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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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University City High School Students take part in the Early College Experience Signing Day at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park

University City, MO – The School District of University City in partnership with St. Louis Community College (STLCC) is hosting an **Early College Experience Signing Day** in which students commit to attending college. The program is free to students of University City High School (UCHS). Those students will be able to earn an associate’s degree in general studies while still enrolled in high school and will graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate’s degree. **The Early College Experience Signing Day** will be held on Thursday, April 18th at 5:30 on the campus of STLCC Forest Park, Café East.

This marks the second year for the program. Participating students will enter the program as an incoming junior and take two courses on the college campus the summer between their sophomore and junior year(s). During their junior year, students are on the UCHS campus while taking dual credit and dual enrollment courses, which earns them high school and college credit at the same time. Between their junior and senior year(s), students transition to the STLCC-Forest Park campus for the remainder of the program, taking six credit hours in the summer and a full course load during their senior year.

“The Early College Experience is a unique opportunity for our students to challenge themselves academically and earn up to 60 hours in college credit,” said Samuel Martin IV, UCHS Dean of Students. “The Early College program will allow students to have the college experience, while helping them and their families potentially save thousands of dollars on the cost of college tuition.”

District officials recognize cost is often an obstacle for completing college for many students. This program substantially reduces that burden.

According to data from the Early College High School Initiative, these students are outperforming their peers on a national scale:

- 90% graduate high school vs. 78% of students nationally
- 94% earn free college credit while in high school
- 30% earn an associate’s degree or other postsecondary credential while in high school.

Currently, there are 18 students in the inaugural class of 2020, and 17 students have been identified for the 2021 class. Most of the students involved in the program are interested in health science careers.

The Early College Experience is the epitome of Learning Reimagined, in which the District provides students with rigorous, relevant, and modern learning experiences. To learn more about the core pillars of Learning Reimagined, please visit: ucityschools.org/learningreimagined.

#UCLionPride

On February 21, 1911, with a City population of only 2,417, The School District of University City was officially established. Classes began in September 1912 with a total school population of 769. Today, you will find outstanding educational programs serving a student population of approximately 2,800 with a preschool, four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In May 2018, University City High School held its 101st formal Commencement Ceremony.