



October 17, 2017

Dear Presidents and Chancellors:

The Study Missouri Consortium recently concluded another successful year promoting international education on behalf of Missouri's higher education institutions. Last year, 32 public and independent colleges and universities were members of the group and collaborated on several initiatives to attract international students to Missouri and underscore the importance of international education.

A growing number of students from throughout the world are choosing our state as their destination for higher education. For the past several years, Missouri has maintained its rank as 12th in the nation in the number of international students attending our colleges and universities, according to the annual [Open Doors Report](#) from the Institute of International Education. During the 2015-2016 academic year, more than 24,000 international students attended a higher education institution in Missouri, an increase of 11.4 percent from the previous year. This progress is a reflection of the quality higher education opportunities available in our state and the work your respective institutions are doing to provide educational opportunities to international students.

The Open Doors Report also examines the economic impact of international education. According to the report, foreign students contributed approximately \$696 million dollars to Missouri's economy during the 2015-2016 academic year.

The Study Missouri Consortium also promotes the importance of study abroad programs with the goal of increasing the number of Missouri students who choose to study in another country. More than 5,400 Missouri students studied abroad during the 2014-2015 school year.

Last April, more than 300 international and study-abroad students participated in Study Missouri's annual International Education Day at the State 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.

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International education advisors report that this event is a highlight for many students interested in seeing government in action. Next year's International Education Day will be held April 10, 2018.

In May, Study Missouri sponsored a booth at the annual NAFSA convention in Los Angeles. Consortium members met 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 Philadelphia.

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

A membership application is attached for your consideration. If your institution is already a member, Study Missouri will send a membership renewal form directly to your consortium representative. The deadline is Nov. 15.

Thank you for helping to make Missouri a leader in international education.

Sincerely,

Zora Mulligan
Commissioner of Higher Education



2016-17 Participating Colleges and Universities

[Central Methodist University](#)

[Columbia College](#)

[Culver-Stockton College](#)

[Fontbonne University](#)

[Kansas City Art Institute](#)

[Lincoln University](#)

[Lindenwood University](#)

[Maryville University](#)

[Metropolitan Community College](#)

[Mineral Area College](#)

[Missouri Southern State University](#)

[Missouri State University](#)

[Missouri University of Science and](#)

[Technology](#)

[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](#)

[State Fair Community College](#)

[State Technical College of Missouri](#)

[St. Charles Community College](#)

[St. Louis Community College](#)

[Truman State University](#)

[University of Central Missouri](#)

[University of Missouri - Columbia](#)

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

[Washington University](#)

[Webster University](#)

[Wentworth Military Academy & College](#)