March 19, 1870

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was March 19, 1870, the day the First District Normal School was established by the Missouri General Assembly.

What had been known as the North Missouri Normal School and Commercial College would go on to become Northeast Missouri State Teachers College.

With this change, the college became the first in the state designed solely to prepare teachers for instruction in public schools.

More name changes would come, first in 1967, when it became Northeast Missouri State College. The next would happen only five years later, when “College” would become “University.”

The most-famous name change was in 1985. House Bill 196 would change the name to Truman State University. The measure was signed into law on June 20, 1985. The change happened on New Year’s Day of the following year.

But it all started on March 19, 1870, the date marking legislative creation of the First District Normal School in Kirksville, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [Truman State University history](http://www.truman.edu/about/history/), Missouri Senate Journal)