



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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Investing in the Future of Missouri's Students

During my four years in the Missouri Senate, I have remained dedicated to making sure that our students receive a world-class education. The previous administration often unfairly used education as a pawn during budget battles. This specifically affected higher education in our state. Funding for public colleges and universities was cut by \$140 million in fiscal year 2003 and 2004. In order to compensate for these cuts, schools increased tuition by an average of \$1,700. Over the past four years, however, the General Assembly has worked hard to make sure a quality higher education is available to Missouri students. This year alone, higher education received a 7.8 percent increase in funding for a total of \$1.2 billion. By making sure students in Missouri have access to a world-class education, we are ensuring they have the resources to compete in our global economy.



The current fiscal year's higher education budget is the largest in Missouri history, and the first ever to exceed \$1 billion. The budget includes a \$2 million increase for Southeast Missouri State University for a total of \$48.6 million. Over the past four years, Southeast's funding has increased by \$4.8 million. In addition, \$820,000 in capital improvements

funding will go towards projects at Southeast Missouri State University satellite campuses in the communities of Sikeston and Perryville. Of that funding, \$400,000 will go towards paying for the expansion at Southeast Missouri State University-Sikeston and \$420,000 will

go towards renovations at the Perryville Higher Education Center, a collaborative effort between Southeast Missouri State University and Mineral Area Community College.

An additional \$335.3 million is being provided for higher education in Missouri through the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative. This includes \$2.6 million for a new Southeast Missouri Autism Center. This center will provide diagnosis, treatment, education, and research in autism for patients in Southeast Missouri. The current fiscal year budget includes an additional \$494,000 for the center. Additional Lewis and Clark investments include \$173,000 for a dental hygiene clinic at Southeast Missouri State University, \$4.5 million for a conservation- and environmental-based business incubator, and \$17.2 million for the renovation of historic buildings and new construction to house the Visual and Performing Arts School at Southeast Missouri State University's River Campus.

We have also focused on making sure that higher education opportunities are available to more Missouri students. The Access Missouri Scholarship Program received a \$48.7 million increase this year for a total of \$91.5 million in funding. This is a program we created last year to help more Missouri students pursue a higher education. The A+ School Program works to ensure that all students who graduate from Missouri high schools are well prepared to pursue advanced education or employment. Last year, 219 students in our area utilized the A+ Schools program, and even more students will benefit from a \$3.5 million increase.

Students in Southeast Missouri also have access to the Cape Girardeau Career and Technology Center, which provides career and technical education to the area. In January of 2007, the center began an expansion project. I secured \$750,000 to expand the facilities to accommodate increased enrollment. The funding went towards a significant construction project, which will help create jobs and increase educational opportunities in Southeast Missouri. The funding provided for the construction of a 9,600-square-foot electrical shop and classroom building east of the current school. The classrooms will be used for industry training and community education programs.

The investments we are making in education today help ensure that Missouri's students will be successful in the future. This is why I continue to make education my highest priority.

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.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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