

For Immediate Release:  
December 19, 2008

If you have any questions,  
please call 573-751-2459

## **Southeast Missouri State Receives Arts Grant** *Funding will Support a Russian National Ballet Theatre Performance*

---

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, announced today that Southeast Missouri State University has received one of 151 Challenge America Fast Track grants to apply towards the costs of a local performance by the Russian National Ballet Theatre. The \$10,000 in federal funding applies to a 2010 performance by the world-famous ballet company.

“The arts offer a variety of advantages for our community, from educational opportunities to economic growth,” said Sen. Crowell. “This is why I continue to support and promote the arts in Southeast Missouri.”

The National Endowment for the Arts offers the Challenge America Fast Track Program to support small- to mid-sized organizations in areas that do not have a variety of artistic opportunities. Applicants apply under one of four project types including guest artist, civic design, public art, and cultural tourism.

The Russian Ballet’s Cape Girardeau performance will include discounted and free tickets to education, community, and civic organizations. The Russian National Ballet Theatre’s repertoire includes classical performances and modern ballets. The company includes more than 35 ballet dancers from all over the world.

“I applaud the work of those at Southeast Missouri State, who worked to apply for this grant and continue to expand the arts in our area,” said Sen. Crowell. “This performance will be a valuable educational and cultural event.”

Sen. Crowell has been a board member of the Missouri Arts Council since November, 2007. The board consists of citizens and officials from across the state and provides direction in policy making and program oversight. Through funds from the Missouri General Assembly, Missouri Cultural Trust, and National Endowment for the Arts, the council provides grants to make possible quality arts programming to Missouri communities.

-END-