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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Lt. Governor Kinder Signs Legislation to Provide Funding for University of Missouri Capital Projects**

**KANSAS CITY** – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today, serving as acting governor, signed legislation granting over \$46 million for capital improvement projects at the University of Missouri-Columbia and Kansas City. The funds were made possible through the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative.

“In 2006, we began a bold initiative to transform the face of higher education throughout the State of Missouri,” said Kinder. “Thanks to the hard work of the state legislature, we are now able to provide needed improvements and renovations to medical facilities at the University of Missouri and UMKC.”

The Lt. Governor signed House Bill 2019 which allots funds from Governor Blunt’s Lewis and Clark Discovery fund. The money will assist in needed construction at the Ellis Fischel Cancer and Medical Education Center on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus, as well as provide vital funding for the University of Missouri-Kansas City’s (UMKC) state-of-the-art Pharmacy and Nursing Building.

Nearly \$31.2 million of the funding will be to help Ellis Fischel deliver high-quality, comprehensive cancer care in a new, state-of-the-art facility; increase the capacity of cancer clinics to accommodate projected increases in new cancer patients due to an aging population; increase the potential for improved outcomes through timely screening, diagnosis and treatments; enhance the ability to recruit and retain leading physicians and clinical staff; improve communication, coordination and efficiency of care between physician specialists at University Hospital and Ellis Fischel; and advance the goal of

achieving national prominence by meeting requirements for designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute.

The remaining \$15 million will go towards work at the Pharmacy and Nursing Building at UMKC. The new funding will provide needed space for new educational and instructional areas in nursing and pharmacy with enhanced student services and state-of-the-art classroom and clinical simulation laboratory spaces. When complete, the full project will provide more than 34,000 net square feet of instructional space, as well as new laboratory space and a state-of-the-art animal research center.

“Ellis Fischel and the UMKC Pharmacy and Nursing Building are the University’s two remaining projects from the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, an innovative proposal by Gov. Matt Blunt,” said UM President Gary Forsee. “Ellis Fischel has a long and proud history of serving Missourians as the first state cancer center west of the Mississippi, and the Pharmacy Nursing Building at UMKC will help us continue our mission of training health professionals. We are proud to continue our service to the state through the enhancements of these two buildings.”

The Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative is a partnership between the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority and the state. The partnership, authorized through legislation and supported by lawmakers, reinvests an existing asset to generate \$335 million to strengthen Missouri’s colleges and universities for students.

The historic initiative takes an enormous stride forward for higher education in our state and provides much needed funding for state-of-the-art learning and research centers. The new learning centers will prepare students to compete in today’s global economy where higher quality learning in areas such as math and science are crucial elements for students’ future success.

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