

HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Harris-Stowe State University Responds to Funding Cuts

(ST. LOUIS): On Tuesday, June 27, 2017, Harris-Stowe State University's Board of Regents approved the school's 2017-2018 budget. Despite a cut of approximately \$1.6M from its core funding, the university was able to achieve a balanced budget.

The approved cost-effective measures do not include: massive layoffs, furloughs or substantial tuition increases. Beginning this fall, the school will start collecting fees for campus parking and increase tuition by \$5 per credit hour. The increase, is the first one for the university since the 2012-2013 school year. Harris-Stowe has the lowest total tuition in Missouri among 34 public and private 4-year institutions. Other steps include, consolidation of positions through attrition and lowering the employer contribution on health insurance for employee-only coverage.

Harris-Stowe will continue to focus on increased retention and recruitment of students. The 2016-2017 numbers confirm the aggressive growth strategy is working. The school saw a 24.4% increase in new student enrollment and an 8.6% increase in overall enrollment. The figures represent the largest increase among all Missouri public universities and the 2nd consecutive enrollment increase for the school in more than five years. In 2015, with more than 600 students, Harris-Stowe welcomed their largest freshman class in school history.

Retaining these students is of critical importance to the school. Achieving a year-to-year freshman retention rate of between 75% and 80% over the next 18 months, will help Harris-Stowe offset this and future declines in state allocations.

As the school readies itself for a transformational and productive 2017-18 Academic Year, the institution's mission is clear. Despite hardships, it will continue to serve as a beacon of opportunity for underrepresented youth, just as it has done for the past 160 years.

About Harris-Stowe State University

Harris-Stowe State University's mission is to provide outstanding educational opportunities for individuals seeking a rich and engaging academic experience. Harris-Stowe offers programs designed to nurture intellectual curiosity and build authentic skills that prepare students for leadership roles in a global society.

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