

BearPrint – Public Service Tax Clinic

Request: Sandra Byrd and Rachelle Darabi are asking IT Council to consider funding the printing costs of our student's tax returns that occur during February, March and the first two weeks of April.

- Missouri State accounting students are working in the Public Service Tax Clinic to meet the University's Public Affairs mission by providing a very valuable service to our community.
- They are assisting students, faculty, staff, low- and middle-income working families, older adults and English as a Second Language taxpayer with free tax services.
- They are also assisting students and parents, of not only Missouri State students but also prospective Missouri State students, to link their electronically filed tax returns to their FAFSA.
 - This is being done to assist them in obtaining funding via Pell grants so they can attend Missouri State and/or to continue to attend Missouri State.
- In the 2012 tax season, the Missouri State students working in cooperation with other community organizations in the ATLS coalition were responsible for the local community receiving almost \$7 million in tax refunds.
 - This money was likely spent in the local community by some of our most vulnerable citizens.
- For the last two tax seasons, this initiative was funded from external sources but this year with cuts in federal and state funding, they were unable to obtain funding from external sources and are looking for a way within the University to continue this valuable service.
- BearPrint Expenses for Previous Years – Public Tax Clinic Services:
 - FY 2011: \$1,646.77
 - FY 2012: \$1,204.38
 - FY 2013: \$251.68 (to date)