



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Expanding Access to Higher Education Opportunity

The uncertainty associated with the costs of attending college presents a road block for students and their families. To help make higher education more affordable and accessible in Missouri I support three key initiatives found in the Omnibus Higher Education Act (Senate Bill 389); limit increases in college tuition, expand scholarship opportunities and build world class facilities on Missouri college campuses.

The first portion of SB 389 allows families to more accurately budget for higher education expenses by reigning in a university's ability to raise tuition by more than the consumer price index (CPI) in a given year. By stabilizing tuition we give more certainty in a student's financial future and make it easier for them to plan ahead and save for college. This will also force universities to learn to keep their fees and tuition under control and less than the rate of inflation.



The scholarship portion of SB 389 nearly triples needs-based financial assistance funding from \$27.5 million to more than \$72.5 million over the next three years. That means for schools such as the University of Missouri-Columbia available scholarships will grow from 1,000 to between 5,550 to 6,000. Scholarships at its sister campus, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, would see an increase from 930 to

2,000. The number of need-based scholarships at Southeast Missouri State University will increase from 300 to 1,900. This increase in financial assistance will make it possible for more students in Missouri, whether they attend a state university, a private college or community college to afford a degree and graduate with less debt.

The third and final portion of SB 389 seeks to use funds generated by the partial sale of the state's higher education loan authority to build world class facilities where our students can receive a world class education. Over \$350 million in proceeds will go to renovate, expand and construct infrastructure across the state while most importantly protecting the ability of the loan authority to provide low interest loans to students. Southeast Missouri State University will

receive a prominent portion of this funding as more than \$24.5 million for building projects are slated to be accomplished because of this increase in capital investment. This includes \$2.638 million for an autism education, research, diagnosis and treatment center, \$173,000 for a dental hygiene clinic in conjunction with Missouri Southern University, \$4.5 million for a conservation and environmental-based business incubator and \$17.2 million for combined renovation of historic buildings and new construction to house the Visual and Performing Arts School at the



River Campus. I am pleased to see Southeast Missouri State University figure so prominently on the list of projects that will spring up across our state because of this funding opportunity. The impact will be widespread and will have an invaluable impact in Southeast Missouri.

I will continue to work with my colleagues to see that we keep college affordable, approve a near three-fold increase in scholarship funding, enable \$350 million in campus construction projects and ultimately help fulfill the goal that every Missouri student will have access to a world class education opportunity.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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