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PRESS RELEASE

Sen. Cauthorn, Truman State University Officials Announce Funding Plan for New Campus Building Project and Student Scholarships

Kirksville, MO – State Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, joined by the Truman State University officials, faculty and students today announced a funding plan to build a \$24.7 million construction project on the Truman University campus in Kirksville. The project renovates and adds to Pershing Building for nursing, communication disorders, health science, and exercise science programs.

“This is an incredible opportunity that will benefit the Truman State University and their students for many years to come,” Cauthorn said. “Bricks, mortar and \$100 million in scholarships will give all Missouri students a 21st Century education, driving our state’s economy forward by keeping and generating more jobs in Missouri for our university graduates.”

The Truman State University project is one of 14 college campus projects across the state unveiled yesterday as part of Gov. Matt Blunt’s plan known as the Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative. The initiative lays out a design to transform the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) into a public-private partnership that would generate approximately \$425 million for Missouri’s higher education institutions.

If approved by the Missouri General Assembly, the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative will provide a one-time infusion of approximately \$300 million for capital improvement projects at state

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universities. Approximately \$125 million would be spent on a \$100 million endowed scholarship fund, \$5 million to be utilized by the Missouri Discovery Alliance to attract and retain life science companies and to commercialize existing research already being conducted in our state and \$20 million to create endowed professorships for Missouri research scientists.

“This is an excellent opportunity to get full value out of a state asset to provide aid to college students and capital to their universities for important building projects,” Blunt said. “I am committed to doing everything I can to enhance educational opportunities in our state and to ensure that our employers and entrepreneurs continue to benefit from the greatest workforce in the world.”

Cauthorn said the plan benefits all Missourians, not just students on Missouri’s college campuses.

“New building mean better learning tools and more scholarships mean more of our children can attend college and receive a degree in the newest and most advanced fields,” Cauthorn said. “More of our children can stay in Missouri and attract new companies here as part of a leading 21st century workforce.”

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center has reported the statewide initiative would create an average of 4,880 new jobs every year, paying an average wage of \$45,314.00. The total impact for the people of Missouri is expected to be \$554.2 million in new economic activity on average each year.

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri’s 18th Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6858. You can also visit his web page by going to www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn.