



September 17, 2015

Dear Presidents and Chancellors:

The Study Missouri Consortium has concluded another successful year promoting international education on behalf of Missouri's higher education institutions. More than 40 public and independent colleges and universities are members of the group and collaborate on a number of initiatives to attract international students to Missouri.

A growing number of students from throughout the world are choosing our state as their destination for higher education. For the past two years, Missouri ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of international students attending our colleges and universities, according to the 2014 [Open Doors Report](#) from the Institute of International Education. During the 2013-2014 academic year, more than 18,200 international students attended a higher education institution in Missouri, up from 17,300 in the prior year. This progress is a reflection of the quality higher education opportunities available in our state and the hard work your respective institutions are doing to attract international students.

The Open Doors Report also examined the economic impact of international education. It is estimated that foreign students contributed more than \$500 million dollars to Missouri during the 2012-2013 academic year.

The Study Missouri Consortium promotes the importance of study abroad programs with the goal of increasing the number of Missouri students who choose to study in another country. Nearly 4,500 Missouri students studied abroad during the 2013-2014 school year.

Last November, Study Missouri representatives met in Jefferson City with Governor Shuichi Abe and his delegation from Nagano Prefecture, Japan, to discuss higher education opportunities in Missouri. Study Missouri was invited to participate in the meeting by the Missouri Department of Economic Development's International Trade and Investment Office.

In March, more than 300 students participated in Study Missouri's annual International Education Day at the Capitol in Jefferson City. Each year, the students are introduced in the House and Senate chambers, and the chairs of each body's Education Committee highlight the importance of international education in Missouri. International education advisors report that this event is a highlight for many students interested in seeing state government in action.

In May, Study Missouri sponsored a booth and hosted a reception at the annual NAFSA convention in Boston. Consortium members interacted with international educators and

recruiters from around the world, distributed materials and answered questions about higher education opportunities in Missouri. The group has begun making plans for next year's conference in Denver.

We are grateful to the members of Study Missouri's executive committee for their leadership. Study Missouri officers for 2015-2016 are:

- **Chair:** Karla McCollum, North Central Missouri College
- **Chair-Elect:** Chris Sulincevski, St. Louis Community College
- **Secretary:** Imani Johnson, Missouri Valley College
- **Treasurer:** Joy Stevenson, University of Central Missouri
- **Past Chair:** Britta Wright, Columbia College
- **Member at Large:** Cristhina Starke, Wentworth Military Academy

If your college or university is currently a member of Study Missouri, I applaud your support of the group's work. If your institution is not yet participating in Study Missouri, I encourage you to join the consortium. A list of member institutions is included with this message.

I have attached a membership application for your consideration. If your institution is already a member of Study Missouri, a membership renewal form has been sent directly to your consortium representative. We ask that you submit the form and dues by Nov. 1.

Thank you for making Missouri a leader in international education.

Sincerely,

David R. Russell, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Higher Education



## 2014-15 Participating Institutions

[Avila University](#)

[Central Methodist University](#)

[Columbia College](#)

[Cottey College](#)

[Drury University](#)

[Fontbonne University](#)

[Jefferson College](#)

[Lincoln University](#)

[Lindenwood University](#)

[Maryville University](#)

[Metropolitan Community College](#)

[Mineral Area College](#)

[Missouri Baptist University](#)

[Missouri Southern State University](#)

[Missouri State University](#)

[Missouri State – West Plains](#)

[Missouri University of Science and  
Technology](#)

[Missouri Valley College](#)

[Missouri Western State University](#)

[Moberly Area Community College](#)

[North Central Missouri College](#)

[Northwest Missouri State University](#)

[Ozarks Technical Community College](#)

[Park University](#)

[Saint Louis University](#)

[Southeast Missouri State University](#)

[St. Charles Community College](#)

[St. Louis Community College](#)

[State Fair Community College](#)

[State Technical College of Missouri](#)

[Stephens College](#)

[Truman State University](#)

[University of Central Missouri](#)

[University of Missouri - Columbia](#)

[University of Missouri - Kansas City](#)

[University of Missouri - St. Louis](#)

[Washington University](#)

[Webster University](#)

[Wentworth Military Academy and College](#)

[Westminster College](#)

[William Woods University](#)