

## STATE FUNDING

Missouri's higher education funding per student ranks **44<sup>th</sup> in the country** – 42% below the national average.<sup>i</sup>

**LAST as compared to its 8 neighboring states** – 55% BELOW their average

**LAST as compared to the 10 most conservative states<sup>ii</sup>** – 53% BELOW their average

**LAST as compared to the 10 lowest tax states<sup>iii</sup>** – 85% BELOW their average

## TUITION<sup>iv</sup>

Missouri's public universities' total tuition increase over the past five years was just 5%.

**3<sup>rd</sup> lowest increase in the country** – one-fourth of the national average tuition increase

**THE LOWEST increase compared to neighboring states** – one-third of their average increase

Over the last five years, community college tuition has increased a total of just \$10.

**The average community college tuition increase over the past five years was 0.6%.**

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT<sup>v</sup>

**Unemployment goes DOWN** as educational attainment increases.

- The unemployment rate for bachelor's degree holders (4%) and associate's degree holders (5.4%) are far lower than for those with only a high school diploma (7.5%) or less than a high school diploma (11%).

- Community colleges and public universities work closely together to allow student transfers through strong in-state articulation agreements.

**Average earnings go UP** as educational attainment increases.

- Weekly earnings for associates and bachelor's degree holders average between 20% and 70% higher compared to those with only a high school diploma.

- Employees with associates degrees and customized training leading to industry credentials are in high demand in today's economy.

## THE TIME TO INVEST IS NOW!

**To begin the process of turning the corner, Missouri's public higher education institutions request:**

- **5% increase in core performance and equity funding for FY 2016**
- **Passage of remaining \$162 million bonding proceeds for badly needed maintenance and repair projects.**

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<sup>i</sup> MO average - \$4,975, national average - \$7,072. Source: Illinois State University, Grapevine Reports

<sup>ii</sup> MO average - \$4,975, conservative states' average - \$7,797. Source: Gallup's "State of the States" series and Illinois State University, Grapevine Reports

<sup>iii</sup> MO average - \$4,975, lowest tax states' average - \$9,213. Source: WalletHub.com, and Illinois State University, Grapevine Reports.

<sup>iv</sup> Source: The College Board, "Trends in College Pricing, 2014-2015.

<sup>v</sup> Source: Current Population Survey, US Bureau of Labor and Statistics, US Department of Labor