

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

Obligations of the press to correct the record

The Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics states plainly: "*Admit mistakes and correct them promptly.*" Once a reporter, editor, or advisor is made aware of error(s), the request to correct should be handled with urgency.

Correction requests at *The Alestle* are frequently slow to occur or refused. That is a disservice to readers and the subjects in the report.

Typically, correction requests are made by members of the University Marketing and Communications department, which is responsible for Media Relations at SIUE. Listed below are a few examples of correction requests made to the *Alestle* to correct factual errors in the following order:

1. Corrections requested by organization Vice President to "*Faculty express conflicted feelings on online program manager RisePoint involvement at SIUE*" (November 20, 2025). After the story was published invoking comments and outrage, no corrections were ever made; the online story was deleted, and as of this date does not show up in a search of *Alestle* archives.
2. Memorandum from University Marketing and Communications Interim Executive Director Catie Sheehan requesting multiple corrections to "*SIUE taking millions in salary money to pay off university debt*" (April 25, 2025); *Alestle*'s Editor-in-Chief, Dylan Hembrough's response to feedback memo (April 26, 2025); Chancellor's response to multiple corrections requested to "*SIUE taking millions in salary money to pay off university debt*" (April 27, 2025).
3. Corrections requested by SIUE Chief Goodwin to "'No evidence of threats:' Student says Title IX director dismissive of sexual harassment case" (March 2026)
4. Corrections requested by SIUE Chief Goodwin to "*Preacher sparks debates on Quad, asked to leave by police*" (April 2026)
5. Corrections requested by SIUE Communications Director Nicole Franklin to "*SIUE to submit first balanced budget projection in eight years*" (September 2025)
6. Corrections requested by outside organization President to "*Illinois students save millions with state-funded test prep program*" (July 2025).

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

1. Corrections requested by organization Vice President to "*Faculty express conflicted feelings on online program manager Risepoint involvement at SIUE*" (November, 2025).

Bridges, Paula

From: Susan Hansen <Susan.Hansen@risepoint.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 1:27 PM
To: Cobb, Denise; Ibroscheva, Elza; Bridges, Paula
Subject: Risepoint's Response - Alestle Article

Dear Denise, Elza, and Paula,

I wanted to provide an update regarding the recent student article published in *The Alestle*.

We have reached out directly to the student via email (see below) and requested revisions to address the mischaracterizations identified in the piece. Additionally, we have provided him with a point of contact should he wish to discuss this article or any future content with us.

We intentionally did not include you in that communication, as we believe it is most appropriate for this outreach to come directly from Risepoint. However, we recommend that SIUE also consider engaging with the student writer.

As we all recognize, the dissemination of inaccurate information can have a negative impact on SIUE students and the broader community.

Please let us know if you would like any additional details or if we can assist further in coordinating next steps.

Best Regards,
Susan Hansen Woods
Vice President | Managing Director
Risepoint
469-438-5952

From: Katelynn Dugan
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2025 12:59 PM
To: 'tjourney@alestlelive.com' <tjourney@alestlelive.com>
Subject: Corrections from Risepoint

Hi Torre,

I'm reaching out about the story you published yesterday about Risepoint's work with SIUE. There were several things that are blatantly inaccurate about the work we do and how we partner with universities like SIUE. I have compiled a list below with my notes in red. Can you please let me know when these corrections will be made? If you have other questions now or in the future, you can reach out to me here.

###

"Currently, Risepoint holds over 125 university contracts in Illinois and is facing an active investigation for its online management and student recruiting practices by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and the Illinois Board of Higher Education."

- We have 125 university partners **across the globe**, not just in Illinois.
- There is **not** an "active investigation" by the Illinois AG. Where did you get this from?

"Online program managers like Risepoint have been banned from entering into tuition-sharing contracts in other states like Minnesota for using unfair and unethical recruiting practices."

- This line is inaccurate. We have not been "banned" from entering into new contracts in Minnesota for the use of "unfair and unethical recruiting practices." This is a total mischaracterization. What factual basis are you using for any of this?
- You also say "other states" - there are no other states.

"Additionally, according to Protect Borrowers, these companies use the branding power of universities to increase revenue and reach — all at the expense of the student's valuable and immersive degree experience."

- This is extremely misleading. There is zero data to substantiate any of these claims. **We have actual data** that shows a high return on investment for students who go through these programs.

"According to the SIU System's contract with Academic Partnerships, Risepoint's parent company, the company will maintain the branding of SIUE and will have sole authority over where to recruit and market."

- This is misleading as SIUE has to approve all marketing materials before they are used.

"Academic Partnerships also received a license grant to use SIUE's intellectual property."

- This needs to be clarified. The "intellectual property" referenced includes the University's trademarks, logos, websites, marketing materials, and pictures and is used only to promote the relationships contemplated by the contract. **This does not include any faculty IP or curriculum.**

Katelynn Dugan

Chief Communications Officer

Risepoint

703-994-3104

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

2. Memorandum from University Marketing and Communications Interim Executive Director Catie Sheehan requesting multiple corrections to “*SIUE taking millions in salary money to pay off university debt*” (April 25, 2025); Alestle’s Editor-in-Chief, Dylan Hembrough’s response to feedback memo (April 26, 2025); Chancellor’s response to multiple corrections requested to “*SIUE taking millions in salary money to pay off university debt*” (April 27, 2025).

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

TO: Tammy Merrett
Program Director, The Alestle & Mass Communications Instructor

Dylan Hembrough
Editor-in-Chief, The Alestle

FROM: Catie Sheehan
SIUE Interim Executive Director of Marketing and Communications

DATE: April 25, 2025

RE: Corrections to the March 31 Alestle Article on Salary Sweeps

Thank you for reaching out to Chancellor Minor on April 16 to seek feedback on the March 31 article titled “SIUE taking millions in salary money to pay off university debt.” The corrections forwarded to you on April 18, though a response to the accuracy report about this specific article, I would be remiss if I did not convey a general concern and disappointment about a number of Alestle articles that include significant inaccuracies and omit relevant information. Stories of this nature are not only harmful and do a disservice to the university community but also compromise the integrity and credibility of the Alestle.

The administration supports journalism that is impartial, fact-based, and accurate—even when the stories are aimed at holding us accountable. We are not running from tough-nosed journalism. It is difficult, however, to stomach stories that do not accurately report what actually happened. The frequency of inaccurate reporting is also a major factor in our decisions to accept or decline interview requests. I encourage your editorial team to more rigorously fact-check. Doing so not only strengthens your work but also honors the trust your readers place in your reporting.

In what follows, we offer context and facts that may be used to make corrections to the story on salary sweeps that was published on March 31, 2025.

Response to Accuracy Report: “SIUE taking millions in salary money to pay off university debt.”

This article inaccurately conflates “deficit” with “debt.” The headline itself is inaccurate. The University is not sweeping lapsed salary dollars to pay off any kind of debt. Debt refers to the total amount owed on borrowed funds. A deficit simply means that expenses exceed revenues within a given period. For example, a debt in one’s life would be a car loan, student loan, or mortgage. A spending deficit would simply be spending more than your income each year (typically a one-time occurrence). A structural deficit means that there is a recurring imbalance in the institution’s revenues and expenses. In other words, it does not mean that the University

purchases too many office supplies or furniture and is over budget because of doing so. By structural deficit we mean that there are fixed elements of the budget that created a deficit and will perpetuate that deficit (year after year) if not addressed. At the beginning of any given fiscal year, a deficit can be predicted based on the structural components of the budget, before any spending occurs.

Sweeping lapsed salary dollars is one tool available to administration to help balance the year's budget by not spending more than our income. To illustrate how this works in practice, a department receives a budgeted amount for Jane Doe's positions, divided and paid over 12 months. If Jane takes a new job in Utah, a decision will be made through the SPA process about whether the University will hire a replacement for Jane. If yes, then the department will initiate a search that could take two months to complete. For the two months that the position is vacant, the salary dollars allocated for the position each month will be recovered (or swept) centrally, returning to—the original source of the funds.

This is a very common higher education practice although new to SIUE. This practice enables the University to track salary budgets associated with positions ensuring greater accountability and transparency in our financial management. This is a responsible financial action universities take to remain financially strong.

As Chancellor Minor has emphasized on multiple occasions, SIUE remains in a strong financial position, demonstrated by stable reserves, a strong cash position and a manageable structural deficit that represents approximately 2% of the University's overall budget. It is also important to remember that the structural deficit was once \$18M and it is projected to be \$7M to close this fiscal year while delivering salary increases.

The administration has managed the structural imbalances responsibly by managing personnel expenses, modernizing operations, employing a more aggressive enrollment management plan, and focusing on retaining a greater number of current students.

It is also important to note that funds recovered centrally are used for strategic purposes that benefit the entire University. They have been either responsibly set aside to help reduce annual deficits or reallocated to another University priority.

The article says that the overall deficit, however, will not improve by maintaining the status quo which includes an imbalanced budget. The story misrepresents Chancellor Minor's remarks during the September 2024 budget address. The article references the portion of his speech in which he spoke about addressing the structural deficit through permanent adjustments to the University's overall revenue and expenditures. He was not specifically referring to the recovery of lapsed salary funds. The University does not consider reallocating unspent salary budget as a sustainable change.

Going forward, University administration has decided to implement strategic initiatives – academic program prioritization, early retirement incentive plan, and restructuring to position the University for sustained success in a changing environment.

The article states, “several departments and organizations have still lost tens of thousands of dollars to this process.” It is important to clarify that departments and organizations are individual units within the University that have been provided a budget. The only funds being swept are funds not used for their intended purpose. The notion that any one unit “owns” the dollars allocated in a budget is a misconception. All funds are University funds. When a vacancy is filled, corresponding salary budgets are restored.

The article claims that “there is more than \$1.3 million in student fees sitting untouched in its own account, and the administration has no plan for how to use it.” Of that amount, approximately \$200,000 was returned to Athletics during FY24. Additionally, \$400,000 was reallocated to cover IT and utility expenses within the Self-Supporting Fund.

Because student fees help support Information Technology Services (ITS) and Facilities Management, this reallocation is both appropriate and consistent with the intended use of those fees.

The article claims that “the only department to receive any funding back has been University Housing.” This is inaccurate. A total of \$2.4M of recovered lapsed salaries have been returned to University Housing, Early Childhood Center, EOA, Athletics, Facilities Management, and the Campus Research Centers.

The article says, “According to the SIU Board of Trustees in their Sept. 12, 2024, meeting, the budget of the chancellor’s office alone increased 13.4 percent from FY24 to FY25 — from \$2.9 million to \$3.3 million.”

It should be noted that the numbers listed for the budget of the Chancellor’s Office also include the University Marketing & Communications unit. The budget for Marketing & Communications accounts for over half of the \$3.3M budget referenced. The 13.4% increase to the Chancellor’s Office is attributed to additional funding for positions in Marketing and Communications, increased funding for commencement exercises, and more aggressive digital marketing to prospective students.

There are also inconsistencies in the numbers in the charts included in the article.

Chart 1 is inaccurate and is mixing the sources of data. We provided clarification above regarding that statement, “Salary dollars from the following units or departments were spent entirely on the university debt.” Additionally, some areas that are listed contain the lapsed salary dollars for FY24 while others include the amount lapsed in FY24 and the amount lapsed through January of FY25. Below are the amounts that were recovered centrally from the areas mentioned by FY.

FY24

School of Dental Medicine - \$483,045

School of Nursing - \$871,925

Human Resources - \$217,764

English - \$234,772

Biological Sciences - \$157,107

CAS – Dean's Office - \$152,820

Sociology - \$191,583

Office of the Provost - \$171,528

Criminal Justice - \$147,812

Social Work - \$143,498

Police Services - \$135,486

Teaching and Learning - \$125,832

Financial Aid - \$124,779

School of Business – Dean's Office - \$115,642

Applied Health - \$114,414

FY25 – through January 2025

School of Dental Medicine - \$436,284

School of Nursing - \$22,783

Human Resources - \$52,835

English - \$6,222

Biological Sciences - \$72,510

CAS – Dean's Office - \$45,514

Sociology - \$0

Office of the Provost - \$1,560

Criminal Justice - \$778

Social Work - \$0

Police Services - \$4,674

Teaching and Learning - \$7,156

Financial Aid - \$2,400

School of Business – Dean's Office - \$0

Applied Health - \$5,756

Chart 2 - is accurate in total for most areas from FY23-FY25. Inaccuracies noted below.

Nursing - \$960,547 represents just FY24 lapsed salary dollars. The correct total is \$1,053,349.

Educational Outreach - \$731,350 represents FY23 and FY24 lapsed salary dollars. The correct total is \$760,649.

ITS - \$646,468 represents FY23 and FY24 lapsed salary dollars. The correct total is \$666,939.

Athletics - \$459,116 represents only the lapsed salary dollars that were recovered in FY23. The correct total is \$531,957

English - \$234,772 represents just FY24 lapsed salary dollars. Total should be \$240,994.

Office of the Provost - \$171,528 represents just FY24 lapsed salary dollars. Total should be \$173,088.

Admissions – Not sure what the Alestle used. Total should be \$121,410.

Chart 3 - is accurate in total for most areas from FY23-FY25. Inaccuracies noted below.

Athletics - \$531,957

Career Development Center - \$97,299

ITS - \$175,539

###



RE: Memo on Alestle story corrections

From SIUE Chancellor James T. Minor <chancellor@siue.edu>
Date Sun 4/27/2025 10:17 AM
To Dylan Hembrough <dhembrough@alestlelive.com>; catie.sheehan <catie.sheehan@siu.edu>
Cc Merrett, Tammy <tmerret@siue.edu>; Cobb, Denise <pcobb@siue.edu>; Brandi Spann <bspann@alestlelive.com>
Bcc Harris, Jessica <jesharr@siue.edu>; DeTroye, Anne <anmoore@siue.edu>

Good morning Dylan,
 I did not intend on commenting on this exchange, but I was struck by one line in your note. *"It is a fact that SIUE swept multiple millions of dollars and put that money towards the debt for that year without offering an appeals process until long after the money was gone."* This statement, I believe, tells us everything we need to know about where you are and your approach to journalism. The insistence on doubling-down on something that is patently false is completely shocking.

I understand that you spent a lot of time and effort on the story. The reality is that the headline and elements of the story are still inaccurate and misleading. We have shared information and context with you to this effect. Given the futility of doing so, I will not direct our team to chase the multitude of inaccuracies in these stories. It is not our burden of proof to correct factual errors. It is the responsibility of the journalist to check and verify information before publication.

I am asking my team to disengage here. I do not want this exchange to grow any more contentious or unproductive. Thank you for taking the time to write. I am wishing you all the best as you go forward. We can only hope that the stories to come will be objective, accurate, and balanced.

With respect,

James T. Minor, Ph.D.
 Chancellor and Professor

chancellor@siue.edu

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
 EDWARDSVILLE**

From: Dylan Hembrough <dhembrough@alestlelive.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 26, 2025 10:49 AM
To: catie.sheehan <catie.sheehan@siu.edu>
Cc: Merrett, Tammy <tmerret@siue.edu>; Minor, James T.; Cobb, Denise <pcobb@siue.edu>; Brandi Spann <bspann@alestlelive.com>
Subject: Re: Memo on Alestle story corrections

You don't often get email from dhembrough@alestlelive.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
 Hello, and thank you for the feedback.

Ethical and accurate reporting are deeply important to The Alestle, and the quality of our reporting is something we pride ourselves on. This story was the result of 15 months of

intensive investigative work — and met by many roadblocks along the way.

Accurate reporting requires the utmost transparency from sources. Ethical reporting requires the elimination of bias in the final product. In other words, the facts of the matter speak for themselves. If administration chooses to ignore its student media, it is the job of the reporter to make that known to the readers. The Alestle, like any serious news organization, reports the most accurate version of the truth available. If key parts of the truth are being withheld, those gaps will be acknowledged by The Alestle and followed up on in the future if possible.

It is our duty to report on all sides of an issue, regardless of perceived harm to the university. Journalism is not public relations — it is just the facts of a situation. Whether or not the salary sweeps process is a common one, the facts of the matter have been laid out, and the students, faculty and staff that this institution is meant to serve will form their opinions on it based off of the facts.

These are facts that administration, notably, does not deny. It is a fact that SIUE swept multiple millions of dollars and put that money towards the debt for that year without offering an appeals process until long after the money was gone. It is a fact that there is considerable resistance to these decisions from faculty, staff and students. The Alestle is not fanning the flames of this resistance, but affording as much information as possible to the campus community in the absence of such action by administration.

Public opinion is often influenced by the perceived transparency of the institution as well. As mentioned above — and in the story — The Alestle attempted to reach out to dozens of people who would be considered experts on the situation, and we were met with little to no response. In the rare event that we did get a response, we were redirected through Marketing and Communications, which had little to no experience in the university budget.

This issue of transparency is not a new one. The numbers we procured were from multiple FOIA requests that came directly from the university. We had to utilize Illinois state law to acquire these numbers — after multiple attempts to speak with the people who had direct access to these numbers. More recently, I reached out to Provost Cobb directly to request that copies of the program elimination proposals be provided to The Alestle in the interest of transparency and bettering our reporting. Our request was denied, and we continue to rely on non-administration bodies to allow us to see these proposals.

In the interest of transparency and accuracy, The Alestle would like to see where your alternative numbers come from, as well as evidence that other departments were able to request their money back. If we can verify that your numbers are accurate, we will issue a correction.

I would also like to address the alleged frequency of inaccurate reporting by The Alestle. Burden of proof for such a claim rests on the accuser, as The Alestle has made it abundantly clear that not only do we enforce the highest standards of ethics and accuracy for every one of our staff members, but that we welcome any and all criticism, corrections and updates to our reporting.

In fact, we have invited administrators to submit letters to the editor on numerous occasions when they reach out to us with concerns — the standard method of voicing such concerns at journalistic organizations across the country. Chancellor Minor's letter, which also went to at least one other area news outlet, is the only instance in which this opportunity has been used by administrators in many, many years.

Earlier this academic year, Senior Counsel Phyleccia Cole said to the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression that reporting by The Alestle on the subject of the University Housing media policy was inaccurate. When asked directly why, and invited to submit a letter to the editor, Cole refused to answer. Additionally, in the days before the salary sweeps story was published and we were verifying all the information we could, Director of Communications

Nicole Franklin called my personal cell phone to tell me that the university had answered all questions sufficiently — without answering the questions I had just sent.

We also conduct accuracy surveys, which we send out to every quoted source in any story, and those surveys have shown our accuracy to be consistently high. Coupled with the fact that, when asked about alleged inaccuracies, administration has refused to answer in most every circumstance, and almost no quoted students, faculty or staff have expressed any issue with allegedly frequent errors, this claim currently does not seem to hold water.

As always, if there is concrete and provable evidence that such a string of inaccuracies has truly occurred, please let us know so we can issue corrections as necessary.

If the frequency of inaccurate reporting is truly an issue, and SIUE truly supports impartial, fact-based journalism, then administration should be working to actively support its award-winning student media rather than cutting its funding and reducing its ability to report impartial, fact-based news. It is undeniable that the visibility, prestige, and overall trust of The Alestle has sharply increased over the last couple of years, due largely to our commitment to principles of ethical and accurate reporting of campus news — and in spite of the cuts we have been forced to weather with little to no warning or explanation.

The Alestle did not spend 15 months on the salary sweeps story for attention or clicks. The Alestle spent 15 months on the story to uncover the truth and present the unbiased facts to its readers — something that was not happening previously. Similarly, the campus community does not click on our stories because of a snappy headline or juicy gossip. They click because they care about these issues, issues which have proven to be deeply unpopular among much of the community.

That any given piece of news may harm the university's reputation is not a consideration of The Alestle. The Alestle's only agenda is that of presenting the facts to its readers. No one news story is inherently critical of administration if written in an impartial, fact-based manner — something The Alestle strives for and prides itself on.

If administration would like to submit a letter to the editor regarding its stance on The Alestle's reporting, please feel free to do so.

Thanks,

Dylan Hembrough (he/him)
Editor-in-Chief at The Alestle
217-670-3168

On Fri, Apr 25, 2025, 12:57 Sheehan, Catie R <catie.sheehan@siu.edu> wrote:

Hello Tammy and Dylan,

Please see the attached memo with feedback on the recent Alestle story on salary sweeps. Thanks for reaching out to seek our feedback on this story.

Sincerely,

Catie

Catie Sheehan

SIU System Executive Director of Marketing & Communications
SIU Edwardsville Interim Executive Director of Marketing & Communications
C: 217-220-1717

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

3. Corrections requested by SIUE Chief Goodwin to “*No evidence of threats:’ Student says Title IX director dismissive of sexual harassment case*” (March 2026)

Bridges, Paula

From: Goodwin, David
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 1:32 PM
To: Bridges, Paula
Subject: Fw: possible correction for Alestle story

See our PIO Teams group for more information

Chief Dave

From: Goodwin, David
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 2:46 PM
To: Hoyd, Kasey <kahoyd@siue.edu>; Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu>
Cc: Bridges, Paula <pbridges@siue.edu>; Lieberman, Justin <jlieber@siue.edu>
Subject: RE: possible correction for Alestle story

Thanks everyone

From: Hoyd, Kasey <kahoyd@siue.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 2:13 PM
To: Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu>
Cc: Goodwin, David <dagoodw@siue.edu>; Bridges, Paula <pbridges@siue.edu>; Lieberman, Justin <jlieber@siue.edu>
Subject: Re: possible correction for Alestle story

Hi all,

I have been out of the office this afternoon for training, but I will look into this when I am back at the office.

Kasey M. Hoyd

On Mar 17, 2026, at 11:53 AM, Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu> wrote:

Hi Chief Dave!

I agree.

Sgt. Hoyd, are you able to put together a Teams doc that shares an intro statement and the bullet points below for your response please?

We can review and hopefully we can get this out by COB?

Nicole Franklin

Office: 618-650-2635

Mobile: 212-665-4418

[Director of Communications](#)

[SIUE](#) Dept of University Marketing and Communications

[Subscribe to SIUE Newsroom](#)

From: Goodwin, David <dagoodw@siue.edu>

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 10:54 AM

To: Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu>, Hoyd, Kasey <kahoyd@siue.edu>

Cc: Bridges, Paula <pbridges@siue.edu>, Lieberman, Justin <jlieber@siue.edu>

Subject: possible correction for Alestle story

Nicole and Kasey

I am concerned about statements made in this ALESTLE article that are not correct.

https://www.alestlelive.com/news/article_8c1e9393-d481-4ac6-88f1-474cf4e11387.html

"Shay filed an order of protection against his roommate on Jan. 29, and SIUE Police got involved when the roommate attempted to avoid being served the papers summoning him to court."

Here are the facts..

- The Student requested an Order of Protection but it was not granted.
- The SIUE PD is not aware of the roommate avoiding a summons to court.
- SIUE PD has not had any involvement in this matter beyond taking a report.
- To my knowledge, the ALESTLE never reached out to the PD in preparation for this article.

I am looking for a quick response that can be sent to the ALETSTLE.

Thanks

Chief Dave Goodwin

Pronouns: He/Him

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Police Department

(618) 650-5537 (Office)

dagoodw@siue.edu

<image002.png>

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may include confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

4. Corrections requested by SIUE Chief Goodwin to "*Preacher sparks debates on Quad, asked to leave by police*" (April 2026)

Bridges, Paula

From: Goodwin, David
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 1:31 PM
To: Bridges, Paula
Subject: Fw: Inaccuracy in Both Alestle Articles on Preacher Visit

Info you requested.. Can you give me a call?

From: Dylan Hembrough <dhembrough@alestlelive.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:02 AM
To: Goodwin, David <dagoodw@siue.edu>
Cc: Hoyd, Kasey <kahoyd@siue.edu>
Subject: Re: Inaccuracy in Both Alestle Articles on Preacher Visit

Of course! Thank you for letting us know (and for all you do for campus)!

Dylan Hembrough (he/him)
Editor-in-Chief at The Alestle
217-670-3168

On Tue, Apr 21, 2026, 09:51 Goodwin, David <dagoodw@siue.edu> wrote:
Dylan

I appreciate you taking immediate action on this.

Chief Dave

From: Dylan Hembrough <dhembrough@alestlelive.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 9:42 AM
To: Hoyd, Kasey <kahoyd@siue.edu>
Cc: Goodwin, David <dagoodw@siue.edu>
Subject: Re: Inaccuracy in Both Alestle Articles on Preacher Visit

Both articles have been corrected, and editor's notes explaining the corrections have been added. They should be reflected on the website now. Thank you very much, again, for pointing out these errors. We will do some internal review to analyze these inaccuracies and adjust our methods accordingly.

Dylan Hembrough (he/him)
Editor-in-Chief at The Alestle
217-670-3168

On Tue, Apr 21, 2026, 09:03 Hoyd, Kasey <kahoyd@siue.edu> wrote:
Received. Please advise once the articles have been corrected.

Sergeant Kasey Hoyd | DSN #12-94

SIUE Police Department
SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Resource Officer
Public Information Officer (PIO)
99 Supporting Services Rd.
Campus Box 1041
Edwardsville, IL 62026
Email: kahoyd@siue.edu
Dispatch: (618) 650-3324
Cell: (708) 510-1988
Desk: (618) 650-2530
Encrypted File Drop: <https://filedrop.siue.edu/filedrop/siue-police>



Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may include confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

From: Dylan Hembrough <dhembrough@alestlelive.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 9:02 AM
To: Hoyd, Kasey <kahoyd@siue.edu>
Cc: Goodwin, David <dagoodw@siue.edu>
Subject: Re: Inaccuracy in Both Alestle Articles on Preacher Visit

Thank you, I'm reaching out to the reporter in question on the first article to verify and will update both articles as soon as I hear back from her.

Dylan Hembrough (he/him)
Editor-in-Chief at The Alestle
217-670-3168

On Tue, Apr 21, 2026, 08:53 Hoyd, Kasey <kahoyd@siue.edu> wrote:

Dylan,

We are reaching out regarding an inaccuracy in both articles written by the Alestle about the preacher's visit to campus. In both articles, it states that the Alestle did not receive a response from the police department when requested. That is an inaccurate statement. Upon request, a response was sent to Madison Steffen back on April 9th, answering the inquiry. We request that both articles be updated to reflect the facts as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Sergeant Kasey Hoyd | DSN #12-94

SIUE Police Department

SIUE East St. Louis Charter High School Resource Officer

Public Information Officer (PIO)

99 Supporting Services Rd.

Campus Box 1041

Edwardsville, IL 62026

Email: kahoyd@siue.edu

Dispatch: (618) 650-3324

Cell: (708) 510-1988

Desk: (618) 650-2530

Encrypted File Drop: <https://filedrop.siue.edu/filedrop/siue-police>



Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may include confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

5. Corrections requested by SIUE Communications Director Nicole Franklin to “*SIUE to submit first balanced budget projection in eight years*” (September 2025)

Bridges, Paula

From: Franklin, Nicole
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 4:35 PM
To: Bridges, Paula
Subject: FW: Corrections to "SIUE to submit first balanced budget projection in eight years"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu>
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 4:03 PM
To: Dylan Hembrough <dhembrough@alestlelive.com>
Subject: Re: Corrections to "SIUE to submit first balanced budget projection in eight years"

Appreciated, thanks!

Nicole

From: Dylan Hembrough <dhembrough@alestlelive.com>
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 3:31 PM
To: Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu>
Subject: Re: Corrections to "SIUE to submit first balanced budget projection in eight years"

Thank you Nicole! Brandi is looking over the story and the corrections you sent now. It should be updated soon.

Dylan Hembrough (he/him)
Editor-in-Chief at The Alestle
217-670-3168

On Thu, Sep 11, 2025, 14:55 Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu> wrote:

Hi Dylan!

Requesting, please, corrections to the following:

Corrections to Alestle Article
"SIUE to submit first balanced budget projection in eight years"
September 8, 2025

Each reference to the "Budget Reporting Workgroup" should be replaced with the University Budget and Analytics office or team. The Budget Reporting Workgroup is a team appointed by Chancellor Minor to address recommendations made by the Wesley Peachtree Group to improve the infrastructure behind our financial reporting and processes. The University Budget and Analytics team is responsible for developing and forecasting the University's budget, tracking and reporting budget-to-actual

performance and providing strategic financial guidance to senior University leaders to help achieve institutional goals.

“SIUE has a \$110.5 million cash reserve, higher than most other institutions in the state. With a goal of 5 months set in place by NACUBO, SIUE can operate for 4.1 months. NACUBO recommends being within the range of 4.5 months, so the FY26 budget intends to increase SIUE’s cash reserve to \$114 million.”

- At the end of FY25, SIUE has \$114.0 million in cash reserves.
- NACUBO recommends universities to hold 4.8 months, or 40%, or operational expenditures in reserves.
- The last part of the last sentence should read, “with a balanced FY26 budget, cash reserves are projected to remain stable at \$114.0 million.”

“The proposed budget for FY26 accounts for increases in utility costs, student wage increases, salary costs — salaries are estimated to increase \$4.5 million — and revenue from enrollment. But Minor said that this is not a static position, and changes could take place throughout the year.”

- Personal services, which includes both salaries and student wages, are estimated to increase \$4.5 million.

Thank you,

Nicole Franklin

Office: 618-650-2635

Mobile: 212-665-4418

[Director of Communications](#)

[SIUE](#) Dept of University Marketing and Communications

Subscribe to SIUE Newsroom here: <https://www.siue.edu/news/current.shtml>

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE

6. Corrections requested by outside organization President to *“Illinois students save millions with state-funded test prep program”* (July 2025).

Bridges, Paula

From: Franklin, Nicole
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2026 4:36 PM
To: Bridges, Paula
Subject: FW: Alestle Article Attribution

From: Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 12:13 PM
To: Sophia Hawkins <shawkins@alestlelive.com>; Merrett, Tammy <tmerret@siue.edu>
Subject: Re: Alestle Article Attribution

Hello to you both!

Kristin Tassi emailed me again yesterday about the article. May I give her a timeline, please, on when the correction would be complete?

Nicole Franklin

Office: 618-650-2635

Mobile: 212-665-4418

[Director of Communications](#)

[SIUE](#) Dept of University Marketing and Communications

Subscribe to SIUE Newsroom here: <https://www.siue.edu/news/current.shtml>

From: Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu>
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 8:48 AM
To: Sophia Hawkins <shawkins@alestlelive.com>, Merrett, Tammy <tmerret@siue.edu>
Subject: FW: Alestle Article Attribution

Mornin' Sophia and Tammy!

Thank you for the Kaplan coverage. Much appreciated!

Please see Kristin Tassi's concern below. Can a correction be issued for the article please?

Nicole Franklin

Office: 618-650-2635

Mobile: 212-665-4418

[Director of Communications](#)

[SIUE](#) Dept of University Marketing and Communications

Subscribe to SIUE Newsroom here: <https://www.siue.edu/news/current.shtml>

From: Kristin Tassi <kristin@tassicommunications.com>

Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 6:52 AM

To: Franklin, Nicole <nifrank@siue.edu>

Subject: FW: Alestle Article Attribution

Hi Nicole! Kristin Tassi here with Kaplan/Prepare for Illinois' Future. I hope your summer is going well.

Wondering if you can help me. [The story](#) we worked on together in The Alestle published yesterday, and it's fantastic. But the student reporter attributed the data to Tassi Communications (my firm), which is not customary in our industry. I asked her to remove my firm's name from the online story and attribute the data to Kaplan. The editor in chief asked for justification for removing the PR company, which I provided below, but they have decided to keep my name in the story.

It's not customary to name the PR company, and I'm wondering if you'd be able to help. Please let me know.

Thanks!

Kristin

Kristin Tassi

President | Tassi Communications, Inc.

(312) 622-5247 | www.tassicommunications.com

From: Kristin Tassi <kristin@tassicommunications.com>

Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 2:17 PM

To: Sophia Hawkins <shawkins@alestlelive.com>

Subject: Re: Alestle Article Attribution

Hi Sophia, Thanks for circling back.

In my initial media pitch, I was sharing the information on behalf of the Prepare for Illinois' Future program powered by Kaplan. The data that you credited to Tassi Communications is not my data to share; it's Kaplan's, so it's much more appropriate to name the source of the data vs. the messenger.

The correct credit for the data would read like this:

According to **Kaplan**, the program has saved select Illinois universities and community college students more than \$10 million in out-of-pocket costs related to test prep, exams and professional licensure.

Please let me know of any questions you or your editor may have. I appreciate your help on this matter.

Thanks,

Kristin Tassi



Kristin Tassi

President | Tassi Communications, Inc.

(312) 622-5247 | www.tassicommunications.com

From: Sophia Hawkins <shawkins@alestlelive.com>

Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 2:08 PM

To: Kristin Tassi <kristin@tassicommunications.com>

Subject: Alestle Article Attribution

Hello Kristin,

I spoke to my Editor-in-Chief about removing Tassi Communications from The Alestle article "Illinois students save millions with state-funded test prep program" and was hoping you could provide me with a specific reason as to why you wanted the PR company's name taken out of the article. If there is a compelling justification for its removal from the article we will take appropriate action.

Thank You,
Sophia

--

Sophia Hawkins

Online Editor, *The Alestle*

217-503-5933 | shawkins@alestlelive.com

she/her/hers