.5 percent