

 **St. Louis Graduates**
Illinois Education Research Council 

Degrees with Less Debt: *Effective Higher Education Strategies for Underrepresented Student Populations*



 **ST. LOUIS GRADUATES** November 7, 2017

 **Project Organizations** 

St. Louis Graduates – Commissioned Study

- Network of K-12 and higher education leaders, college access/success non-profits, business and philanthropy
- Primary goal is to increase postsecondary degree attainment for low-income, first-generation, and students of color in the St. Louis region

Illinois Education Research Council, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville – Research Lead

- Education policy research organization
- Provides objective research evidence for P-20 education policy audiences in Illinois and throughout the region

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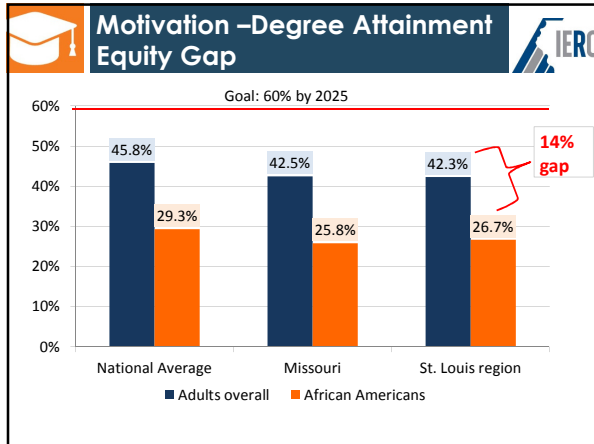
 **Motivation– Labor Force Needs** 

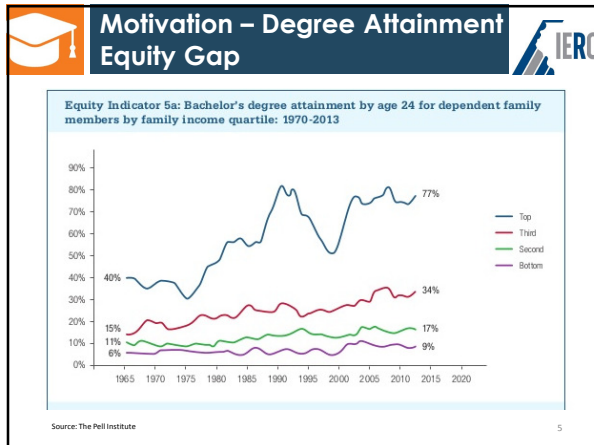
BY 2020
2/3
OF JOBS
in Missouri and Illinois
WILL REQUIRE
AN ASSOCIATE'S
DEGREE OR
HIGHER



Source: https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Recovery2020.SR_Web_.pdf

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DEGREES WITH LESS DEBT

Effective Higher Education Strategies for Underrepresented Student Populations

Dr. Janet K. Holt
Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership,
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

IERC ILLINOIS EDUCATION RESEARCH COUNCIL

MOHELA

 **Purpose of Project** 



1. Identify higher education institutions that are most successful in supporting and graduating underrepresented students from St. Louis
2. Examine the programs, services, and strategies these institutions are using to graduate underrepresented students with less debt

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 **Universities in the Study** 

- Fontbonne University
- Harris-Stowe State University
- Lincoln University
- Lindenwood University
- Maryville University
- McKendree University
- Missouri Baptist University
- Missouri State University
- Missouri S&T
- Saint Louis University
- Southeast Missouri State University
- Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
- Southern Illinois-Edwardsville
- Truman State University
- University of Central Missouri
- University of Missouri-Columbia
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- University of Missouri-St. Louis
- Washington University
- Webster University

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 **Success Formula for Ranking** 

Success Formula

- Ranking calculation based on predicted vs. actual 6-year graduation rates and median student loan debt at graduation

Minimal Thresholds:

- Institutions needed a minimum 6-year graduation rate of 50%
- At least 25% of the student body must have received a Pell Grant

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 **5 INSTITUTIONS EFFECTIVELY GRADUATING UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS WITH LESS DEBT**



MARYVILLE UNIVERSITY Missouri State WEBSTER UNIVERSITY SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY · 1873 UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

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 **5 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES** 

- University leadership
- Just-in-time academic support
- Flexible and sufficient financial aid
- Early college experiences
- Coordinated and caring community



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 **University Leadership** 



- University commitment to college access and affordability
- Goal setting and strategy development for student success
- Professional development for faculty & staff in the areas of diversity and inclusion
- Intentional engagement with underrepresented students

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 **Early College Experiences** 



- Summer Bridge Programs
- New Student Orientation Programs
- First-Year Experience Courses & Programming
- Learning Communities

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 **Just-In-Time Academic Support** 



- Early Alert Systems & Learning Analytics
- Easy Access to Tutoring & Supplemental Instruction
- Co-requisite Remediation
- Guided Pathways to Success
- Mentoring Programs

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 **Flexible & Sufficient Financial Aid** 

- Keeping Unmet Need Low for Financially At-Risk students
- Providing Need-Based Aid to Supplement the Pell Grant
- Offering Flexible Aid to Adapt to Changing Student Circumstances
- Financial Literacy and Knowledge of Financial Resources

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 **Coordinated & Caring Communities** 

- Providing a "Family" atmosphere
- Caring Means Believing in Students
- Wrap-Around Support Services
- Coordination of Care

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 **PANELISTS** 

MODERATOR:
Laura Winter Project Director, St. Louis Graduates

PANELISTS:
Trent Ball Assistant Vice President for Academic Diversity and Outreach, Southeast Missouri State University

Dr. Tracey Glaessgen Assistant Director, First Year Programs, Missouri State University

Tony Lubbers Director of Financial Aid, University of Central Missouri

Martha Harbaugh Director of Financial Aid, Maryville University

Terri Reilly Adjunct Professor, Webster University

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 **Contact Us** 

Laura Winter
St. Louis Graduates Project Director
laura@stlouisgraduates.org

Janet Holt, Ph.D.
Former Director of the Illinois Education Research Council and Professor Emeritus, SIUE
janholt@sive.edu