

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SEN. JOHN GRIESHEIMER URGES STUDENTS AND PARENTS  
TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

JEFFERSON CITY -- With the cost of higher education rising each year, Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, urges students and parents to learn more about Missouri's community colleges.

"April is National Community College Month and it would be a great time to visit a community college and discover the benefits of beginning a college career at a two-year institution," said Griesheimer, who is a graduate of East Central Community College in Union. "Community colleges provide a quality education at an affordable price."

Community colleges throughout Missouri have adapted their policies to accommodate those seeking two-year degrees and those who wish to transfer to a four-year institution and receive a baccalaureate degree.

"Community colleges have recognized that the world is changing rapidly and higher education must change with the times," Griesheimer said. "The days when an 18-year-old high school graduate could go straight into a well-paying job are over. Young people need training and education in order to succeed."

According to the July 2001 report from the National Education Association, state legislators from across the country think that two-year institutions are better situated than others to help business and industry change with the times.

In his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush singled out community colleges and the contribution these institutions make in training and educating America's workforce.

“The 26<sup>th</sup> District is fortunate to have a first-rate school like East Central,” said Griesheimer. “Area residents can receive a first-rate education or workers who are already employed can obtain additional training and broaden their skills.”

East Central Community College will commemorate National Community College Month with an informal campaign about the both East Central and community colleges in general. There will be promotional activity about the college including newspaper advertisements, banners in the district’s communities and radio advertisements featuring Wayne Hagin, play-by-play announcer for the St. Louis Cardinals.