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LATEST NEWS

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Many hurricane-displaced students in Missouri, Illinois

Missouri and Illinois were among the top 10 states that received college students displaced by Hurricane Katrina, according to data released Wednesday.

The National Student Clearinghouse, which provides reporting and verification services to more than 2,800 higher-education institutions, said of the more than 18,600 students affected by Hurricane Katrina, nearly three-fourths went to 10 states, including Missouri and Illinois.

The Herndon, Va.-based clearinghouse found more than 1,000 institutions in its network that took in students. Unaffected institutions in Louisiana received more than 30 percent, or 5,631, of affected students, with Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge taking in the largest number of students at 3,271, or 17.6 percent. Texas received nearly 15.5 percent, or 2,882 displaced students, followed by New York and Georgia. Illinois ranked fifth, receiving 864 students, or 4.64 percent, followed by California, Tennessee and Florida. Missouri ranked ninth, taking in 446 students, or 2.4 percent, followed by Alabama.

Six Louisiana institutions that participate in the clearinghouse were unable to resume normal operations for the fall term: Delgado Community College, Dillard University, Loyola University of New Orleans, Tulane University, University of New Orleans and Xavier University of Louisiana.

The study found that although slightly more than half of the students had been enrolled in a private college prior to the hurricane, nearly three-quarters of those enrolled in a public college after being displaced.

The clearinghouse plans to conduct a follow-up student in the spring semester to find out if students will return to their hurricane-affected university or stay at the university they are attending this fall.

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