UNIVERSITIES POST RECORD MINORITY ENROLLMENTS

One of the University of Kansas' recruiters is in charge of reaching students as young as sixth grade to help get them ready for college.

GRACE HOBSON  
• The Kansas City Star

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — When Kameron Mack was choosing a college, he considered two: predominantly black Clark Atlanta University and the predominantly white University of Kansas.

The University of Kansas won out.

After a recruiter visited a college fair at Mack's church and he considered the education he would get as a journalism major, Mack set aside his trepidations about life as an African-American on a mostly white campus.

"I thought maybe I'd get a more comfortable education at Clark," Mack said. "But for what I want to do, KU was a better school. I can't let race or fear come in the way of that."

This fall, Mack joined the second-largest group of African-American freshmen in University of Kansas history. In fact, the university's African-American freshman class grew by 28 percent this year, and the numbers of freshman Latino students increased by 23 percent.

Overall, the university this year has the most racially diverse student body in school history.

Universities in Kansas and Missouri — and nationwide — posted record minority enrollments this year, thanks in part to the diverse freshman classes they were able to attract.

— At the University of Missouri, minorities in the freshman class increased by 27 percent, with events to teach first-time college families about financial aid and scholarship and housing applications, said Pat Bosco, vice president of student life.

Its most powerful tool is students and alumni, including multicultural ambassadors, who spread the word about how well students are treated at Kansas State, said Bosco, who gives his home phone number to freshmen parents.

One of the University of Kansas' recruiters is in charge of reaching students as young as sixth grade to help get them ready for college, said Furbek, associate director of the office of admissions and scholarships.

Recruiters offer students of color the same bragging points they tell others, said Chuck May, senior associate director of admissions at the University of Missouri. They urge them to visit campus.

And they specifically sell minorities on the scholarship benefits, the opportunities at the University of Missouri and how friendly the campus is, May said.

The university has recruiters who live in Chicago, Dallas, St. Louis and Kansas City, May said.

A Chicago recruiter reached out to Lauren Foreman, now a junior, and won over her and about 10 of her Morgan Park High School classmates. All but one was black, Foreman said.

Even before the recruiter visited, Foreman knew she wanted to go to the University of Missouri's journalism school. But it helped that she had a built-in support system coming with her.

The low numbers of minorities at the University of Missouri — about one in 10 students — can be disheartening, Foreman said. The silver lining is that the black community is small and tight-knit.

"I feel really close with the black community here," Foreman said.

Not all minority students feel so welcome on campus. A University of Missouri-Kansas City audit released in 2006 described the school's racial climate as poor for African-American and Hispanic students.
African-American and Latino freshmen groups each growing by 27 percent — record highs.

— At Kansas State University, a 40 percent increase in Latino freshmen and record high numbers of African-American freshmen helped push the school's total minority enrollment to its highest levels ever.

— The University of Missouri-Kansas City posted a 6.1 percent gain in its total minority enrollment and a 17 percent increase in Hispanic freshmen.

The gains this year are impressive, but recruiters acknowledge they have more work to do. For example, African-Americans make up just 5.6 percent of the University of Missouri's student body and only 3.5 percent of the University of Kansas.

As a proportion of all students, the University of Missouri's multicultural enrollment actually has stayed flat in the past 10 years.

And that 17 percent increase in Hispanic freshmen at the University of Missouri-Kansas City? It was a jump from 35 Latino students to 41 — out of a class of 1,007 students.

“We have a long way to go,” said Lee Furbeck, who is in charge of multicultural recruitment at the University of Kansas.

Universities have long embraced the need for diverse student bodies. They want to reflect society for their students. They see a responsibility to give all students the benefit of a college degree. And the more diverse the campus is, the more likely they are to keep the minorities they recruit.

The efforts have paid off nationwide. The number of minority students grew by 50 percent from 1995 to 2005, according to a recently released study of minorities in higher education.

“It’s encouraging news, but hardly surprising,” said Minkyung Ryu, the study’s author, explaining that demographic shifts have made high schools more diverse. Also, more students understand the need for a college degree.

In recent years, universities have hired more recruiters and focused some recruiters on targeting minorities. They’ve conducted more events geared toward minorities and sent recruiters to talk to younger and younger students.

Kansas State University sponsors LaKesha Moore came to the university from St. Louis. Many of the black freshmen in her class have since left the school, she said. But she has made the most of her college experience, getting involved in student government, a sorority and the African-American Student Union.

“If I was the only black student, I knew I wanted to come to school to get an education,” said Moore, a junior. “I looked around and (thought), These are my peers. They’re coming to school for the same thing.”

The University of Missouri-Kansas City has worked to make its student body and faculty more diverse and friendlier to minorities.

Last year, it hired Alex Lopez as coordinator of multicultural recruitment. Lopez spends time in urban schools on both sides of the state line to persuade inner-city students to further their education, whether at the University of Missouri-Kansas City or elsewhere.

The university has events for African-American and Hispanic high school sophomores, the population most at risk for dropping out, Lopez said. He also has a conference for African-American males, who are especially scarce on college campuses.

The limited pool of minority high school students is the biggest obstacle, recruiters said.

High-achieving students are recruited like crazy. And that’s why it’s so important to connect with younger students, said Furbeck of the University of Kansas.

“If we have more students who are better prepared for college, that’s going to increase the numbers of multicultural students not just here but at other institutions as well,” Furbeck said.

Mack, who is from Wichita, is glad he chose the University of Kansas. He already is an executive board member of the Black Student Union, but he is also part of the University Dance Company, an organization he described as “all white.”

His fears — that he would not fit in or be accepted at the university — have not been realized.

“I don’t think it was as big of a deal as I made it out to be,” Mack said.
KANSAS PHARMACIST NUMBERS AILING

WICHITA (AP) — Thirty-one of Kansas' 105 counties have only one pharmacy, while six others have none.

Experts say those numbers could get even worse if state budget cuts delay a $60 million expansion of the University of Kansas' School of Pharmacy.

The pharmacy project — which includes a new building on the Lawrence campus and expansion of a building at the university's Wichita campus — has been approved this year for $20 million in bonds from the state. Lawmakers also planned to spend $15 million of expected gambling revenues in each of 2010 and 2011 on the project.

The University of Kansas is raising the other $10 million. Of that, $5 million would pay for a second floor to the university's School of Medicine campus in Wichita to train 40 pharmacists.

The new building in Lawrence would add space for about 45 more students on top of the 105 already enrolled.

But Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' budget office has asked the Board of Regents to cut $15 million from its budget, a cut the regents have voted to appeal.

"The budget is so bad for 2010, if they only cut $15 million, they're going to be lucky," said state Sen. Jean Schodorf, a Wichita Republican.

Also, prospects aren't as clear that the gambling revenues will be there to pay for later phases of the expansion project.

University spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said the university needs the bulk of the pharmacy school money before construction starts and the bonds it will receive this year are only enough for the initial design phase.

She said if the money for the later phases isn't there, it brings up the question of whether plans for the expansion should continue.

Merlin McFarland, who owns Kingman County's only drug store, said he almost had to close last year because he couldn't find anyone to fill two open pharmacist positions.

"If I hadn't put the staff together, I maybe would have looked at closing the store down," said McFarland, who has owned Kingman Drug Store for 34 years.

He filled the positions with a University of Kansas pharmacy student he had recruited for a few years and a former pharmacist at the store whom he rehired.

Pharmacy staffing problems could shrink access to quality health care and even lead to mistakes that can harm customers, experts say.

Debra Billingsley, executive secretary for the Kansas State Board of Pharmacists, said the number of complaints to the state board this year is about twice as high as in recent years. Most of those involve customers who received the wrong medicine or dosage, she said.

Some of that increase, though, she attributed to people becoming aware they can report problems to the board.

Billingsley said the pharmacist problem in Kansas could grow worse as pharmacists, especially in western Kansas, reach retirement age and their positions become harder to fill.
A Tonganoxie High School grad can add one more accomplishment to her list.

Kaitlyn King, formerly Kaitlyn Kelly, has just won two globally-recognized awards in chemical engineering. Her awards came just six months after she graduated at the top of her class from the Kansas University School of Engineering with a bachelor’s in chemical and petroleum engineering.

“I really didn’t think I was going to win,” she said about the awards.

King won two out of the five top design safety awards sponsored by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

The awards were for a month-long project in which she and 20 other students individually came up with a process to turn coal into ethanol.

The students not only had to make the conversion, but they had to make it economically viable and, more importantly, make it safe.

Colin Howat, associate professor for the university’s chemical and petroleum engineering department, said he wasn’t surprised that King’s design won some awards because she was such a good student in his design class.

“It was as a stellar performance on her part,” Howat said about her design. “She’s a phenomenal engineer.”

Each year Howat is able to submit two entries from the university for the award.

国王的父母，Keyta Kelly，Leavenworth County counselor-at-large，and Mike Kelly，Tonganoxie city attorney，were happy with her accomplishment.

“We’re very proud of her, but we’ve been proud of her for years,” Keyta said. “She’s always been one of those kids that puts her complete effort into something and makes sure she does it right.”

Howat said winning the award was great because it was recognized in the industry and it gives students the understanding that they are able to do the work well. But it also came with a few other bonuses.

“There’s a little bit of prize money.” King said. “And you have bragging rights. That’s also nice.”

After graduation, King began working for Trinity Consultants, Lenexa, as an environmental consultant.

She said her new company was excited about her accomplishment and would publish a story in their next newsletter.
Scholarships awarded to area students

Five students are recipients of Barton Community College Employee Development Fund Scholarships for the 2008-09 academic year. This endowed scholarship is given by the Barton Community College Foundation. Area recipients include:

Cory Arnold, a 2007 graduate of Medicine Lodge High School, is a sophomore at Barton majoring in criminal justice. His scholarship is an $800 honor award. In high school, he lettered in football. At Barton, he is a yell leader and was named to the Dean's List. He is the son of Stacy Arnold, Medicine Lodge, and Terry Arnold, Texas.

Benjamin Eastes, a 2007 graduate of Pratt High School, is a sophomore at Barton majoring in history. His scholarship is a $1,000 excellence award. In high school, he was active in golf, Science Club and band. He was named a KU Scholar and was a league placer in golf for four years, a regional winner one year, state qualifier all four years and state placer one year. At Barton, he has been named to the President’s List. He is the son of Kelly and Aleta Eastes and Chris and Ty Clinesmith.
Community colleges, PSU and ESU, continue to work together

Harold Campbell
Tribune Reporter

The state's educational leaders are focusing increasingly on technical education and filling workforce needs, the president and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents told southeast Kansas community college and university officials at the annual Southeast Kansas SYSTEM legislative dinner at Neosho County Community College.

"The Board of Regents and higher education leaders have placed a significant focus on advancing technical education, the lion's share of which is delivered by the state's community colleges," said Reggie Robinson, Regents president and CEO.

Robinson also said the state's education officials were working with business leaders to develop programs to meet the state's workforce needs, particularly in areas such as teaching, nursing, pharmacy and engineering where worker shortages exist.

Tuesday night's event was the 14th annual Southeast Kansas SYSTEM legislative dinner.

Southeast Kansas SYSTEM is a partnership of the region's six community colleges -- Allen, Coffeyville, Fort Scott, Independence, Labette and Neosho County -- and two universities -- Emporia State and Pittsburg State -- to improve the access and quality of higher education in the area and help meet the training needs for area businesses.

Robinson also said the Regents would be among the many stakeholders taking part in the Kansas P-20 Council formed this past summer to seek ways to ensure students can move "seamlessly" from K-12 education to higher education.

At the same time, he acknowledged higher education faces a number of critical economic issues.

"This legislative session legislators will confront issues that might make them wonder what they were thinking about when they ran for election," he said.

In an interview after the dinner, state Rep. Richard Proehl, R-Parsons, one of two legislators at the event, predicted a difficult session for those connected with higher education.

"There are going to be lots of cuts all the way through," he said.

"We'll have to spread the pain so that everybody will need to share the burden. It's not going to be fun, but it's a reality."

Also at Tuesday's meeting, six outstanding alumni who attended southeast Kansas community colleges and then transferred to either ESU or PSU were honored.

Chanute-area residents honored were Dr. Martin Dillow, a Chanute High School and NCCC graduate who went on to ESU and the University of Kansas School of Medicine and began a family medicine practice at
Reggie Robinson, Kansas Board of Regents president and CEO, addresses the 14th annual Southeast Kansas SYSTEM dinner Tuesday evening at Neosho County Community College.

Ashley Clinic in August, and Nancy Ford, an ACCC and ESU graduate who is now public relations director at ACCC.

Both Dillow and Ford commented on their positive

---

Colleges: Continued from Page 1

experiences in community colleges and their ease in transferring to four-year universities.

“Definitely the education I received in my first two years was very adequate,” Dillow said. “When I got to Emporia State, I thought I was as well prepared as those students who had been there the first two years.”

Ford took classes online at ESU, which she said helped her a great deal.

“I could do homework on my schedule in the time I had available,” she said.
Kansas pharmacist numbers declining

Thirty-one of Kansas' 105 counties have only one pharmacy, while six others have none.

Experts say those numbers could get even worse if state budget cuts delay a $60 million expansion of the University of Kansas' School of Pharmacy.

The pharmacy project — which includes a new building on the Lawrence campus and expansion of a building at the university's Wichita campus — has been approved this year for $20 million in bonds from the state. Lawmakers also planned to spend $15 million of expected gambling revenues in each of 2010 and 2011 on the project.

The University of Kansas is raising the other $10 million. Of that, $5 million would pay for a second floor to the university's School of Medicine campus in Wichita to train 40 pharmacists.

The new building in Lawrence would add space for about 45 more students on top of the 105 already enrolled.

But Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' budget office has asked the Board of Regents to cut $15 million from its budget, a cut the regents have voted to appeal.

"The budget is so bad for 2010, if they only cut $15 million, they're going to be..."
Pharmacist Continued from Page 1


Also, prospects aren't as clear that the gambling revenues will be there to pay for later phases of the expansion project.

University spokeswoman Lynn Bretz said the university needs the bulk of the pharmacy school money before construction starts and the bonds it will receive this year are only enough for the initial design phase.

She said if the money for the later phases isn't there, it brings up the question of whether plans for the expansion should continue.

Merlin McFarland, who owns Kingman County's only drug store, said he almost had to close last year because he couldn't find anyone to fill two open pharmacist positions.

"If I hadn't put the staff together, I maybe would have looked at closing the store down," said McFarland, who has owned Kingman Drug Store for 34 years.

He filled the positions with a University of Kansas pharmacy student he had recruited for a few years and a former pharmacist at the store whom he rehired.

Pharmacy staffing problems could shrink access to quality health care and even lead to mistakes that can harm customers, experts say.

Debra Billingsley, executive secretary for the Kansas State Board of Pharmacists, said the number of complaints to the state board this year is about twice as high as in recent years. Most of those involve customers who received the wrong medicine or dosage, she said.

Some of that increase, though, she attributed to people becoming aware they can report problems to the board.

Billingsley said the pharmacist problem in Kansas could grow worse as pharmacists, especially in western Kansas, reach retirement age and their positions become harder to fill.

"There are people out there who would like to retire but feel like they can't," she said.
Hey, Iola parents, brainwash your precious children

News from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy offers parents a great gift idea for their children: Start today with a You-Gotta-Go-To-College brainwashing barrage.

The KU news note reports that 31 of the 105 counties in Kansas have only one pharmacy and six have none at all. The story also said those numbers may get worse if state budget cuts delay a $60 million expansion planned for the school.

Pharmacists make good money. The skill is portable. Want to live in Hawaii? Maine? Florida? Or stay right here in good, old Kansas, a degree in pharmacy can be a passport.

What is true for that profession, also describes dozens of others. But all of them require training and almost all of them require a college or specialty school degree.

A college education can’t be wrapped up, tied with tinsel and tucked under the tree. But parents can, and most certainly should, tell their children that they are going to a university when they graduate from high school and never let the thought leave their minds.

Parents can also:
— Start reading to their children about the time they can crawl and keep the habit up until they are well into their teens. Read from a wide range of books and magazines that silently say to them, this is a wondrous world you live in and it is ever so important for you to learn as much about it as you can. Attitude is everything. Teach your children to read for fun and to consider learning a special pleasure and you will have given them invaluable treasures.
— Open tax-advantaged college savings accounts for each of them while they are in the cradle. Education is expensive; education is the best investment a family can make in the future of the next generation.
— Never pass up the opportunity to use educated adults children know and like as examples: Grandparents, uncles, aunts, teachers, physicians, school principals, bankers, lawyers, accountants, business owners, city officials.
— Encourage older children to read and praise them for reading well and choosing books that broaden their horizons.

Most important, parents must be an example to their children by showing them that they, themselves, value knowledge, expertise and learning of all kinds.

If these wonderful gifts for your children aren’t already under your family tree, put them there now.

— Emerson Lynn, jr.
Economic presentation to be offered

An economic presentation, “Thriving in a Challenging Economy,” will be from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 in the Lincoln Room of MidAmerican Bank and Trust Company, 401 Delaware.

Will Katz, director of the University of Kansas Small Business Development Center will host the seminar and roundtable discussion. The seminar will outline specific strategies for businesses and the roundtable will include a group discussion encouraging participation. Those who attend the free event will be asked to enter from the south parking lot through the back bank entrance and take the stairs or elevator down to the room. Coffee, juice and morning appetizers will be provided.
RH Students Get KU Scholarships

The University of Kansas School of Law at Lawrence awarded the Law Fee Grant to former Rose Hill High School graduate Andrew Ricke, son of David and Shelia Ricke of Rose Hill.

Zachary Robert Clark, son of Brian and Kim Clark of Rose Hill was awarded the Solon E Summerfield scholarship. Clark is a pre-law freshman at the KU school of law.
Students to attempt 500-mpg car

LAWRENCE (AP) — Gas station visits would be rare if a group of University of Kansas students is successful.

Professor Chris Depcik and his mechanical engineering students are trying to design a vehicle that could travel 500 miles on one gallon of fuel.

The goal is to build several modular-type engines that run on different types of fuels, including bio-fuels, diesel and natural gas. The plan calls for the engines to be interchangeable with the same car. For the project, the students are using a 1974 Super Beetle that was donated to the school.