



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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Missouri Students Receive More Scholarships with Access Missouri

For Missouri students, the high cost of college tuition is in the way of their desire to pursue a higher education. This is why we worked hard to make sure that there are needs-based scholarships available for Missouri students. Last year, we created the Access Missouri Scholarship Program, and we can already see that it succeeds in helping students afford higher education.



More and more Missouri students are benefiting from the program. While the old needs-based scholarship program only awarded scholarships to 17,000 Missouri students, the Access Missouri program is providing more than 38,000 students with scholarships and has distributed \$51 million in needs-based assistance so far this school year. The governor's budget recommendations for fiscal year 2009 (which begins in July, 2008) include a total of \$100 million in needs-based scholarships for Missouri students. The \$27.9 million increase in funding for scholarships would mean that needs-based scholarships will have quadrupled since January 2005.

The Access Missouri scholarship program was passed during last year's legislative session to level the playing field for scholarship applicants and ensure that Missouri's neediest students receive aid to further their higher education goals. The program works by employing a simple formula based on a family's ability to pay for college. These scholarships serve as an investment in Missouri's future because it ensures that the future leaders of our state will have the knowledge and skills they need to compete in the global

economy.

These scholarships are providing direct help to students in Southeast Missouri who want to attend a college or university. For example, students attending Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) can receive between \$1,000 and \$2,150 to go towards their college education. In fact, there are close to 2,000 students receiving Access Missouri scholarships at SEMO this year, compared to only 380 in 2007. Students who decide to pursue their education at a community college can receive between \$300 and \$1,000. Private college students can receive between \$2,000 and \$4,600 to go towards their education.



During the governor's state of the state address last month, the General Assembly welcomed a special guest. Traci Clark is a nursing student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis who was inspired to go back to school because of her daughter Bree. Without the Access Missouri scholarship program, her aspiration of getting a college education would not have come true. Traci reminds us that this funding is more than just numbers—it is help for real people here in our state that need these scholarships so that they can pursue their dreams.

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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