



**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI  
STATE UNIVERSITY · 1873**

Office of the President

May 15, 2019

The Honorable Zora Mulligan  
Commissioner  
Missouri Department of Higher Education  
205 Jefferson Street  
P.O. Box 1469  
Jefferson, City, MO 65102

Re: Statewide Mission

Dear Commissioner Mulligan,

Per Dr. Monhollon's March 15, 2019 electronic correspondence to me regarding Southeast Missouri State University's pursuit of a statewide mission, we submit the enclosed application demonstrating sufficient evidence satisfying all of the criteria for institutions seeking a statewide mission. It is our understanding per Dr. Monhollon's correspondence that by sending this to you on this date, this request will be considered by the Coordinating Board at their June 5, 2019 meeting. If this is not the case, I would appreciate the opportunity to have a conversation with you on this matter.

As we have previously discussed, and as Dr. Monhollon's March 15 email alludes, there is no process or format to proscribe the application process. Thus, the enclosed document was modeled and prepared off of an example from the University of Central Missouri that Dr. Monhollon provided to us. Additionally, please note that because §§ 173.030(8)(9) makes reference to submitting requests and applications, and providing evidence to the Coordinating Board, we have shared a copy of this packet with Board's Chairman as well.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 573-651-2222 or via email at [president@semo.edu](mailto:president@semo.edu). Thank you for your assistance on this topic and we look forward to the Coordinating Board's discussion and consideration in June.

Sincerely,

  
Carlos Vargas  
President

CC: Dr. Rusty Monhollon, Asst. Commissioner, Missouri Dept. of Higher Education  
Mr. Douglas R. Kennedy, Chair, Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
The Honorable Kathy Swan, State Representative



Application for Statewide Mission

**Institution Name:** Southeast Missouri State University

**Requested Area(s) for Statewide Mission Designation:** Visual and Performing Arts, Computer Science and Cybersecurity

**Does any other public four-year institution have a statewide mission in the requested area(s)?** No

**Is the institution requesting any additional appropriations to support its request?** No

**Does the institution understand that if a statewide mission is approved in the requested area(s), it will not prohibit other public four-year institutions from offering the same or similar programs?** Yes

**Submission Date:** May 15, 2019

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At the request of Dr. Rusty Monhollon, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs at the Missouri Department of Higher Education, Southeast Missouri State University is submitting this application, in narrative form, to the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education pursuant to RSMo §§173.030(8) and (9) in support of its request for a statewide mission in the visual and performing arts, computer science and cybersecurity.

**I. Institutional Background**

Founded in 1873 as a teacher’s college, Southeast Missouri State University is a dynamic and competitive regional public comprehensive institution located in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. With a total undergraduate and graduate student enrollment of approximately 11,000, Southeast prides itself on offering more than 145 Undergraduate Majors, 100+ Undergraduate Certificates and Minors; and 75+ Graduate Programs. Southeast is also one of five regional institutions in Missouri that participates in a state-wide collaborative with the University of Missouri to offer a Doctorate of Education in Education Leadership (EdD). We are classified by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as “Master’s Colleges & Universities: Larger Programs” and we are consistently recognized among the best by U.S. News’ Best Regional Universities in the Midwest and others. Southeast Missouri State University has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1915.

**The Academic Experience**

With a vast array of academic offerings, Southeast focuses on programs helping students find careers or enter graduate schools of their choice. The University is divided into the following colleges: Donald L. Harrison College of Business and Computing; Earl and Margie Holland College of Arts and

Media; College of Education, Health and Human Studies; College of Humanities and Social Sciences; and College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The **Harrison College of Business and Computing** offers students empowering opportunities to fine-tune their skill sets into careers in a global marketplace. The business programs are AACSB accredited, a quality distinction held by only 5 percent of institutions offering business degrees worldwide. The College is one of only seven institutions in the U.S. designated by the Network of International Business Schools (NIBS) for deep internationalization. Both the computer science and cybersecurity degrees are ABET accredited and the cybersecurity degree is one of just four in the nation to be accredited under ABET's cybersecurity-specific criteria.

The **Holland College of Arts and Media** includes the River Campus, a one-of-a-kind living and learning space and Missouri's only campus dedicated to art, design, dance, music and theatre. Southeast is also Missouri's only university to have all arts programs accredited. In addition, Southeast's Department of Mass Media is one of only two accredited media programs in the state. Mass media students learn at the Rust Center for Media, a unique laboratory in partnership with Cape Girardeau's professional media organization, located in the heart of media row. Since its creation in 2007, the River Campus has served over 300,000 patrons, through more than 85 museum exhibits 67+ gallery exhibits, 62+ faculty recitals, 50+ symphony concerts, 60+ touring series events, and 240+ theatre and dance productions. In 2017, *The Arrow*, Southeast's student newspaper, was honored with the Best Overall Newspaper award among Division I schools at the Missouri College Media Association Conference..

The **College of Education, Health and Human Studies** prepares students for careers in mind, body, and spirit with a heavy emphasis on technology and experiential learning. The EDvolution Center incorporates the latest technology into the curriculum from robotics to virtual reality to 3D printing. The College boasts nine accreditations for its programs, and the education program has been named an Apple Distinguished School. Our highly sought after nursing program consistently produces high licensure pass rates. In the Department of Kinesiology, Nutrition and Recreation, students can choose from nine undergraduate and two graduate programs, including the Bachelor of Science in Sport Management, which was the first in Missouri to have Commission on Sport Management accreditation. The College also includes the Autism Center for Diagnosis and Treatment, which is one of four Missouri Autism Centers for Excellence designated by the Missouri Department of Mental Health; the Center for Speech and Hearing, which provides clinical training for students by offering comprehensive diagnostic and intervention services to the public; the Counselor Education Training Clinic, which provides free confidential private counseling sessions to all Southeast students; and the Center for Play Therapy Education, which is one of only three approved centers in Missouri.

The **College of Humanities and Social Sciences** offers undergraduate and graduate degrees across five Departments, which include disciplines that prepare students for the skills employers report they want most: critical thinking, communication, and teamwork. In addition, the college includes the three-time national debate champions and one of nine undergraduate historic preservation programs in the nation. Our philosophy graduates are accepted to law school at a rate of 100%. Unique features of the College include experiential learning at a Mississippian archeological field camp site in Cape Girardeau; an historic preservation field camp in nearby Ste. Genevieve, Missouri; and Southeast's Law Enforcement Academy, which is a Missouri Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) approved provider, that provided basic and specialized training for more than 2,800 law enforcement

officers since 1987.

**The College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics** includes nationally recognized faculty and accreditations from ABET, ACS, and ATMAE. The college offers unprecedented undergraduate research opportunities. This gives students a competitive edge in their career and graduate school. The College created the state's first programs in unmanned aircraft systems and agriculture management systems. Students learn in modern facilities and laboratories, and our very own research farm to prepare them for the professional world. Departments include Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Engineering and Technology, Environmental Science, and Mathematics.

In addition to the five academic colleges, three **regional campuses** and an additional delivery site exist to support degree attainment, research, and workforce development in Missouri's Bootheel region. Since opening, thousands of students have attended one of Southeast's regional campuses where they can now earn a degree in 10 programs.

Supporting all of academic affairs is **Kent Library**, which provides resources and research materials as well as houses the Rare Book Room and the Center for Faulkner Studies. The University also includes a host of **operational centers** designed to give students experience and put curriculum into practice.

Southeast is accredited by the North Central Association through the Higher Learning Commission. The most recent reaffirmation of accreditation occurred in 2013-2014. The institution will host a reaffirmation of accreditation visit in September 2019. In addition to accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, Southeast has more than 32 program-specific accreditations and certifications, which is believed to place Southeast as one of the top two public four-year institutions in Missouri with this number of accreditations and certifications.

### **The Student Experience**

Southeast's student population of approximately 11,000 comes from around the world – 82 percent from Missouri, 12 percent from out-of-state, and six percent from more than 60 countries. Since 2007, our international enrollment has grown 266 percent (+536 students) and our out-of-state enrollment grew 71 percent (+787 students).

The University has an average class size of 21 students, allowing a personalized learning environment in which students can get to know fellow classmates and instructors. More than 1,100 students are enrolled in online-only courses, generating more than 21,000 credit hours.

Southeast supports more than 230 student organizations, including Student Government, Phi Beta Lambda, Air Force ROTC, the Missouri Army National Guard Show-Me Gold officer leadership development program, and much more. Nineteen percent of students are members of Greek social fraternities and sororities, and there are more than 5,000 participants in intramural and club sports. In addition, Southeast is the only institution in the nation to participate in a week-long program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington, D. C. think tank. Southeast also offers a wide variety of study abroad opportunities for students from all majors and interests in more than 35 countries.

Southeast has 13 Division I athletic programs. As a member of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) since 1991, Southeast is successful in Division I competition, claiming more than 50 OVC regular-season titles and 19 OVC tournament titles, as well as having several teams make NCAA Division I tournament or playoff appearances.

### **Infrastructure**

Southeast's 328-acre main campus is located in Cape Girardeau, Missouri with regional campuses in Kennett, Sikeston, and a delivery site in Poplar Bluff. Southeast also has a regional campus location in Malden that serves as a destination for agriculture research and workforce development collaboration.

Southeast has worked to improve its physical plant to enhance the student experience, investing \$200 million in campus improvements since 2010. New construction includes Merick Hall, LaFerla Hall, Dobbins River Campus Center, four fraternity houses, University Autism Center, Transit Nexus, and the Center for Speech and Hearing. When the River Campus opened in 2007, Southeast founded the only campus in Missouri dedicated exclusively to art, dance, music, and theatre. To accommodate growth, a new residence hall was added on the River Campus and the Department of Theatre and Dance became The Jeanine Larson Dobbins Conservatory of Theatre and Dance. Other recent projects include Catapult Creative House, the Rust Center for Media, the Center for Speech and Hearing, and renovations to Grauel Building.

## **II. Statutory Criteria**

RSMo §173.030(9) states that institutions seeking a statewide mission “shall provide evidence to the coordinating board that they have the capacity to discharge successfully such a mission,” demonstrated by evidence to support the following:

1. The institution enrolls a representative cross-section of Missouri students.
2. The institution offers one or more programs of unusual strength which respond to a specific statewide need.
3. The institution has a clearly articulated admission standard.
4. The institution is characterized by a focused academic environment which identifies specific but limited areas of academic emphasis at the undergraduate or graduate level with a demonstrable capacity to provide significant public service.
5. The institution has adopted and maintains a program of continuous quality improvement, or the equivalent of such a program, and reports annual appropriate and verifiable measures of institutional accountability related to such programs.

In response, Southeast submits the following evidence demonstrating satisfaction with all criteria.

### **1. Southeast enrolls a representative cross-section of Missouri students.**

Southeast Missouri State University enrolls at least 40 percent of its Missouri resident, first-time

degree-seeking freshmen from outside its historic service region. Specifically, using fall 2018 data, 581 students (47.4 percent) came from outside Southeast's CBHE defined service region.

**2. Southeast offers multiple programs of unusual strength that respond to specific statewide needs.**

Visual and Performing Arts

Southeast's programs in the visual and performing arts are of unusual strength because the institution is the only one in Missouri accredited in all areas of the arts – art and design, music, theatre and dance. There are some institutions in Missouri that have accreditations in these areas from the respective accrediting bodies – the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD), the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), and the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) – however, Southeast is the only institution in the state accredited by all of them. In addition, Southeast is the only institution in Missouri that has a separate campus completely dedicated to the visual and performing arts. The quality of our programs, as evidenced by the accreditations; and our state-of-the-art facilities, housed at the River Campus, place Southeast in a position of strength with regard to visual and performing arts education in Missouri.

At Southeast, we are leveraging the quality of our programs and infrastructure to prepare graduates ready to compete in today's global society. During the 2018-2019 academic year, there were 975 students enrolled in the Holland College of Arts and Media, which accounted for over 9 percent of Southeast's total enrollment. Of these, there were 678 students majoring in art, design, music, theatre and dance, representing an increase of nearly 21 percent in just the last two years alone. As a testament to their success, students in the Holland College of Arts and Media have a 95.5 percent career outcomes rate and they are well positioned to help fill some of tens of thousands of jobs that exist in their chosen career pathway. According to MERIC data, careers related to the visual and performing arts have been included in the "hospitality and food service" career pathway. The data shows that jobs in this industry are projected to grow 8.6 percent, or 25,000 jobs, from 2016-2026,<sup>1</sup> providing evidence that Southeast's programs in the visual and performing arts are responding to a specific statewide need.

Computer Science and Cybersecurity

Southeast's programs in computer science and cybersecurity are of unusual strength because the quality of their programs and the success their students have attained. Regarding quality, Southeast's computer science program is one of only eight ABET accredited programs, and Southeast's cybersecurity program is the only program in Missouri, and one of only four in the United States, that is accredited by ABET under new cybersecurity-specific criteria. In addition, Southeast is designated a NSA-DHS National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education, making Southeast one of only three four-year institutions in Missouri to hold this designation and one of just 250 nationally. Southeast's student have leveraged this quality to excel inside and outside of the classroom as evidenced by the fact that the Southeast's cybersecurity students have won the Missouri Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition seven years in a row (2013-2019) and they consistently finish in the top-five at the Midwest Regional Cyber Defense Competition out of schools from approximately twelve states. In addition,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.missourieconomy.org/pdfs/CareerPathwayHospitality.pdf>

Southeast recently opened a state-of-the-art Cyber Range, which provides a space for education and training, product development, offensive activity and competition, detection and defensive competition, response and recovery, and assessment by students, industry and government professionals. The quality of our programs, as evidenced by the accreditations and student success; and our state-of-the-art facilities, place Southeast in a position of strength with regard to computer science and cybersecurity education in Missouri.

At Southeast, we are leveraging the quality of our programs and infrastructure to prepare graduates ready to compete in today's global society. During the 2018-2019 academic year, there were 1,886 students enrolled in the Harrison College of Business and Computing, which accounted for over 17 percent of Southeast's total enrollment. Of these, there were 468 students in Southeast's undergraduate and graduate computer science and cybersecurity programs, representing an increase of nearly 24 percent in just the last two years alone. As a testament to their success, students in the Harrison College of Business and Computing have a 95.5 percent career outcomes rate and they are well positioned to help fill some of tens of thousands of jobs that exist in their chosen career pathway. An April 2017 "Missouri Labor Supply and Demand Analysis" reported approximately 47,837 job ads for positions related to science and technology, but only 3,607 jobseekers. Additional Talent for Tomorrow Labor Market Projections include nearly 5,000 total annual job openings related to computer and information systems managers, computer systems analysts, software developers and other related fields. Further data from the U.S. Department of Labor and others quantifies additional workforce need through the state and nation. Magnifying the need, the Missouri Department of Higher Education reports that Missouri's four-year public institutions of higher education are graduating less than 500 students a year in computer science-related disciplines. All of this provides evidence that Southeast's computer science and cybersecurity programs are responding to a specific statewide need. And when one considers that forecasting using Southeast data from fall 2013 through fall 2018 suggests that the institution's undergraduate and graduate enrollments in computer science and cybersecurity could grow by 28 percent and 51 percent respectively by 2023, Southeast is positioned to respond to this specific need well into the future as well.

**3. Southeast is a moderately selective institution.**

Southeast's clearly articulated admission standard is "moderately selective." This category is one of four-tiered admissions structures approved by the CBHE in 1992 pursuant to §173.0052(6), RSMo.

**4. Southeast's programs have demonstrated capacity to provide significant public service.**

Southeast's programs in the visual and performing arts, computer science and cybersecurity have demonstrated their capacity to provide a significant public service.

Visual and Performing Arts

Since the opening of the River Campus in 2007, the students, faculty and staff and the programming they offer have had a significant impact on the cultural offerings, quality of life, and economic development throughout southeast Missouri. Specifically, over the last twelve

years attendance at River Campus events has exceeded 300,000 people; more than \$3.2 million in revenue has been generated from the more than 650 gallery exhibits, symphony concerts, touring and theatre and dance productions, and special events hosted. In addition, Southeast has hosted the River Campus Summer Arts Festival for the last six years. In 2018, over 4,000 people attended the Festival, which is an increase of at least 500 compared to 2017 and more than double compared to 2015. This day-long free community event features live music, dance and theatrical performances, magic, visual arts displays, hands-on family-friendly art experiential activities, museum exhibitions, musical instrument exploration, creative writing workshops, an art walk and other hands-on activities. To further demonstrate the significant public service Southeast Missouri State University's visual and performing arts programs provide, a February 23, 2019 *Southeast Missourian* article credits the River Campus for helping "redevelop an area of town that was 'in dire need of support'" and talks about the positive impact that entertainment or events such as those offered by Southeast programs has on attracting people to Cape Girardeau that engage in other economic activities thereby positively impacting the city's revenues and growth strategies.<sup>2</sup>

#### Computer Science and Cybersecurity

Southeast's programs in computer science and cybersecurity prepare students for in-demand careers and serve the region by providing needed expertise to assist industry and government partners secure digital assets in connected cyber-infrastructure. Through partnerships with local, regional, national and international organizations, Southeast's students have participated in experiential learning opportunities that have resulted in the development of mobile applications, web-based applications, modules and other programs. In addition, the Center for Cybersecurity at Southeast serves to aid student learning outcomes, foster community outreach, and encourage knowledge expansion by performing cutting-edge research, contributing to industry standards, and publishing research findings. The Center also is a resource for computer science and cybersecurity-related news, external portals and journals, and includes information to connect individuals with Southeast's undergraduate and graduate programs and industry-specific certificates and trainings. To further demonstrate the significant public service Southeast Missouri State University's computer science and cybersecurity programs provide Governor Parson commented on the important role Southeast's cybersecurity programs plays in "workforce development – preparing a skilled workforce, equipping our students for tomorrow's demands." He stated that Southeast is "on the cutting edge of fighting and defending a national security issue and an economic concern for the U.S." and noted that "SEMO has stepped in to fill an important gap in our workforce."

#### **5. Southeast maintains a program of continuous quality improvement.**

By virtue of the various accreditations mentioned heretofore above, Southeast Missouri State University has adopted and maintains a program of continuous quality improvement, and reports annually appropriate and verifiable measures of institutional accountability related to its visual and performing arts, computer science, and cybersecurity programs. For example, the conditions accompanying the accreditations from NASAD, NASD, NASM and NAST require that once accreditation is granted, following a comprehensive review process, an institution must maintain compliance with the bodies' guidelines and standards and file annual reports. The accrediting

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.semissourian.com/story/2590103.html>



bodies also require that institutions must file for approval of new curricula or substantive changes. Similar requirements exist through ABET, the accrediting body for computer science and cybersecurity. The National Center of Academic Excellence designation from NSA and DHS also has annual reporting requirements.

In addition to the external avenues for continuous quality improvement afforded by accreditation, Southeast has internal policies and procedures related to academic program review that provide an opportunity for academic departments to reflect on their academic program offerings and to develop and sustain plans for continuous improvement.

In §173.030(9)(e), RSMo, it outlines various other measures that can demonstrate an institution's commitment to continuous quality improvement and institutional accountability. One of those measures is the percent of students meeting institutional admission standards. As previously stated, Southeast is a "moderately selective" institution and using data provided by the Missouri Department of Higher Education in fall 2018, 80.1 percent of first-time, full-time students meet the admissions guidelines. This percentage places Southeast as the highest among the four "moderately selective" institutions in the state.

Another measure is student retention rate. Students in the Holland College of Arts and Media are retained in the University at a rate of 82.6 percent, which is a rate that has increased every year since fall 2014 and is the highest since at least fall 2007. Students are retained in the College at a rate of 73.2 percent, which is a number that has increased every year since fall 2014 and is the highest since at least fall 2007. Students in the theatre and dance are retained at a rate of 81.9 percent, and students in music are retained at a rate of 79.4 percent, both rates are the highest since at least fall 2007. Students in the Harrison College of Business and Computing are retained at the University at a rate of 71.2 percent, which has been fairly consistent over about a six-year period, and are retained within the College at a rate of 58.3 percent. Students in the Department of Computer Science, which includes computer science and cybersecurity have a 56.5 percent retention rate, which is the highest since at least fall 2007; and are retained within the University at a rate of 71 percent, which is the highest since fall 2010.

The statute also includes student graduation rates as a measure of continuous quality improvement and institutional accountability. In academic year 2018, 88 students completed a degree in art, design, dance, music or theatre; and there were 51 in computer science and cybersecurity, which when combined account for nearly 8 percent of all undergraduate completers during AY18. Some points of distinction include that not only have completers in the Department of Computer Science increased among traditional aged students (18-24) over a ten-year period, but they have also increased for those 25-31 and over 32 years of age. Completions for the Department of Computer Science have also increased for female, international and minority students over this same ten-year period. When it comes to student placement, which is another articulated measure of continuous quality improvement and institutional accountability, students in the Holland College of Arts and Media have a 95.5 percent career outcomes rate, and students in the Harrison College of Business have a 92.3 percent career outcomes rate.

The statute also provides that students attending graduate or professional schools can be evidence of a commitment to continuous quality improvement or institutional accountability. A sampling of

graduate or professional schools where Southeast's Holland College of Arts and Media have found success include, but are not limited, to: American University; Art Institute of Chicago; Carnegie Mellon University; DePaul University; Juilliard School of Drama; University of Arkansas; University of Maryland; University of Missouri-Columbia; and Washington University. A sampling of graduate or professional schools where Southeast's Harrison College of Business and Computing have found success, include, but are not limited, to: Boston University; Clemson University; George Mason University; Northeastern University; Purdue University; Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences (Germany); Saint Louis University; University of California-Irvine; University of Memphis; University of Missouri; and University of Virginia.

As evidenced by the information immediately above, Southeast Missouri State University has a demonstrated commitment to continuous quality improvement and institutional accountability.

Taken as a whole, the commentary included in this Section II, Statutory Criteria, provides significant evidence that Southeast meets the requirements for institutions seeking a statewide mission articulated in RSMo §173.030(9).

### **III. Mission Implementation**

As a component of this application, Southeast Missouri State University has been asked to outline a mission implementation plan supporting this request. And while §173.030(9), RSMo states that such plan shall be provided in a manner proscribed by the Coordinating Board, this section will briefly address some thoughts on how the institution will move forward should a statewide mission in the visual and performing arts, computer science and cybersecurity be granted. However, the institution is mindful of the referenced statutory language and would welcome dialogue with the Coordinating Board on any additional thoughts its members may have.

1. Southeast will work to increase retention and graduation rates in each of the respective areas. While some of the data presented in Section II above suggests progress has been made over a 10-12 year period, additional work remains. As an institution, Southeast has a goal to retain 80 percent of its first-time, full-time freshman and have a six-year graduation rate of 60 percent. Both rates currently stand at 74.4 percent and 48.8 percent respectively. Through multiple student success initiatives initiated throughout the University, Southeast is working to improve all of these numbers.
2. Southeast will work to continue identifying ways in which its programs in the visual and performing arts can influence other academic units on campus. As a starting point, Southeast has already deliberately included other academic areas such as design and mass media alongside the programs in visual and performing arts within a new Holland College of Arts and Media. These areas of study were strategically placed in this College because of the way in which they complement each other and the way in which employers and industry are increasingly acknowledging the artistic nature of such programs like journalism, graphic design, advertising, and TV and film. Other opportunities for increased collaboration and inter-disciplinary influence include the exploration of new or redesigned program offerings and experiential learning experiences through Southeast's Rust Center for Media, which is an experiential laboratory in the heart of Cape

Girardeau’s “media row” that gives students direct access to industry professionals; and Catapult Creative House, which is Southeast’s creative labs incubator that provides entrepreneurial and collaborative learning space for art, design and more than a dozen other academic disciplines.

3. Regarding computer science and cybersecurity, Southeast is currently in the process of developing several “CS + X” degrees that will allow students across the University to pursue a flexible program of study that incorporates a strong foundation in computer science with technical and/or professional training in their primary area of study. To date, conversations have been initiated with five other majors that could result in new “CS + X” degrees. At least two of these majors are in the process of vetting their final proposals through Southeast’s internal processes in anticipation of submitting the official forms to MDHE in the coming months. These programs would complement an already existing minor in Cybersecurity Business Systems designed for business students.

In addition to the three items articulated above, Southeast will continue its execution of arts-related events and programs serving patrons from throughout southeast Missouri and beyond; and it will continue to identify ways in which to enhance its computer science and cybersecurity-related capabilities be it through hosting conferences or events, offering professional development or training, or through the delivery of industry-recognized certificates or short-term credentials. All of these approaches would be consistent with items other statewide mission institutions have included in their “mission implementation plans.”

#### **IV. Conclusion**

For more than 145 years, Southeast has taken seriously our responsibility to prepare high quality teachers, business people and entrepreneurs, scientists and health professionals, agriculture leaders, artists and performers, computer science experts and the citizens of tomorrow. And throughout our history, we have worked hard to build robust academic programs that are responsive to student interest, employer demand, and regional, state and national workforce needs. However, despite our proven success, our strong reputation, and our commitment to academic rigor and quality, Southeast Missouri State University is one of three public four-year institutions in Missouri without a statewide mission.

After reviewing the other statewide mission designations at institutions throughout the state and recognizing that they are in areas felt to be strengths for those institutions, it made sense for Southeast to pursue a designation in areas of strength for it – visual and performing arts, computer science and cybersecurity. At Southeast, nearly 11 percent of our students are enrolled in these areas. As mentioned above, all of these programs are accredited, and students in each area are beyond successful.

A statewide mission in the requested areas – visual and performing arts, computer science and cybersecurity – would only serve to enhance the stature of these programs and aid in the continued promotion of Southeast Missouri State University. Currently no other school has a statewide mission in these areas. The institution is not asking for additional appropriations to support this request, and Southeast officials are aware that granting a statewide mission in the

requested will not prohibit any other institution in Missouri from offering programs in these areas.

As such, and having demonstrated evidence satisfying all of the criteria outlined in § 173.030(9), Southeast Missouri State University respectfully requests the Coordinating Board's endorsement of a statewide mission in the visual and performing arts, computer science and cybersecurity.