

Today

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1985

VOL. 1 NO. 27

ECS promotes undergrad quality

The summer issue of the Education Commission of the States' quarterly tabloid, "The State Leader," unfolds a cover story on action to improve the educational quality of undergraduate institutions.

"America's social and economic strength depends as much on the quality of undergraduate education as it does on the quality of elementary/secondary schools....The formal education process to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values essential for effective participation in a dramatically changing world does not, and should not, end with graduation from high school for millions of Americans," author Aims McGuinness, ECS assistant executive director for higher education, writes.

McGuinness says the state, despite the movement toward deregulation, bears the responsibility for the quality of its undergraduate colleges and universities.

Much of the debate, McGuinness says, centers around six common "scenarios." McGuinness reports that colleges and universities have raised admission standards and high schools have raised graduation standards to more adequately prepare students for the college curriculum.

The use of testing to determine student placement and competence has accelerated, primarily used as an alternative to tightened admission requirements in community and junior colleges.

States are beginning to provide incentives to colleges and universities to promote a thrust toward quality instead of quantity.

Several states have backed away from government control by handing over more responsibility to the governing boards and administrators of the individual institutions.

Critics believe the states rely too heavily upon the opinions of accreditation boards which, critics believe, cannot and should not control the quality of the institutions. State systems of accreditation have been considered; however, the movement toward decentralization is prohibitive to this measure.

“ Northeast Missouri University is using outcome data for both overall institutional planning and curriculum evaluation and revision. ”

"Uneasiness with—and considerably polarized debate over—how to better measure institutional effectiveness and student success. To be sure, institutions grade students and issue diplomas, but critics are calling for more and better measurements in the eighties both to 'certify' the

knowledge and skills gained by students, and for program evaluation. Tennessee has turned to 'performance funding'...to motivate institutions to define objectives and measure progress toward them. Other states are requiring institutions to show how 'outcome measurements' (i.e., tests) are used in reviewing programs. Northeast Missouri University is using outcome data for both overall institutional planning and curriculum evaluation and revision."

McGuinness concludes by writing that lasting educational reform must come from challenges within the individual institutions of higher education.

"State higher education policy makers have a difficult task ahead of them. They must, somehow, create conditions and incentives at the state level that foster institutional efforts to improve, but that do not dictate, frustrate or discourage these efforts. Policy for quality will have to be developed in the negative economic environment of the eighties and in the fact of projected enrollment declines."

The ECS was formed in 1965 "...to help governors, state legislators, state education officials and others develop policies to improve the quality of education at all levels." Northeast was the only university specifically referenced in McGuinness' article.

THIS WEEK...

AUGUST GRADUATES should pick up their graduation announcements in 203 Administration/Humanities Building. Students need their graduation fees paid receipt to pick up announcements.

JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENTS from Hosei University in Tokyo, are hosting a talent show at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, in the Activities Room of the Student Union Building. The show features the visiting scholars in traditional Japanese activities. The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

THE SUMMER ROTC Commissioning Ceremony begins at 3 p.m. Friday, in the Alumni Room of the Student Union Building. Maj. Nicholas Mikus, director of instruction in Military Science, will give an address. Four August graduates will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the Army, including Jeffrey Bailey, Roosevelt Goliday, Patrick Mullins and Joe Sutherland.

ITEMS OF INTEREST...

FACULTY AND STAFF may obtain videotape copies of the signing of House Bill 196, by providing Audio-Visual with the videotape for dubbing.

MEN'S VARSITY SOCCER TEAM try-outs begin at 9 a.m., Aug. 16, in Pershing Arena. For information, call Dan Hogan at 627-1436 or 627-1355.

EMPLOYEES AND GUESTS of Northeast Missouri State University are entitled to receive preferred group seating at any of the Kansas City Chiefs home games during the 1985 season. A group of 25 or more can receive \$3 off the \$14 upper-level reserve seat tickets. For a free game planning kit, write the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Attn: Ken Blume, One Arrowhead Drive, Kansas City, MO 64129. During the games attended by a group from Northeast, the University will be mentioned in the official program, "Gameday Magazine" and on the scoreboard during the game.

THE FALL CALENDAR ISSUE of the **Northeast Today** will be distributed on campus, Sept. 2. Deadline for entries is Tuesday, Aug. 27 and entries for the calendar edition should be marked, "For Calendar Edition." There will be a regular edition of the **Northeast Today** distributed Aug. 23, during regular registration. Deadline for entries for this edition is Monday, Aug. 19. Entries for both the Aug. 23 and the calendar editions should be marked as such. All entries should be submitted on the **Northeast Today** forms available in the Public Relations Office, 202 Administration/Humanities Building.

NOTES...

Marlow Ediger, Education, has received notification this his manuscript, "Principles of Learning in the Mathematics Curriculum," has been accepted for publication in "Mathematics Education," published by the Korean Society for Mathematical Education. **Gretchen Cornell of the Division of Nursing**, presented a paper, "Measures of Student Nurse Satisfaction as Related to Selected Proxy Measures of Quality Education at Northeast Missouri State University—The Value-Added Approach," at the Measurement of Clinical and Educational Nursing Outcomes Conference, June 28, in New Orleans.

D A T E L I N E

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TUESDAY

Hosei University student talent show, 7:30 p.m., Activities Room, SUB

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THURSDAY

Second Summer Session ends

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FRIDAY

Board of Regents meeting, 2:30 p.m., Conference Room, SUB
ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, 3 p.m., Alumni Room, SUB
Commencement, 7:30 p.m., Stokes Stadium

The **Northeast Today** is published weekly by the Public Relations Office. Deadline for entries is at 5 p.m. the Wednesday preceding Monday's publication. Special deadlines apply before and after vacations. Entries should be submitted on the **Northeast Today** forms available in the Public Relations Office, 202 Administration Humanities Building.