

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FUNDING THREATENED FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

Marshall, MO (March 2010) – Funding for Access Missouri, a need-based program designed to help thousands of students attend the Missouri college of their choice, is once again being considered to changing in a way that negatively impact students who attend independent institutions such as Missouri Valley College.

Two bills (SB784 and HB1812) introduced in the Missouri legislature seek to raise the amount of assistance provided to students attending public schools while lowering the amount provided to students of private schools. Additionally, Governor Jay Nixon has introduced a proposal to completely eliminate public funding (Access Missouri and Bright Flight programs included) for students choosing to attend private colleges and universities.

At Missouri Valley College, about one in three students receive Access Missouri.

Currently, four-year independent college students are eligible for grants up to \$4,600 each, while their counterparts at public colleges are eligible for a maximum of \$2,150 each. The average award, as the program was originally established, was set to cover 22 percent of the average tuition and fees at four-year independent institutions, while covering 25 percent at four-year public institutions. SB784 and HB1812 would reduce the maximum state financial aid awarded to students attending private universities by \$1,750 per year. At the same time, the bills would increase maximum awards for students attending four-year public institutions by \$700 per year.

Not only would this change in funding be a burden to deserving students who rely on this aid to achieve their dream of a college education, but it could be troubling to MVC's tuition, services, programs, and more.

It is critical to let the Missouri legislature and Governor Nixon know that you support keeping Access Missouri financial aid available to all Missouri students attending any Missouri university or college.

We encourage all MVC students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends to take action today. For more information about taking action, visit www.keepmeincollege.org.

ABOUT MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE

Missouri Valley College is a liberal arts college that provides educational, social and cultural experiences in a decidedly Christian environment. Established in 1889, MVC offers over 30 majors and 7 pre-professional programs, and 15 sports. The most popular majors include education and business, and the newest majors are nursing, graphic design, dance, and hospitality/tourism management. The liberal arts heritage focuses on scholarship, critical thinking and academic excellence to prepare students to become members of a responsible citizenry. For more information, call (660) 831-4000 or visit www.moval.edu.

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