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## **2 colleges trigger tuition break for Illinoisans learning out of state**

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Two Illinois colleges have joined a coalition of Midwestern schools in a move that will make it easier for state residents to get tuition discounts at more than 140 colleges and universities in nearby states, including Missouri.

Greenville College and Lewis & Clark Community College have signed up with the Midwest Student Exchange Program, in which schools agree to offer reduced tuition to residents from member states.

It is run by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, a 12-state group that includes Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Nebraska.

Illinois had already agreed to become the ninth member of the compact to take part in the tuition-discounting program. But until at least one of its own campuses agreed to offer tuition discounts, Illinois' students were not eligible for discounts elsewhere.

Schools in the program generally promise to offer tuition no higher than 150 percent of their in-state rate. Private schools agree to reduce tuition by 10 percent.

Of course, both Illinois schools stand to pick up some students from the other eight participating states. "It's hard to know for sure, but we hope that's the case," said Kent Scheffel, vice president of enrollment services at Lewis and Clark, which doesn't currently offer tuition discounts to students from Missouri.

Standing to make bigger gains, though, are the dozens of colleges and universities in neighboring states — many of them already recruit heavily in population-rich Illinois.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis already is aggressive in its efforts to pull students from across the river, offering in-state tuition to residents of 22 Illinois counties. While the Midwest exchange program isn't quite so generous, it does trim nearly \$6,000 a year from an out-of-state resident's tuition bill.

"It's a huge opportunity both for us and the students," said Alan Byrd, UMSL's director of admissions. "It will allow us to recruit a little deeper into Illinois."