

# Increase in Students Earning Dual Credit

## At East Central College

There has been a spike in the number of dual credit students this spring at East Central College compared to last year.

There are 525 students who are enrolled in dual credit at ECC, which is 51 more than the 474 enrolled in the spring 2019 semester.

Dual credit allows high school students to earn both college and high school credit simultaneously. Classes are taught by ECC-certified high school faculty in the high school.

According to ECC President Dr. Jon Bauer, the more than 10 percent increase is due, in part, to the college's initiative to provide dual credit to students in the free and reduced lunch program at no cost.

"We are excited about the additional students we are reaching through this dual credit initiative," Bauer said. "East Central is committed to providing tuition-free dual credit for students on the free and reduced lunch program which began this spring."

There are 55 students who are taking advantage of the new ECC program that was approved by the board of trustees in December 2019.

"We moved quickly with this initiative in order to reach as many students as possible, as soon as possible," Bauer commented.

"Cost should not be a barrier to college, and this program ensures that talented high school students can participate in dual credit regardless of income," he said.

"The growth this spring shows that we are on the right path."

The new program aligns with ECC's strategic plan, SOAR to 2024, which calls for the enrollment of 660 dual credit students by October 2024, Bauer said.

**Anticipates Growth**  
ECC Director of Early College Programs Megan Strubberg said she expects even more students in the free and reduced lunch program to enroll in dual credit classes in the fall 2020 semester.

"We are anticipating the program to grow as the word gets out," she said.

In addition to the students in the free and reduced lunch program, Strubberg attributes the increase to an expanded field of offerings to students within their high schools.

"We are so excited to see the dual credit program grow by enhancing our credit offerings to students who are still in high school," she said.

Strubberg added that students who participate in early college programs are more likely to enroll full-time after high school. Early college can shorten the time to degree and reduce the overall cost of higher education for students and their families.

**Feeder Schools**  
Dual credit students are from high school, referred to as feeder schools, throughout the ECC service area, and beyond.

Nearly 25 percent of

the dual credit students this spring attend St. Francis Borgia Regional High School, where 131 are taking ECC courses.

The next largest feeder school is Washington High School with 64, followed by Union High School, 61; St. Clair High School, 58; Cuba High School, 42; and Vienna High School, 24.

There are 15 Owensville High School students in the program and 14 from Rolla High School.

In addition, 92 of the total dual credit students are enrolled in technical courses.

Dual credit differs from dual enrollment. Dual enrollment students are high school students taking traditional classes at the ECC campus or online only. There are 60 additional students in dual enrollment coursework.

The number of credits high school students are taking through dual credit has increased by nearly 17 percent over last spring. This year students are taking 2,394 credits compared to 2,052 in spring 2019.

For more information about all early college programs, contact Strubberg at 636-584-6723 or email Megan.Strubberg@eastcentral.edu.

**Mercy Center Tours**

Mercy offers a free comprehensive tour of the Mercy Hospital Washington maternity unit and childbirth center. For more information and to register visit [mercy.net/Washington-Baby](http://mercy.net/Washington-Baby).



### Holiday Meals

H-J Enterprises, High Ridge, provided its annual holiday meal for employees and staff members of Empac Thursday, Dec. 19. Serving the meal were Dave Landholt and Tim Wunderlich, both of H-J Enterprises. Missouriian Photo.



## NEWS BITES . . .

March 15-21 is **National Sunshine Week**, the annual initiative to raise awareness of the importance of open government in the United States.

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With Tax Day looming, WalletHub released its survey of states with the highest tax rates and the ones with the lowest rates. The states with the lowest **tax rates** are: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming and Florida. States with the highest tax rates are Rhode Island, Iowa, Ohio, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Kansas.

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**Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer** of the 3rd District, which includes Franklin and Warren counties, recently filed

for re-election. He has held the office in the U.S. House since 2008. He is a Republican.

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The Missouri Senate is debating House legislation to create a state prescription **drug monitoring program** (PDMP). Missouri is the only state in the nation without a PDMP program.

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The president of MU, Man Chui, at **Legislative Day** at the Capitol in Jefferson City, at an educational session told members of the General Assembly that Missouri ranks 12th in the country in cancer deaths; 11th in the country in cardiovascular deaths; and 12th in the U.S. in mental distress.

### Habitat Seeks Applicants for Home Lots

Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County is seeking potential homeowner applicants for two lots in Union.

The selection criteria is based on need, income and acceptable credit history.

Applicants will apply for a USDA Direct Loan

as part of the process. Candidates for Habitat homes are those who could not qualify for a conventional loan.

Families must be willing to complete 300 hours of sweat equity on their home.

The application can

be found online at <http://www.franklincountymohabitat.org/apply-for-a-home/>.

Before submitting the application, applicants should call Mary Tinsley, executive director, at 636-583-1020 and make an appointment.

# Home Loan Savings Event

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