

Northwest Missouri State University
Board of Regents
Date of Meeting: May 1, 2009

Presenters: Ray Courter, Greg Haddock

Agenda Item: Bearcat Break – Doniphan County
Recommendation

Background:

Enclosed is a PDF file describing the Doniphan County recommendation. As noted in the first paragraph of the enclosure, currently, the Bearcat Break applies to students in programs at the Kansas City Center from the following counties in Kansas: Atchison, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte. This tuition rate is also for residents in adjacent counties of Oklahoma (Delaware, Craig, and Ottawa) and Kansas (Crawford and Cherokee) that are students in programs at the Joplin Center. Based on growing interest in programs offered through the St Joseph Center from potential students living in Doniphan County, it becomes strategically important to expand the Bearcat Break program to include the St Joseph Center along with the Kansas City and Joplin Centers and to include Doniphan County in the list of Kansas counties.

Issue:

We recommend that the Board of Regents adds the St Joseph Center and Doniphan County Kansas to the Bearcat Break out-of-state waiver.

President's Recommendation:

Recommend approval.

Recommendation to Deans Council: Bearcat Break for Doniphan County (Kansas) students at St. Joseph Center

Issue:

To add the St. Joseph Center and Doniphan County to the "Bearcat Break" out-of-state waiver.

Currently, the Bearcat Break applies to students in programs at the KC-Liberty Center from the following counties in Kansas: Atchison, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte. This tuition rate is also for residents in adjacent counties of Oklahoma (Delaware, Craig, and Ottawa) and Kansas (Crawford and Cherokee) that are students in programs at the Joplin Center. This began January 2007.

Numbers:

In the five trimesters since Spring 2007, there have been thirteen students in Kansas and Oklahoma (see map) that have taken advantage of the Bearcat Break in the KC-Liberty and Joplin Centers. They have collectively taken 111 credit hours at this reduced tuition rate. In any given trimester, there have been 3-5 students in this program.

Currently there are 2 students in the MEd Leadership program that would be eligible. The Booth College has already received inquiries and requests to include Doniphan County in the Bearcat Break tuition rate. With the St. Joseph Center offering graduate programs, we anticipate to see growth from this county.

Cost:

The Bearcat Break costs \$194.80 per credit hour for each student. The cost for each semester is roughly \$5,000 and the total cost since Spring 2007 (111 credits) is \$21,622.80.

Had the two students from Doniphan County been given the Bearcat Break this past summer, the cost (14 cr.) would have been an additional \$2,727.20.

Recommendation:

On July 9, 2008, Gregory Haddock called a meeting to discuss adding Doniphan County as a recommendation to the Deans Council. Present at this meeting was Bev Schenkel, Tom Billesbach, Max Ruhl, Sandra Eckert-Stewart, and Terry Christensen (Bursar). This group unanimously supported this recommendation. In addition, I spoke to Charles McAdams on July 8 and he was supportive.

This recommendation is based on the following points:

- Competition: Our competitors in the region are offering similar discounts across state lines.
- Marketing: This would be a good opportunity to re-market the Bearcat Break program and to promote the St. Joseph Center.
- Parity: We have this program in place in counties near the KC-Liberty and Joplin Centers.

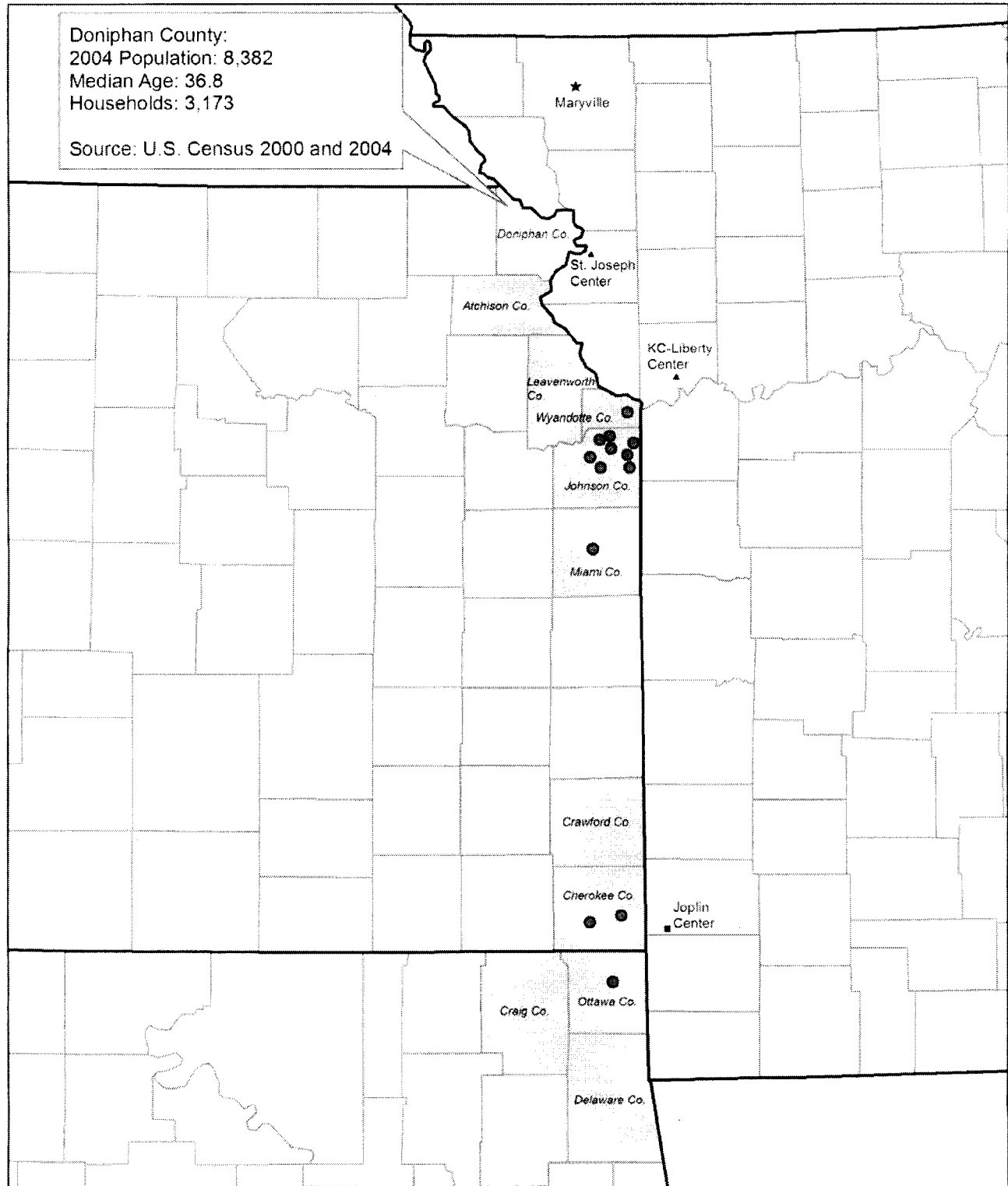
The Bearcat Break is for students who enroll in programs (not just one or two classes), and take these classes at one of our off-campus centers. This does not include online graduate programs.

Beginning Spring 2009, with Board Approval, the scholarship information would be worded thus:

Bearcat Break

A new out-of-state graduate tuition adjustment has been approved for students from select geographic regions who enroll in graduate programs at the St. Joseph and Kansas City Centers or the collaborative program at Missouri Southern State University. Graduate students will pay in-state tuition if they reside in one of the following counties in Kansas (Atchison, Crawford, Cherokee, Doniphan, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte) or in Oklahoma (Delaware, Craig, and Ottawa). There is no application required for the Bearcat Break.

Location of Bearcat Break Students in Adjacent Kansas and Oklahoma Counties (2007-2008)



● Locations of students are approximate

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 Miles

