

MISSOURI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JEFFERSON CITY

Jason Crowell 27th Senate District (573) 751-2459

For Immediate Release May 9, 2008

Representative Steve Tilley
106th House District
(573) 751-1488
Representative Ellen Brandom
160th House District
(573) 751-5471

State Funding to Assist Southeast Missouri Satellite Campuses Receives Legislative Approval

JEFFERSON CITY— State funding is on the way for two Southeast Missouri State University satellite campuses thanks to House Bill 2023, a comprehensive capital improvements bill passed by the Missouri General Assembly yesterday (5/8). The bill will provide \$820,000 for projects at Southeast Missouri State University satellite campuses in the communities of Sikeston and Perryville.

"This would have never happened without the leadership of Representative Steve Tilley and Representative Ellen Brandom," said Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau. "I am pleased to be able to help these campuses continue to provide a quality higher education to the students of Southeast Missouri."

The city of Sikeston has generously supported construction and expansion at Southeast Missouri State University-Sikeston. The city still owes \$1.3 million to cover the cost of the expansion, a project the residents have supported through sales taxes. A total of \$400,000 from HB 2023 will help the city fulfill their financial obligation and will free up funding in Sikeston's budget for other municipal projects.

"The campus is an educational opportunity for students throughout the area and is really an asset for the community," said Rep. Ellen Brandom (R-Sikeston). "This funding will allow the City of Sikeston to fulfill other budget obligations while still providing support for this education opportunity in the area."

The Perryville Higher Education Center, a collaborative effort between Southeast Missouri State University and Mineral Area Community College, was designed to allow local students to attend college classes in a convenient and comfortable atmosphere. Students can pursue a degree while benefiting from small class sizes and a solid support and counseling system. The Perryville Higher Education Center will receive \$420,000 in order to make improvements and renovations on the campus.

"The Perryville Higher Education Center is a unique opportunity for students in the Perryville area to take college classes in a supportive environment while staying close to home," said Rep. Steve Tilley (R-Perryville). "I worked hard to make sure that the school could receive this funding because I know the community will benefit from these renovations."

House Bill 2023 now moves to the governor for his approval before becoming law.

-END-