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Governor Wants to Slash Funding for Private College Students

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Lindenwood University - Campus News

Governor Wants to Slash Funding for Private College Students

03/12/2010

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon announced in a speech regarding budget cuts on Thursday, March 11, that he intends to eliminate Bright Flight and Access Missouri state grant funding for students attending private colleges.

Under the existing state-funded grant program, those with demonstrated financial need can receive tuition support to attend any eligible public or private college or university in the state.

Nearly 20 percent of students attending Lindenwood University currently receive Access Missouri grants. If the program is eliminated, many would suffer financial hardship just to continue to attending their school of choice.

"The state budget should not be balanced on the backs of students with demonstrated financial need who choose to attend Missouri's independent institutions, as they are certainly no less deserving of assistance than those who choose to attend public institutions," said Lindenwood President James D. Evans, Ph.D. "These students and their parents are Missouri taxpayers with real financial need, and they have a right to receive Missouri's educational grant support. It is critical that students, parents, and alumni take the time to voice their opposition to this measure.'

Letters of opposition can be mailed to The Office of Governor Jay Nixon, P.O. Box 720, Jefferson City, Mo., 65102. He also can be reached by phone at (573) 751-3222.