

Tab 10 Attachment C

## MSSU Response to Public Comments

### Response to Comment from Metropolitan Community College

Missouri Southern State University is a four-year institution who offers Health and Life Science programs at both the associate and bachelor’s degree levels. As such, we currently recruit from across the state of Missouri, nationally and internationally. In particular, the two categories of programs highlighted in yellow in the table below contain the associate degree programs and have a significant number of students from outside the seven-county area where Missouri Southern is located. We do not anticipate that gaining approval of the statewide mission would alter the geographic focus of our recruitment strategies for the associate programs in question.

#### Geographic Origins of Health and Life Science Majors

Fall 2022

Major	Local Seven County Area	State of Missouri – outside of seven county area	Other States	Foreign Countries
Dental Support Services and Allied Professions	29	21	24	0
Allied Health Diagnostic, Intervention, and Treatment Professions	30	7	10	1

**Response to Comment from Missouri State University**

We have thoroughly reviewed the comments submitted by Missouri State University regarding Missouri Southern State University's application for a statewide mission in international/global education, health and life sciences, and immersive learning experiences. Missouri Southern and Missouri State have long been partners on numerous projects of mutual interest and we look forward to continuing that collaboration in the future.

Missouri State's comments related to the mission application seem to center on two themes: "we also do that" and "we do it on a larger scale." We'd like to address each of those themes individually.

First, the statewide mission program was developed to allow individual institutions to highlight areas of strength that benefit the entire State of Missouri. Statewide missions are not areas in which an individual institution has exclusivity regarding an academic discipline or program. For example, Missouri State's own statewide mission in public affairs is duplicated programmatically to some degree by nearly every other public university in the state, including Missouri Southern. Likewise, statewide missions in the visual and performing arts (Southeast Missouri State) and educator preparation (Northwest Missouri State) do not indicate those institutions are the only universities in the state offering those programs, rather that they have a particular strength in those areas.

It's also worth noting that Missouri Southern readily acknowledges other public universities in Missouri have programs in international/global education, health and life science, and immersive learning opportunities. However, no other university has chosen to apply to the Coordinating Board for statewide missions in those areas. We understand Missouri State being very proud of its offerings in these three areas. Missouri Southern believes these areas represent its own specific institutional strengths and we therefore seek recognition of those strengths by the CBHE and the Missouri General Assembly. Programmatic "overlap" is not a determining factor in approving a statewide mission.

Second, as for the issue of scale, Missouri State is correct: as an institution of over 22,000 students, may very well have a larger number of international/global education opportunities, health and life science students, and immersive learning opportunities. But, as stated above, the purpose of the statewide mission program is not to determine who does it on the largest scale, rather it is an opportunity for an individual institution to highlight its own areas of strength to statewide external constituents, such as leaders in government, industry, and philanthropy. If scale were a determining factor in assigning statewide missions, certainly the University of Missouri would eclipse other public universities, including Missouri State, in the number of students, programs, opportunities, and experiences offered in numerous areas. We acknowledge MSSU has 4,346 students as noted in Missouri State's comments. However, for example, more than half of those students who have declared a major have selected the health and life sciences. Statewide missions are assigned not on the basis of scale, but rather to acknowledge centers of excellence for each institution.

Finally, we do wish to clarify three statements made in Missouri State's comments regarding MSSU's application for a statewide mission. These are:

- Missouri Southern's BSN and LPN to BSN programs are fully approved by the Missouri State Board of Nursing and are nationally accredited by the Accreditation Commission of Nursing Education. The Missouri State Board of Nursing moved the program from conditional approval to full approval at the August 2023 full board meeting and commended the program on the efforts it has made in enhancing the quality of the program and most importantly, the supportive environment offered to the nursing students.
- Missouri State noted it too had 14 programs in the health and life sciences. The determination of programs in those areas was made using CIP codes (Classification of Instructional Programs through the National Center for Educational Statistics). These are the same codes used by the Missouri College and Degree Inventory, and, therefore, are a standard means of grouping programs in specific disciplines (e.g. health and life sciences). While we cannot discern the nature of the fourteenth program cited by Missouri State in their comments, we stand by our CIP code analysis and the results noted in our application.
- Missouri Southern noted in its application that undergraduate students in the health and life sciences had wide access to the institution's on-campus cadaver lab – a highly unusual opportunity for undergraduates in such a variety of academic programs. We were unaware that Missouri State had recently renovated the former professional building near campus and created the Kampeter Health Science Hall. Our understanding is that the facility now includes a cadaver lab, which undergraduates access for two courses. We apologize for the misstatement.

Again, we have a long and productive history of working collaboratively with Missouri State to advance the educational and workforce needs of Southwest Missouri and beyond. We look forward to many more years of building on that partnership. We do, however, in this instance believe Missouri State is basing its comments on two themes that do not represent the spirit and practice in which the Coordinating Board developed and manages the statewide mission program. We stand ready to provide additional information the CBHE believes would be helpful in making this decision.