



This week marks a fruitful two years for the [Tiger Institute for Health Innovation](#), a partnership between the University of Missouri and Cerner. I'd like to extend kudos all around on the great teamwork and collaboration demonstrated in this highly successful public-private partnership.

The Tiger Institute is facilitating a statewide alliance of health care organizations that can improve health care through health information technology and collaborative innovations with [MU Health Care](#) physicians and students and researchers from the [School of Medicine](#). Already, MU Health Care has been named one of the nation's "[Most Wired](#)" Hospitals — only one of five hospitals in the state receiving the designation and the only facility in mid-Missouri making the list.

As this relationship continues to grow, the real winners are the citizens of Missouri, whose portable electronic medical records will provide medical information that leads to more

The [search](#) for a new chancellor at Missouri University of Science and Technology also continues. The chancellor search committee recently met and reviewed more than 50 candidates for the position. Interviews will begin next month, although [nominations](#) are still being accepted.

At a recent Board of Curators meeting, curators continued their review of the recommended retirement plan design for future employees. Kelley Stuck, associate vice president of total rewards, updated the curators on the Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee's recommended minor changes to the formula for new employees. She also discussed the defined contribution vendor selection process and employee risk mitigation strategies for the new plan. Curators are expected to receive another update in early October on the new plan's design, which will only affect new employees hired after Sept. 30, 2012. Curators will likely vote on the plan design at their meeting Oct. 20-21. For more information, [click here](#).

A new report from the National Governor's Association offers some sober news for those of us in higher education. It references a "new normal" in which colleges and universities will continue to compete for scarce resources while being asked to do more. The report states higher education institutions today are challenged to become more productive with fewer resources, and it suggests strong accountability systems are important in capturing and communicating improved effectiveness and efficiencies. As you might be aware, Gov. Jay Nixon recently unveiled plans to create a performance funding model aimed at allocating new state

resources to institutions of higher learning based on performance measures and academic goals.

milestones: it was the center's 50th field day and it marked the retirement of its long-serving supervisor, Thomas "Jake" Fisher. In a tribute to Fisher, the Board of Curators approved the naming of the facility as the T. E. "Jake" Fisher Delta Research Center. The annual field day breakfast attracted more than 600 visitors and was attended by university officials, legislators, farmers, industry leaders and children. To learn more, [click here](#).

The center's history has been marked by a number of significant discoveries that have helped Missouri farmers, including advances in growing soybeans and rice. "Largely thanks to the great research undertaken here at the Delta Center, soybean production has nearly quadrupled over the last five decades, from 20 bushels an acre to 70," Curator Judith Haggard told attendees at the event.