



**MISSOURI**  
**COLLEGES FUND INC.**  
SINCE 1952

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*Partnerships for Today's Students...Tomorrow's Leaders.*

## Message from the Chair

Our member institutions' educational mission and values provide an engaging, invigorating, and caring environment for their students to learn, innovate, and make a difference in their communities and our world.

But the pressures on private higher education, including declining enrollment trends, changes in student preferences, and financial strains, are stretching our institutions. Our students deserve a well-rounded education, and your gift makes that possible.

Schools are implementing creative solutions to provide a meaningful education and adapt to the changing needs of students. The "soft" skills they provide are the "power" skills many employers need today, including communication, problem-solving, teamwork, decision-making, leadership, critical thinking, and work ethic.

This past year, the Missouri Colleges Fund completed our first ShowMe Scholarship Challenge, celebrating our 72th anniversary and receiving a matching gift of \$25,000.

We proudly announce the ShowMe Scholarship Challenge 2.0 this year with another matching gift.

Having worked in higher education for over 35 years, I've seen the difference our member schools make for our students, employers, and communities. The education, both in and outside the classroom, impacts students for a lifetime.

Your gift strengthens the ability of our member institutions to educate talented students regardless of financial circumstances, provide challenging programs, and help students achieve their goals.

Thank you for being so supportive.



Sincerely,

*Kris Lensmeyer*

Kris Lensmeyer, Board Chair

## 16 Member Missouri Colleges Fund Economic Impact 2023:

**Colleges & Universities**  
**8,568 employees**

**Generates Economic Activity**  
**\$4.6 Billion**

**Undergraduate Enrollment**  
**56,880 students**

## The ShowMe Scholarship Challenge Match

Thanks to the Council for Independent Colleges (CIC), MCF has been awarded its second challenge grant. To meet the growing gap between college costs and financial aid, and to help with student retention, we are on a mission to

grow our scholarship fund. Companies, organizations & individuals are joining and you can too.

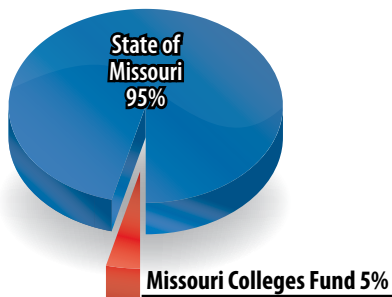


The goal is to accept new, increased or re-instated gifts to support students in at least their second year in school. The CIC will match gifts up to \$25,000. Please consider investing with us in our students' futures. For more information, contact Susan Stegeman @ 573-893-3818.



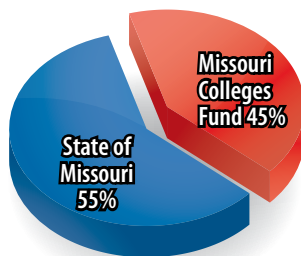
# A Greater Proportion of Missouri's Degrees: The 5-45-65 Equation

## Share of State Tuition Expenditures



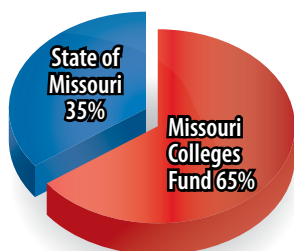
Students with financial need at MCF campuses receive less than 5 percent of the state's tuition expenditures.

## Share of Full-Time Undergraduate Enrollment



Overall, MCF campuses enroll 45 percent of all undergraduates in Missouri.

## Share of Bachelor's Degrees Awarded



MCF campuses produces 65 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded in the state.

Sources: Missouri Department of Higher Education and Missouri Colleges Fund, Inc.

## 2023 Board of Directors Executive Committee:

**Ms. Kris Lensmeyer**

Director, Fresh Ideas Food Management, Chair

**Dr. Elizabeth MacLeod Walls**

President, William Jewell College, Vice Chair

**Dr. Keith Ross**

President, Missouri Baptist University, Secretary-Treasurer

**Ken Theroff**

President, Central Bank, Past Chair

**Mr. David Disney**

Retired J.E. Dunn Construction

**Dr. Roger Drake**

President, Central Methodist University

**Ms. Louise Hune**

Retired Jefferson City Medical Group

**Ms. Susan Stegeman**

President/CEO, Missouri Colleges Fund

## Members:

**Mr. Stephen S. Adams, III**, Iron Steed Harley Davidson

**Dr. James Burkee**, President, Avila University

**Mr. John Beuerlein**, Interim President, Drury University

**Ms. Stacey Button**, President, REDI & Director of Economic Development, City of Columbia

**Dr. Sandra Cassady**, President, Rockhurst University

**Mr. David Cliburn**, Broker, Wallstreet Group

**Mr. Joseph Davies, VP**, Central Bank of Boone County

**Mr. Don Fox**, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Advisors

**Mr. Donald Lofe, Jr.**, President, Westminster College

**Dr. Mark Lombardi**, President, Maryville University

**Dr. Robert Matz**, President, Hannibal-LaGrange University

**Dr. Richard Melson**, President, Southwest Baptist University

**Dr. Jeremy Moreland**, President, William Woods University

**Ms. Sarah Mullen**, Lewis Rice, LLC

**Dr. Stefanie Niles**, President, Cottey College

**Mr. Stephen Parshall**, President – Central Mo Region, UMB Bank

**Dr. John Porter**, President, Lindenwood University

**Dr. Lauren Schellenberger**, President, Culver-Stockton College

**Dr. David Russell**, President, Columbia College

**Mr. Justin Setser, Sr.** Vice President, Central Trust Company

**Mr. Shane Smeed**, President, Park University

**Mr. Steve Sowers**, President & CEO, Commerce Bank

**Mr. David Turner**, President, Hawthorn Bank

**Mr. Scott Van Genderen**, Advisor, Edward Jones

**Ms. Marcia Youker**, Director of Business Development, J. E. Dunn Construction

# Giving Opportunities

## Unrestricted Gifts

Unrestricted gifts have played an essential role in our colleges and universities since the founding of the Missouri Colleges Fund in 1952. These important gifts have a profound impact on the ability of our institutions to meet their changing needs. All undesignated funds are used by member colleges and universities to provide need-based financial aid for students.

## Teachers First Scholars Program

Many school districts in Missouri are faced with a critical teacher shortage due primarily to record retirements of experienced teachers. The independent member colleges of the Missouri Colleges Fund are excelling in their efforts to respond by graduating properly certified teachers ready to take their place in the elementary and secondary schools in Missouri.

Since 1998, the TEACHERS FIRST Scholars Program has raised more than \$6 million for need-based financial aid to outstanding students who are returning to the classroom to teach in areas of child and family education, special education, elementary, middle school, and secondary education.

## STEM Scholars Program

Studies reveal that most eighth and tenth-grade students in Missouri score lower than proficient in math and science. MCF has been working to grow our STEM education programs by raising funds to support students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics areas of study. Occupations in STEM field are some of the most in-demand and highest paying jobs in Missouri. As innovations in the workplace continue to expand into the 21st Century, the need for employees with STEM knowledge will grow as well.

The STEM Scholars Program raises financial aid to underwrite STEM scholarships at our member institutions. Some of the fastest growing careers are in statistics, information security, epidemiology, and computer science according to the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center.

## First Opportunity Scholars Program

The United States is experiencing a major demographic shift affecting college enrollments and corporate employment. By 2050, the population will reach more than 450 million people, with new immigrants and their children accounting for approximately 80 percent of that growth.

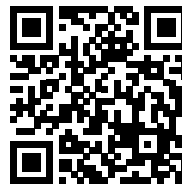
As the nation's demographics change, there will be a significant and increasing number of low-income, first-generation, minority, and new American students enrolling in college and preparing for the workforce. The First Opportunity Scholars Program aims to foster increased college access and financial aid for these students.

## Workforce Development Impact

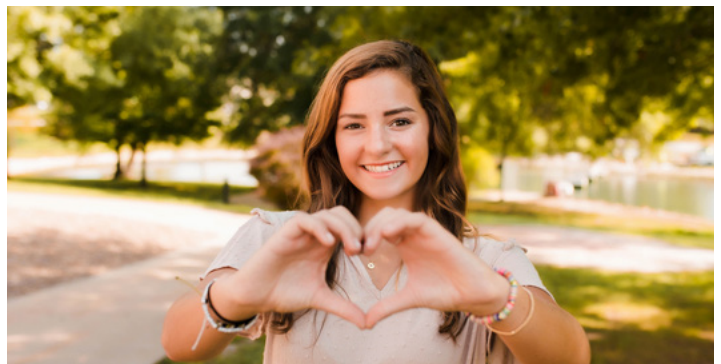
Member independent institutions are educating Missouri's future workforce. When you contribute toward the Fund, you are playing a part in this future. Invest with us to make a difference.

Our member institutions also contribute to Missouri's workforce by employing over 8,000 people. Independent higher education helps serve Missouri's students, families, employees, communities and our broader economy.

As a society, we are made better by an educated population. Our culture is more vibrant. Our economy is richer. Higher education is the path to success for our young people and investing in higher education has and will continue to serve our state well as we endeavor to create more well-paying jobs in Missouri.



*Invest and make a Difference!*





“Scholarships given through the Missouri Colleges Fund make a significant difference in student’s lives and provide them with a chance at a brighter future. This is especially true for first generation college students, the first in their family to attend college.”

Dr. Keith Ross,  
Missouri Baptist University President

## Private Colleges Work Hard to Help Students Succeed

### EMPLOYERS WANT LIBERAL ARTS KNOWLEDGE\*\*

**80%** of employers think every student should acquire broad knowledge in the liberal arts.

### FIRST GENERATIONS STUDENTS are more likely to GRADUATE FROM PRIVATE COLLEGES

**70%** graduated from private colleges within 6 years.

**57%** graduated from public universities within 6 years.

### PRIVATE COLLEGES AWARD 3X LARGER GRANTS

**\$14,826** awarded on average per student at private colleges.

**\$4,765** awarded on average per student at public universities.

### PRIVATE COLLEGE GRADUATES FINISH ON TIME\*

**57%** of graduates of smaller private colleges finish within 4 years.

**44%** of graduates of public universities finish within 4 years.

### PRIVATE COLLEGES AWARD MORE THAN 2X MORE GRANT AID\*

**75%** of students at private colleges receive aid.

**32%** of students at public universities receive aid.

\* Naicu.edu

\*\* CIC

**Blake Whipple**, Sophomore, Centralia, MO attending Culver Stockton. “I chose CSC because of the small campus atmosphere where everyone knows everybody. It is such a great learning environment and the school itself is a great academic institution. After graduation, I plan on attending the Missouri Conservation agent school where I will then look for conservation agent jobs in Missouri. Thank you for supporting me.”

**Cale Bunner**, a Sophomore from Wentzville, MO studying at Missouri Baptist University. “I am a student-athlete at Missouri Baptist University. I play football and am working towards my degree to become a High School History Teacher. I want to teach in my own classroom someday to help develop and grow students but also to help them later in their lives.”

# Profile of the Missouri Colleges Fund, Inc.

## Mission

The Mission of the Missouri Colleges Fund (MCF) is to acquire resources to help educate students in member independent/private, four year, liberal-arts colleges, and universities.

## History and Purpose

The MCF was incorporated in 1952 as a partnership of private enterprise, entrepreneurs, and the member independent colleges and universities in the Show-Me State. For 72 years, MCF has been a leader in building communications among its member institutions and partners with businesses, foundations and individuals that mobilize collaboration and financial support. It enables these institutions to accomplish more through this joint effort than they might, acting individually.

## Gifts Go Directly to Support Students

All unrestricted support the member institutions receive from the MCF is used for need-based financial aid for qualified students unless otherwise directed by the donor. Recipients of these scholarships are selected by the member colleges, not by the Fund.

## Membership

The member schools are independent baccalaureate degree-granting liberal arts and comprehensive colleges and universities in the State of Missouri.

## Distribution of Funds

Undesignated funds are distributed equally to member institutions. The MCF accepts contributions designated for one or more institutions and distributes gifts in accordance with the donor's wishes. 100% of donations are distributed to member institutions to award in scholarships.

## Legal and Tax Status

The MCF was formed in 1952 as a non-profit corporation. The fund is classified as a public charity under section 509(a) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code and is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization. All contributions to the fund are tax-deductible up to the limits prescribed by the law. Our Federal ID Number is 43-0680952.

## Solicitors

Business members of the Board, college presidents, and chief development officers make solicitation calls on behalf of the MCF without compensation from the Fund. Susan Stegeman, MCF CEO, joined the Fund in February 2022.

## Diversity Statement

The MCF is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and equal opportunity in hiring and administering all its programs. The fund does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or on any other basis that would violate any applicable federal or state law.

## Operating Budget

The Board of Directors approves a budget underwritten by equal assessments paid by each member's institution. Gifts to the Fund are not used for the administration of the Fund.

## Annual Audit

Our fiscal year is January 1 through December 31. The financial records are audited annually by a firm chosen by the Board of Directors. The 2023 Audit was conducted by Graves and Associates, CPA's, of Jefferson City.

## National Affiliations

MCF is affiliated with the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) which is a national partner in a network of member state and regional associations that represent more than 700 private colleges and universities. Their mission is to support college and university leadership, advance institutional excellence, and enhance public understanding of independent higher education's contributions to society.



MCF is a member of the Coalition for College Cost Savings (The Coalition). The Coalition is comprised of 31 member organizations in 29 states and serves approximately 900 higher education institutions across the United States. The Coalition is dedicated to helping private higher education institutions improve processes and reduce costs through participation in collaborative programs.



# 50 Years And Counting

**“An educated population makes a better state, nation, and world. Missouri Colleges Fund contributes to that end.”**

• Mr. R. Philip Bixby, President, CEO and Chairman of the Board, Kansas City Life Insurance Company

**This past year several companies joined a growing list of donors who have supported independent higher education in Missouri for more than 50 years:**

American Pulverizer Company _____	59	J. C. Nichols Company Charitable Trust _____	63
Black and Veatch _____	55	Kansas City Life Insurance Company _____	64
Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Company _____	57	Kansas City Star _____	64
BNSF Railway Foundation _____	50	Loy-Lange Box Company _____	59
Central Bank _____	65	Maritz, Inc. _____	54
Central Bank of Sedalia _____	59	Massman Foundation _____	65
Charles H Taylor Memorial Trust _____	67	Medart, Inc. _____	58
Commerce Bancshares Foudation _____	68	MA Bank _____	52
Commercial Trust Company _____	56	Norfolk Southern Foundation _____	61
Country Club Bank _____	55	Orscheln Industries Foundation Inc. _____	61
DeLong’s Inc _____	50	P-1 Group, Inc. _____	60
Edison Family Foundation _____	67	Park Foundation _____	62
Elliot Management Services _____	51	Parmelee Foundation _____	63
Emerson _____	66	Peterson Manufacturing Company _____	63
F & C Bank _____	55	Reliable Life Insurance _____	50
First Federal Bank, F. S. B. _____	60	Schnuck Markets, Inc. _____	50
Fischer-Bauer-Knirps Foundation _____	71	Sherwood Community Bank _____	53
Ford Motor Company Fund _____	56	Skyline Investments Co. LLC _____	57
Gallagher Consultants, LLC _____	51	St. Louis Post Dispatch Charitable Giving _____	56
George K. Baum Foundation _____	54	Stupp Bros Bridge & Iron Co Foundation _____	69
George Von Hoffman Foundation _____	62	Tension Foundation _____	64
GlaxoSmithKline _____	59	The Pott Foundation _____	66
Harry Cooper Supply Company _____	53	Tnemec Company Inc. _____	59
Hawthorn Bank _____	60	Paul Uhlmann, Jr. & Elizabeth and Paul Uhlmann III _____	59
Henry Wurst Inc. _____	56	UMB Financial Corporation _____	57
Hermann Oak Leather Company _____	56	Western Supplies, Echo Valley Foundation _____	63
Highland Quality Chek’d Dairy Products _____	53	Winter Brothers Material Company _____	54
Hillyard, Inc. _____	66		



“The value of earning a higher education degree has been well documented. For more than 70 years, the Missouri Colleges Fund has been securing funds to support students seeking degrees from independent colleges and universities in the State of Missouri. Now more than ever, students and their families rely on scholarships to make the dream of private higher education a reality. Collectively, our schools provide the type of individualized attention and resources students need

to persist to graduation. When first generational students and students with high financial need earn a degree, it can be transformational for the graduate and generations to come. Your donations yield a high return on investment. I invite you to look at our outcomes!”

Sandy Cassady, Ph.D.  
President, Rockhurst University

# Statement of Participating Fund Support

Revenue and Distribution for January 1 to December 31, 2023

Support – Contributions .....	352,015
Revenue – Interest and Dividends .....	\$3,034
<b>Total Support and Revenues .....</b>	<b>\$355,049</b>
<b>2023 Distribution to Colleges and Universities.....</b>	<b>\$355,049</b>

Includes:

Avila University, Kansas City; Central Methodist University, Fayette; Columbia College, Columbia; Cottey College, Nevada; Culver-Stockton College, Canton; Drury University, Springfield; Hannibal-LaGrange University, Hannibal; Lindenwood University, St. Charles; Maryville University, St. Louis; Missouri Baptist University, St. Louis; Park University, Parkville; Rockhurst University, Kansas City; Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar; Westminster College, Fulton; William Jewell College, Liberty; William Woods University, Fulton.

<b>Total Gifts Prior to 2023.....</b>	<b>\$36,607,196</b>
<b>2023 Distribution to Colleges and Universities .....</b>	<b>\$355,049</b>
<b>2023 Gift-in-kind of Goods and Services .....</b>	<b>\$3,442</b>
<b>Total Gifts to Date .....</b>	<b>\$36,965,687</b>
<b>Endowment and Securities Values as of December 31, 2023.....</b>	<b>\$102,646</b>

## Honor Roll of Contributors

### LEADERSHIP GIFTS DONOR OF THE YEAR – \$51,200

United Parcel Service Foundation

### FOUNDER'S CLUB - \$25,000 TO \$49,999

Enterprise Mobility Foundation

Council of Independent Colleges  
(CIC)

### CHAIRMAN'S CLUB - \$10,000 TO \$24,999

Burlington Northern

Santa Fe Foundation

Commerce Bancshares Foundation

EMERSON

MFA Foundation

Reinsurance Group  
of America Inc.

The Pott Foundation

Veterans United Foundation

### PRESIDENT'S CLUB - \$5,000 TO \$9,999

Edward Jones  
Charitable Foundation

Fresh Ideas Food Service  
Management, LLC

JE Dunn Construction

LUZCO Technologies, LLC

Massman Foundation

Pfizer Inc.

Stifel

Stupp Bros. Bridge  
& Iron Co. Foundation

United Fire Group

### PARTNER'S CLUB - \$2,500 TO \$4,999

Central Bank

Energy Solutions  
Professionals, LLC

Hager Companies

Hebenstreit Family Foundation

J.B. Reynolds Foundation

Kansas City Life  
Insurance Company

Medart, Inc.

Orscheln Industries  
Foundation, Inc.

Parmelee Foundation, Inc.

Peterson Manufacturing Company

Tnemec Company, Inc.

UMB Financial Corporation

### ASSOCIATE'S CLUB - \$1,000 TO \$2,499

Anonymous, in honor of  
Mr. Mike Backer



Anderson Creative Marketing & Design  
 Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Company  
 Callaway Electric Cooperative  
 Charles H. Taylor Memorial Trust  
 Coalition for College Cost Savings\*  
 Commercial Trust Company  
 Edison Family Foundation  
 F & C Bank  
 Fischer-Bauer-Knirps Foundation  
 Gunther Salt Company  
 Hawthorn Bank  
 Heartland Business Systems  
 Hillyard, Inc.  
 Hogan Motor Leasing Inc.  
 Jefferson Bank of Missouri  
 Kuhn Foundation  
 Leggett and Platt, Inc.  
 Let's Build Hope\*  
 MA Bank  
 Martin Family Foundation  
 Midland Transports  
 Millard Family Chapel\*  
 Ms. Kris Lensmeyer Leshner  
 Ms. Sarah Mullen and  
 Mr. Patrick Coyne  
 Steve & Susan Stegeman  
 Park Foundation  
 Prime, Inc.  
 Rusty Drawing Toyota  
 Salvajor Company  
 Sherwood Community Bank  
 Tension Foundation



**Grace Crum**, a Senior from Poplar Bluff, MO at Southwrtst Baptist University is studying Exercise Science. "My future plans are to graduate with an Exercise Science and Biblical Studies degree. After I complete my schooling, I hope to work in Occupational Therapy for pediatrics and if the Lord allows, be able to use my Biblical Studies degree as well and incorporate it into my career whether it be on mission or within my practice. "



**Haley Wooldridge**, 3rd Year Cybersecurity Major from Ste. Genevieve, MO attending Maryville University. "Maryville has a great atmosphere. There are so many amenities here with places to study. Professors made time to support me through my internship and adapted projects to my learning style. Maryville has a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence where we explore and expand our knowledge base in the lab.a"



**Jerilynne Quinn**, Senior, from Kansas City, MO, attending Park University. "Park has awarded me the opportunity to work on my BA in Psychology and I plan to make this the beginning of my journey to obtain my Master's and work in Behavioral Psychology. I also plan to use what I have learned to aid me in developing my own life coaching business to help those suffering from depression and mental health. There are so many avenues and I plan to explore and incorporate as much as I can into my goals."



**Jocelyn McHenry**, a sophomore from Bates City, MO attending Hannibal-LaGrange University. "Hannibal-LaGrange University is providing a solid foundation for my journey in becoming an educator. Through rigorous coursework and hands-on experiences, I am gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the classroom. The faculty's dedication to student success is evident in their mentorship and the personalized attention they provide. This supportive environment fosters my growth both as a teacher and as an individual."

\* denotes new donor

# Honor Roll of Contributors – Missouri Investors

The Number indicates number of years contributed; + indicates contribution increased or renewed; \* denotes new gift

## Central Missouri Region

- 9 Anderson Creative Marketing & Design
- 19 Callaway Electric Cooperative
- 65+ Central Bank
- 59 Central Bank of Sedalia
- 68 Commerce Bancshares Foundation
- 56 Commercial Trust Company
- 50+ DeLong's Inc.
- 16 Fresh Ideas Food Service Management
- 60+ Hawthorn Bank
- 2 Heartland Business Systems
- 4+ Isle of Capri Casino-Boonville
- 35 Jefferson Bank of Missouri
- 8+ Joe Machens Capital City Ford
- 18 MFA Foundation
- 30 Mid-America Bank
- 32 Midland Transports
- 1\* Millard Family Chapel
- 18+ Mrs. Garcia Backer, in memory of Mr. Mike Backer
- 1\* Derek & Stacey Button
- 2 John & Tina Taylor
- 2+ Steve & Susan Stegeman
- 9+ Ms. Kris Lensmeyer Leshner
- 1\* Mr. Benjamin D. Reifschneider
- 61 Orscheln Industries Foundation
- 2+ Rusty Drewing Toyota
- 57 UMB Financial Corporation
- 48 United Security Bank
- 3+ Veterans United Foundation
- 1\* West Truman Partners, LLP

## Kansas City Region

- 2+ Anonymous, in honor of Mr. Mike Backer
- 57+ Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Company
- 55 Country Club Bank

- 7 Energy Solutions Professionals
- 34+ Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- 55+ F & C Bank
- 43 Fidelity Security Life Insurance
- 40 Hebenstreit Family Foundation
- 35 J E Dunn Construction
- 34 J. B. Reynolds Foundation
- 64 Kansas City Life Insurance Company
- 36 Kone
- 15 Mark One Electric Company
- 65 Massman Foundation
- 28 Midway Ford Truck Center, Inc.
- 60 P-1 Group, Inc.
- 62 Park Foundation
- 62+ Parmelee Foundation, Inc.
- 59 Paul Uhlmann Jr. & Elizabeth & Paul Uhlmann III Fund
- 63 Peterson Manufacturing Company
- 48 Salvajor Company
- 53+ Sherwood Community Bank
- 64 Tension Foundation
- 59 Tnemec Company, Inc.
- 35 W. A. Ellis Construction Company

## Northeast Region

- 33+ BASF Corporation
- 52 MA Bank
- 43+ United State Bank

## Northwest Region

- 67 Charles H. Taylor Memorial Trust
- 66 Hillyard, Inc.
- 48 Mr. Richard N. & Mignon G. DeShon Charitable Fund

## St. Louis Region

- 59 American Pulverizer Company
- 26 Dierbergs Markets
- 17+ Drury Inns, Inc.

- 67 Edison Family Foundation
- 41 Edward Jones Charitable Foundation
- 66 EMERSON
- 71 Fischer-Bauer-Knirps Foundation
- 41 Gunther Salt Company
- 45+ Hager Companies
- 56+ Hermann Oak Leather Co.
- 24+ Hogan Motor Leasing Inc.
- 14 Kuhn Foundation
- 1\* Let's Build Hope, LLC
- 59+ Loy-Lange Box Company
- 2 LUZCO Technologies, LLC
- 57 Medart, Inc.
- 1\* Ms. Sarah Mullen and Mr. Patrick Coyne
- 10 Pfizer Inc
- 11+ Reinsurance Group of America, Inc.
- 46 Schaeffer Manufacturing Company
- 27 Stifel
- 69 Stupp Bros. Bridge & Iron Co. Foundation
- 66 The Pott Foundation
- 47 Tricor-Braun, A Div. of Kranson Industries
- 63 Western Supplies, Echo Valley Foundation
- 54 Winter Brothers Material Company

**Southwest Region**

- 38 Hammons Products Company
- 53+ Hiland Quality Chek'd Dairy Products
- 43+ Leggett and Platt, Inc.
- 47 Martin Family Fund
- 28 Meek Charitable Trust
- 17+ Mr. Robert G. Ingold
- 35 O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.
- 30 Prime, Inc.
- 57 Skyline Investments Co. LLC
- 28 Superior Gearbox Company

**OUT OF STATE INVESTORS**

**Florida**

- 1\* Mr. David Lockton

**Georgia**

- 49 UPS Foundation

**Iowa**

- 28 United Fire Group

**Texas**

- 50 Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation

**Washington DC**

- 6 Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)

*Number indicates number of years contributed  
+indicates contribution increased or renewed  
\* denotes new gift*



“At William Woods University, we value the strong partnership we have with the Missouri Colleges Fund, a relationship that is instrumental in helping us to create new and better opportunities for our students. Those opportunities are powered by the strong support of MCF’s generous donors, whose financial commitment paves the way for scholarships that are incredibly beneficial to our students.”

Dr. Jeremy Moreland,  
President of William Woods University

# Thank You to our 2023 Corporate Partners

“Enterprise Mobility is proud to support the Missouri Colleges Fund and their work to ensure students throughout the state have access to high-quality education,” said John Peritore, Enterprise Mobility St. Louis Vice President/General Manager. “Education and social equity are important drivers of Enterprise Mobility’s giving program, and we’re proud that Enterprise Mobility Foundation grants are making a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals, local communities and the broader society through MCF’s work.”





49 Years



**Lee Joseph Verslues**, a Junior from Loose Creek, MO, is studying Business Marketing at Westminster College. "Thank you for the opportunity to continue my education and athletics here at Westminster College by awarding me this scholarship. The scholarship will also help me stay around more and engage in school activities and the community here in Fulton.



**Makayla Barnette**, a Sophomore from Fayette, MO studying Business Administration at Central Methodist University. "My future plans include working in a Business Office environment to further my education and experience in that area."



66 Years



3 Years



**Mackenzie Rae Dalton** is a Sophomore studying Criminal Justice at William Woods University. "I am currently studying Criminal Justice with a major in Psychology. After I graduate, I hope to work at the FBI to understand the behavioral analysis unit."



35 Years



68 Years

## THE VALUE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION

A college education is worth it: The wage gap between recent college and high school grads has been widening for decades, and grew even more last year, per new Federal Reserve data. In 2023, recent college grads age 22-27 working full-time earned \$24,000 more per year than 22-27-year-olds with only a high school degree. In 1990, the gap was \$15,000.

A college degree gives individuals a lifetime earnings edge. The wage premium goes on to double over a worker's lifetime, according to research economist David Deming. At age 25 college grads had a 27% premium over high school only graduates. By age 55, that premium was 60%.

\*Source: Axios. March 4, 2024

## Avila University

Kansas City, Missouri

Founded: 1916

Affiliation: Roman Catholic


Enrollment Headcount: 1066 (1833 FTE)

Student-faculty ratio: 12 to 1


Average ACT (freshman): 22

Avila University, located in Kansas City, Mo, and led by President Jim Burkee, Ph.D, serves students worldwide. Avila believes in offering access to Education Without Limits and inviting students to define what that means to them personally as individuals and collectively across campus. Founded in 1916 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Avila has been focused on developing the whole person for more than a century, providing a liberal arts education rooted in values of service, diversity, and excellence in teaching and learning. In 2023, Avila celebrated a historic milestone, welcoming its largest-ever incoming class of freshmen. The rapid growth is the most recent testament to the school's focus on making degrees accessible through robust scholarship programs and financial aid. Thanks to decades of strategic planning and tireless teamwork by faculty and staff, Avila is now the educational home to students from 26 countries, studying an expanded curriculum that offers more than 60 majors. That's the power of Education Without Limits.


**Caroline Little** is a fourth-year student at Cottey College from Topeka, Kansas, majoring in International Relations. Caroline was Cottey's student body president in 2021-22 and again in 2023-24, having spent the fall semester of her junior year studying abroad in Australia. Caroline plans to pursue a career working in the political industry. "One day, I want to work in political communications, specifically speech writing, and my time at Cottey has prepared me well for this endeavor."




**Mikayla Pink** is a Sophomore from Lake Ozark, Missouri, attending Drury University. She is majoring in Secondary Education and Theatre and has committed herself to learning all aspects of theatre, both on stage and behind the scenes, to be the best teacher for her future students. Joining the theatre group in high school turned her life around, teaching her respect, responsibility, and a sense of community and belonging. "I know teachers don't make much money; that's not why I chose to teach. I want to be a positive influence and resource for my students. As a teacher, living and paying off student loans would be a struggle."



**Rachel Gable** is a Junior from Parkville, MO studying Elementary Education at Rockhurst University. "Rockhurst University and the School of Education have provided me with the knowledge, relations, and resources to be a successful Educator after graduation in Spring of 2025."



**Richard Coy**, Sophomore, from St. Joseph, MO attending Avila University. "As an aspiring physical education teacher, my goal is to contribute to the North Kansas City School District, focusing on high school education, where I can assist in fostering a culture of health and wellness among students. In addition, I aspire to take on the role of a basketball coach, instilling valuable life skills and a love for the sport."



**Sophia Lopez** is a Senior from Lee's Summit, MO, studying Biology at William Jewell College. After graduation, she plans to apply to a Physician's Assistant graduate school and eventually hopes to work in pediatrics.



**Central Methodist University**

**Columbia College**

**Cottey College**

Fayette, Missouri  
 Founded: 1854  
 Affiliation: United Methodist  
 Enrollment Headcount: 4362 (2742 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 13 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 21

Columbia, Missouri (main campus)  
 Founded: 1851  
 Affiliation: Christian Church  
 (Disciples of Christ) (nonsectarian)  
 Enrollment Headcount: 8729 (4378 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 13:1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 21

Nevada, Missouri  
 Founded: 1884  
 Affiliation: P.E.O. Sisterhood  
 (nonsectarian women's organization)  
 Enrollment Headcount: 266 (264 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 7 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 21.5

Central Methodist University fosters a diverse and caring community, empowering students to become lifelong learners, committed to academic excellence, prepared to engage in a complex world. Opportunities for service and leadership development abound through student organizations and activities, including fine and performing arts and intercollegiate athletics. Students choose from a comprehensive curriculum of more than 40 majors and pre-professional programs in a highly personalized environment. CMU also offers degree completion programs across Missouri and beyond, typically in partnership with community colleges, other schools, hospitals, businesses, and community organizations. CMU is expanding its online curriculum for both undergraduate and graduate programs as well. For more information, visit [www.centralmethodist.edu](http://www.centralmethodist.edu)

Columbia College is dedicated to improving lives by providing quality education to both traditional and nontraditional students, helping them achieve their true potential. As a private, nonprofit institution, the college takes pride in its small classes, experienced faculty, and quality educational programs. Students can enroll in Day or Evening classes at any of its locations nationwide or take advantage of the college's robust Online Program, which added more than 20 new degree offerings this past fall, ranging from Global Studies to Supply Chain Management and Logistics. The new programs, which are open for enrollment now, include two master's degrees, five bachelor's degrees, one associate degree, and 12 certificates, many of which are stackable. The college has again been named to the Military Times 2023-24 "Best for Vets: Colleges" list and a top 10 higher education institution in the country for military-affiliated students by MilitaryFriendly.com. The college was founded in 1851 in Columbia, Missouri, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and has more than 97,000 alumni worldwide.

As far back as 1884, Virginia Alice Cottey believed that women deserved educational opportunities equal to those received by men. After saving \$3,000, Cottey and two of her sisters founded their own college for women. It was Cottey's goal to give women the best possible academic instruction with a strong foundation in the liberal arts. This solid academic emphasis remains the cornerstone of the college today.

Degrees are offered at the baccalaureate and associate levels. The 7:1 student-to-faculty ratio plays an important part in the students' academic experience.

Women's college students are independent, open-minded, and willing to embrace new, challenging opportunities. Many students choose women's colleges because of the leadership opportunities; thus, Cottey offers a leadership certification program and a BA degree in organizational leadership.

All Cottey students participate in a week-long international experience with expenses paid by the college. Cottey is a member of the NAIA and offers eight intercollegiate athletic teams. Cottey College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. It is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music.



**Yunaisy Gallardo**, a Junior from Columbia, MO studying Elementary Education at Columbia College. "I am honored to be a recipient of this award, and I cannot thank you enough for your support. I did not think I would qualify for scholarships as a returning student and starting over again. Thank you for your support and for investing in my future. I am excited to continue my studies in becoming an elementary teacher and I will make the most of this opportunity."

## Culver-Stockton College

Canton, Missouri  
 Founded: 1853  
 Affiliation: Christian Church  
 (Disciples of Christ)  
 Enrollment Headcount: 1010 (984 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 15 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 21

Culver-Stockton College, seated on 140 acres overlooking the Mississippi River, blends its long-standing legacy of a traditional liberal arts education with modern experiential courses and a unique academic calendar, offering an array of active-learning opportunities, including internships, research and travel courses.

Every course and major of Culver-Stockton's curriculum emphasizes experiential learning. C-SC's 12-week + 3-week innovative academic calendar has separated semesters into two terms, allowing students to focus on fewer courses at once. Students also have the flexibility to design individualized majors, incorporating courses from multiple fields of study into one degree.

Beyond the classroom, Culver-Stockton's 21 NAIA athletics, 50+ student organizations, and ten fraternities and sororities offer students numerous leadership opportunities. C-SC's co-curricular activities, innovative learning style, and commitment to experiential learning have earned Culver-Stockton College the #1 ranking for getting a job in Missouri for three consecutive years by Zippia, Inc. The curriculum furthers the mission of the College to prepare students of promise for a dynamic world through its distinctive experiential curriculum within a supportive learning community founded upon the best values of faith and the human spirit.

## Drury University

Springfield, Missouri  
 Founded: 1873  
 Affiliation: Independent  
 Enrollment Headcount: 1590 (1552 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 14:1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 25

Established in 1873, Drury University sits on 90 acres in the heart of Springfield, Missouri. Since its founding, Drury has transformed lives by allowing students to pursue both intellectual passions and professional capacities. Through Drury's undergraduate academic program, Your Drury Fusion, students are guaranteed to graduate with valuable and practical life credentials, as well as hands-on learning experiences and opportunities to solve real-world problems. New undergraduate majors in electrical and mechanical engineering will begin in the fall of 2024.

The university offers a robust graduate school program, including six master's degree programs and many certificates, such as diversity, equity and inclusion. The College of Graduate Studies launched the Master of Physician Assistant Studies cohort in fall 2023.

In addition, Drury GO, the university's evening and online program, offers comprehensive degree paths for any stage of life, ranging from education, to business, health and public safety. Drury was once again listed in U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges rankings in 2024, securing the No. 26 Best Regional University in the Midwest. This marks nearly 30 years that Drury has been in the Top 30. The university was also included as one of the "Best 389 Colleges" in The Princeton Review's 2024 edition of its annual "Best Colleges" publication and was named one of the "2024 Best Colleges: Region by Region" in the Midwest.

## Hannibal-LaGrange University

Hannibal, Missouri  
 Founded: 1858  
 Affiliation: Southern Baptist  
 Enrollment Headcount: 500 (465 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 9 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 23

Hannibal-LaGrange University – An unapologetically Christian University that transforms lives and communities through relevant education anchored in a Biblical worldview. With the motto "Knowledge for Service," HLGU prides itself in its traditional and nontraditional educational experience in a distinctively Christian environment.

HLGU offers 35 majors offered, there are many different paths to choose from to prepare for your future. HLGU is located in America's Hometown, Hannibal, MO. Hannibal-LaGrange University is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and offers many opportunities to compete for both men and women. Through the student life activities, there are dozens of clubs and organizations for you to get involved.

Your college memories are waiting to happen here at HLGU!

Schedule your visit today. Tour the campus, meet the professors, and spend some time with HLGU students. Come get to know HLGU through an on-campus Trojan day. Visit our website at [www.hlg.edu](http://www.hlg.edu). Visit to register or call 573.629.3264 for a personal tour.



### Lindenwood University

St. Charles, Missouri  
 Founded: 1832  
 Affiliation: Independent  
 Enrollment Headcount: 7288 (5473 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 19 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 22

Lindenwood University is committed to enhancing lives through quality education and professional preparatory experience. The main campus is nearly 200 years old and is located in St. Charles, Missouri, just a few miles west of St. Louis. Lindenwood is rooted in tradition, driven by innovation, and built for the future. The University boasts a rich history, as well as modern amenities, and is dedicated to providing access to resources that enable academic success.

Lindenwood University offers nearly 100 academic programs with options for every learner through on-ground, hybrid, and online degree options. The University has earned numerous local and national rankings. It has been recognized by the Colleges of Distinction for the University's commitment to equity and inclusion, military support, career development and affordability. Lindenwood has been continuously accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1921 and holds additional accreditations for many academic programs.

An NCAA Division 1 member, Lindenwood student-athletes compete in 21 sports, primarily in the Ohio Valley Conference. Additionally, the University offers 19 Intercollegiate Club Sports; together, these programs comprise one of the country's largest athletics departments. Lindenwood is committed to providing students with Real Experience to prepare them for Real Success.

### Maryville University of Saint Louis

St. Louis, Missouri  
 Founded: 1872  
 Affiliation: Independent, Coeducational  
 Enrollment Headcount: 9884 (6496 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 13 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 22

Maryville University is an outstanding national university offering a comprehensive and innovative education focused on student learning, outcomes and success. Founded in 1872, it is one of the oldest private institutions in the region.

Maryville offers more than 90 programs at the undergraduate, master's and doctoral levels to students from 50 states and 52 countries. With an average class size of 13 students, Maryville students receive unparalleled personal attention and build relationships with our expert faculty.

In addition, Maryville students boast a 98% career outcome rate within six months of graduation.

As a part of Maryville's commitment to learning, innovation, and technology every incoming on-campus undergraduate student, as well as select on-campus graduate students receives an iPad. Students integrate the iPad into their classroom experience and use the iPad to collaborate with faculty and fellow students, create content, enhance technological competencies, and become confident problem solvers in today's digital world.

Maryville's athletics teams compete at the NCAA Division II level in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. There are 100+ Maryville student organizations with more than 2,500 events held on campus each year. Maryville's 130-acre campus is conveniently located within 20 minutes of downtown St. Louis.

### Missouri Baptist University

St. Louis, Missouri  
 Founded: 1964  
 Affiliation: Missouri Baptist Convention  
 Enrollment Headcount: 5641 (2872 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 19 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 20

Missouri Baptist University is a Christ-centered, liberal arts institution in Saint Louis, Mo. MBU offers more than 70 programs of study leading to professional certificates, undergraduate degrees, and graduate degrees in an environment emphasizing academic excellence while maintaining a biblically based Christian perspective. MBU's core purpose is to teach, empower, and inspire students for service and lifelong learning.

Along with its beautiful 66-acre West St. Louis County campus, MBU has regional learning centers throughout the St. Louis region and Illinois. In addition, the University currently offers more than 30 degrees entirely online. In 2023, the University achieved the largest student body since fall 2021, topping over 5600 students. The University was also recognized in 2023 as a Top Workplace by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for the 11th consecutive year, making MBU the only higher education institution in the region to achieve such a mark.



## Park University

Parkville, Missouri  
 Founded: 1875  
 Affiliation: Independent  
 Enrollment Headcount: 6634 (4374 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 15:1  
 Average ACT (freshman): Not Required

Park University is a comprehensive, independent institution that is a national leader in higher education and serves an ethnically diverse student population and non-traditional adult learners. Along with its picturesque flagship campus in Parkville, Park has 24 additional campuses across the U.S., including Independence and Kansas City, 16 military installations, and online worldwide.

Park continues to increase access to higher education by offering the quality undergraduate and graduate degrees students desire at locations, times, and delivery formats that best serve their needs. The University has been ranked among the top private colleges/universities in the country for adult learners, as well as for annual return on investment, and it is consistently ranked among the top least expensive private schools in the country.

Providing such access has developed considerable diversity among the student population, with 528 international students from 76 countries, and a 60 percent student representation from racial, ethnic and cultural groups typically underrepresented in colleges and universities. In addition, extracurricular activities and championship-caliber athletic programs (NAIA) complement Park's outstanding scholastic programs at its Parkville and Gilbert, Ariz., campuses.

Park University offers numerous degree programs online, and it maintains a long-standing relationship with the U.S. military. Since 2009, Park has received international recognition as a top military-friendly college/university by various military-related publications. In addition, Park is among the top-ranked "best for vets" private college/university in the country.

## Rockhurst University

Kansas City, Missouri  
 Founded: 1910  
 Affiliation: Catholic, Jesuit  
 Enrollment Headcount: 3405 (2545 FTE)  
 Student-faculty Ratio: 13 to 1  
 Average high school GPA (freshman): 3.63

Rockhurst University is a Catholic Jesuit institution educating students in the cultural heart of Kansas City for more than a century. The University's approach is rooted in the 500-year-old Jesuit tradition of transformative education. It inspires students to think and communicate effectively, lead others, foster a love of lifelong learning, serve their communities, and find God in all things.

With nearly 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students offering more than 70 programs of study, Rockhurst University provides the perfect college setting. US News & World Report ranks Rockhurst among the top regional universities in the Midwest and one of the best values. Rockhurst offers a thriving campus filled with activity and energy outside the classroom. With nearly 50 organizations ranging from Greek life and athletics, campus ministry offerings and service opportunities, students are sure to find many ways to express their individuality and build their leadership skills.

Rockhurst students are challenged, inspired, and assisted by exceptional faculty. Students experience rigorous academics within a tight-knit community that wants them to succeed. That's why 96% of Rockhurst graduates surveyed report being employed or accepted into graduate school within six months of graduation

## Southwest Baptist University

Bolivar, Missouri  
 Founded: 1878  
 Affiliation: Southern Baptist  
 (Missouri Baptist Convention)  
 Enrollment Headcount: 2519 (2172 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 12 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 22

Southwest Baptist University (SBU) is a private, Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society. SBU's main campus is in Bolivar, with regional commuter campuses in Springfield, Salem and Mountain View as well as online degrees through SBU Worldwide. One of the top Christian universities in the nation, SBU offers more than 100 areas of academic study through associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs.

The SBU Bearcats compete in 17 varsity sports at the NCAA Division II level, and the university also boasts a multi-time national champion speech and debate team. Many of SBU's academic programs have the highest level of accreditation in their field, including Business and Computer Science, and the university has a long history of successful pass rates for its Nursing and Accounting students.

At SBU, students receive an education rooted in both practical and theoretical curriculum while also receiving faith integration into their studies. Through SBU's extensive network of students, faculty, alumni, churches and other partners, students are equipped to be the hands and feet of Jesus as they meet the challenges of the modern world. Discover just how far you can go as a student at Southwest Baptist University.



**WESTMINSTER  
COLLEGE**  
THE POWER IN PURPOSE™



## Westminster College

Fulton, Missouri  
 Founded: 1851  
 Affiliation: Presbyterian  
 Enrollment Headcount: 614 (602 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 11 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 22

For 173 years, Westminster has maintained a world-renowned reputation as a small college that makes a big impact. Westminster is ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the “Best 150 Colleges in the Midwest” for 2024, which is reflected in the success of our alumni community, who experience a 90% placement rate within six months of graduation and a top 16% national ranking for graduate earnings.

Westminster students choose between 34 majors, 40 minors, 17 certifications, three specialty programs, four dual-degree programs, a comprehensive online program, and a new Degree-in-Three option. Students excel academically while finding time to participate in many of the College’s more than 50 student organizations and 19 NCAA varsity sports. From the moment students arrive on campus, profound transformation takes place, which is demonstrated by the College’s prestigious alumni who frequently provide internships, career advisement, and job opportunities, rounding out the comprehensive services provided by the Student Success Center.

Westminster is Internationally recognized as the home of Winston Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech and America’s National Churchill Museum. Today, the College remains a coveted location for luminaries to deliver messages of international import, supporting Westminster’s emphasis on experiential education. Ultimately, all facets of a Westminster education comprise the College’s unique focus on educating and inspiring students to make an impact on the world around them.

## William Jewell College

Liberty, Missouri  
 Founded: 1849  
 Affiliation: None  
 Enrollment Headcount: 866 (897 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 12 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 22

William Jewell College’s commitment to cultivating critical thinkers in pursuit of meaningful lives is woven into the living and learning community and is the basis of the Critical Thought and Inquiry Core Curriculum and academic programs, including nursing, civil engineering, data science, music, and nonprofit leadership.

Students are accepted to top graduate programs and have received grants and scholarships including Fulbright, Goldwater, Rhodes, Truman, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and Teach for America. Among Jewell’s distinctive programs are the Oxbridge Honors Program, which includes a year of study at Oxford, graduate diplomas in voice and choral conducting, and the Pryor Leadership Program.

A national award-winning Concert Choir and Debate Team, the Harriman-Jewell performing art series, 23 varsity sports, and the Honors Institute in Critical Thinking demonstrate the depth of opportunities available to students, while Jewell’s proximity to Kansas City provides endless cultural and career options.

Consistently ranked among America’s top colleges by U.S. News & World Report, The Princeton Review, Forbes, Washington Monthly, and Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education, Jewell is cited for its overall value, academic rigor, small class sizes, high graduation rates, generous financial aid, and a 99 percent placement rate.

## William Woods University

Fulton, Missouri  
 Founded: 1870  
 Affiliation: Disciples of Christ  
 Enrollment Headcount: 1752 (1118 FTE)  
 Student-faculty ratio: 9 to 1  
 Average ACT (freshman): 22.7

Consistently ranked as one of the top 100 regional universities in the Midwest by U.S. News, William Woods welcomed the largest incoming class of new students in its 154-year history in 2023. The University has consistently expanded its mission through the years, adding online and advanced degree programs in the 1990s and significantly expanding its online course offerings by instituting Woods Global in 2022 to address the coeducational needs of working adults better. William Woods is headquartered on 200 scenic acres in Fulton, a coeducational, independent, professions-oriented, liberal arts-based institution. It is also an official Military Friendly School, working closely with military and veteran students and their families.

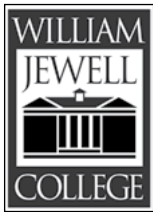
Unique undergraduate programs of study include a four-year American Sign Language program, an internationally recognized Equestrian Studies program, Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity and the Show-Me GOLD program, which prepares young men and women to become commissioned Missouri National Guard officers.

In addition, William Woods offers undergraduate and graduate programs for working adults, including a Master of Business Administration, Healthcare Administration, Education and Education Specialist, and also established its first-ever Ph.D. program in 2023, a Doctorate of Philosophy in Leadership.

# MISSOURI

## COLLEGES FUND INC.

SINCE 1952



THE POWER IN PURPOSE™



WEBSITE



FACEBOOK



LINKEDIN