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Contact:

Kaitlin Steen
Executive Director
The Associated Students of the University of Missouri
asum@umsystem.edu
(816) 645-1189

Jesse W. Kremenak
Director of National Affairs
Graduate Professional Council
gpc.legislative@missouri.edu
(240) 620-3131

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Educate the Vote: ASUM and GPC Release Results of Missouri State Legislature and Congressional Candidate Assessments

Columbia, Missouri – The Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) and the University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council (GPC) will release the results of a candidate assessment survey conducted of Missouri state and congressional candidates running for office on November 4th. Candidates for the Missouri Legislature were asked for feedback on the 2014-2015 ASUM Legislative Platform. And the congressional candidates were asked for feedback on the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) Legislative Priorities. The results of the survey will be distributed to students across Missouri and will be posted on the NAGPS website, nagps.org, on November 1st.

The “Educate the Vote” candidate assessment started in the 2012 election season at the University of Missouri, focusing on Missouri state and congressional candidates. This year, the efforts were expanded to include all congressional candidates nationwide. ASUM and GPC collaborated with NAGPS to survey all the candidates and circulate the results.

The candidate assessment will help students understand where candidates, who are running in the Missouri state legislative and congressional races, stand on issues that are important to them before they vote. The candidates for the Missouri Legislature were asked to respond to the following questions on four issues from the 2014-2015 ASUM Legislative Platform:

1. University of Missouri Funding
 - What is your position on fully funding the University of Missouri based on the appropriation request from the University of Missouri Budget Office?
2. Student Curator
 - What is your position on legislation that would make the student representative a voting member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators?
3. Landlord-Tenant
 - What is your position on legislation that would safeguard student and Missouri renters in landlord-tenant disputes?
4. STEM
 - What is your position on the state’s current level of investment for science technology engineering and math education?

The congressional candidates were asked to respond to the following questions on four issues from the NAGPS Legislative Priorities:

1. Student Loans:
 - What is your stance on reunifying the undergraduate and graduate/professional student loan rates and reinstating subsidized loans for graduate and professional students?
 - In order to help the students of the United States, what legislation would you propose to ease the burden of student debt?
2. Funding Graduate Education:
 - What is your position on reinstating the Javits Fellowship and similar humanities, arts, and social science programs?
 - What is your position on the current federal spending levels to the NSF, NIH, and other federal research agencies for STEM education and research?
3. Student Visa Renewal:
 - What is your position on legislation that allows for the domestic revalidation of F-type student visas?
4. Open Access for Federally Funded Research:
 - What is your position on the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2013?

“Educate the Vote” will allow students to make an informed decision at the ballot box on November 4th and educate all Missourians, students and legislators, about these issues.

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