



**This weekend's Festival of the Moon and Festival of the Sun in Lansing's Old Town are previewed at [stateneews.com](http://stateneews.com)**

**State orders unpaid days off to save \$22M in coming months**  
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## About 590 jobs on line in MSU budget

By Kayla Habermehl  
THE STATE NEWS

About 600 MSU employees' positions might be affected by the approximately \$50 million in cuts the university is instituting during the next two years, MSU officials said. These cuts are an issue especially for nontenured faculty, who see job security as the No. 1 issue they face, said Richard Manderfield, spokesman for the organizing committee of the recently formed Union for Nontenure-Track Faculty and a visiting assistant professor of writing, rhetoric and American cultures. The reductions come as MSU prepares for a possible \$6.1 million decrease in state funding, according to the budget guidelines approved Friday by the MSU Board of Trustees.

### Personnel problems

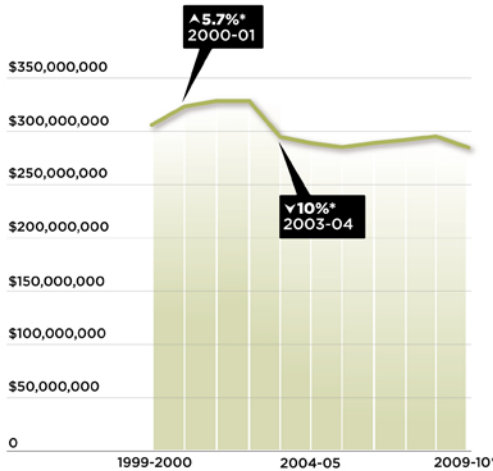
In addition to the possible 10.1 percent tuition hike during the next two years, MSU will cut 10 percent in unit operating budgets. That's a percent, or about \$19.4 million, in 2009-10 and 6 percent in 2010-11, according to the guidelines. The 10 percent reduction represents about \$50 million during the next two years. Of that \$50 million, about 87 percent is related to personnel and will affect about 590 positions. The majority, or 45 percent, of the personnel reductions will be accomplished by not filling open positions; 36 percent will be cut by not reappointing fixed-term faculty; and 19 percent will be done through layoffs.

Manderfield said the cuts are particularly stressful on nontenured faculty. "Economic pressures fall disproportionately on nontenured faculty," Manderfield said. "We find that to be unfair and that's a concern of ours." Nontenured, or fixed-term, faculty hold an appointment for a set length of time. These appointments can be renewed, but with the cuts looming, Manderfield said concerns about job security are paramount. "We really don't have the (job) security of an average person," he said. "There are people in the union who have been doing that for 20, 25 years. Their whole

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### State operating appropriations

The amount of funding allocated to the university by the state has decreased 6.53 percent overall since the 1999-2000 fiscal year.



SOURCE: MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY 2009-10 APPROPRIATION REQUEST  
ANDREA ZAGATA | 5N

\*Percentage change from previous year. Number for 2009-10 has not been finalized.

For an interactive version of this graphic, visit [stateneews.com](http://stateneews.com).

### EAST LANSING

## City Council to discuss road, property issues

By Marissa Cumbers  
THE STATE NEWS

East Lansing residents will be seeing more touches of orange if a \$8.8 million bond for street improvements is approved at tonight's City Council meeting. The council, which meets at 7 p.m. in City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, plans to discuss improvements in various locations in the city, including sections of Besse-

maur and Columbine drives. The \$8.8 million Michigan Transportation Fund Bond would allow for street improvements including the resurfacing, installation and replacement of curbs and storm sewers.

"We have done some big projects, such as the widening of Abbot Road, and we used up our fund balance for (street) improvements," said Mary Haskell, East Lansing's finance director. "This

would be used to fund additional projects."

The project would take place during the next three fiscal years and is estimated to cost \$15 million. It is budgeted at \$1.8 million for additional costs and market changes.

The council also will consider the refinancing of two bonds already established by the city.

Refinancing of the Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refund-

ing Bonds would result in an estimated savings of 2.2 percent, or a total of \$13,945, during the remainder of the bond's issue, which is up in 2018.

Remaining debt from the General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding Bonds would be refinanced to create an estimated 5.2 percent savings for the city, or a total of \$242,115. That bond is up in 2015.

"By refinancing these bonds,

the city's debt payment will be lowered," she said. "We will save over the remainder of the bond issue."

Also on tonight's agenda is the discussion of an agreement between the city and Hagan Realty.

"It just pertains to a shift in the consent agreement between the city and Hagan

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### CAMPUS

## Refugees strive for work in U.S.

By Zane McMillin  
THE STATE NEWS

Wilhelmina Holder said she still has trouble finding her place in the U.S. work force since fleeing Liberia in 1985, five years after her father, who also was the president, was assassinated. Now working as a public health physician and executive director of the Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment in St. Paul, Minn., Holder said there still are institutional biases about whether immigrants and refugees in the U.S. should be provided quality job opportunities.

"Here, it was very difficult getting a job in the health system," she said. "I've never been able to get a leadership position in the department of health where I should be with my leadership capabilities and my background as a public health physician." Holder was present Monday at

the first National Conference on Refugee Professional Recertification, a two-day event co-hosted by MSU and Baltimore-based RefugeeWorks, a nonprofit project that consults with refugees and various refugee-help organizations, said Linda Rabben, a staff consultant for RefugeeWorks and the event's organizer.

"Many of the refugees that come here are very seriously traumatized," she said. "They've seen horrible things and it's very difficult for them to get the help that they need to integrate into American society."

Retraining and recertifying refugees who once held professional positions in their country of origin for domestic employment is beneficial because, in the long run, they will be able to diversify and make important contributions to the U.S. job market, she said.

"These are very highly trained and experienced professionals have a

lot to contribute to U.S. society," she said. "They're eager to work and (they) face all these obstacles that keep them from working in their field."

Rosina Hassoun, an MSU assistant professor of anthropology who was scheduled to speak today at the conference, said she was concerned for the future of refugee employment in the U.S. because of several factors, including discrimination and the economic recession.

"What we have is a downturn in the economy," she said. "What we have is large numbers of people who are searching for jobs. It's very easy to scapegoat and to also discriminate against our refugees."

Hassoun, whose family came to the U.S. as refugees from Pakistan, said this can be offset by raising awareness of the plight

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While attending the RefugeeWorks conference at Kellogg Center on Monday, Somali refugees Ali Omar and Fatuma Elmi, who now live in Minnesota, speak with Jennifer Perez-Brennan, center, from Upwardly Global, a nonprofit organization dedicated to getting qualified immigrant and refugee professionals jobs in their respective fields. Shortly after, Perez-Brennan spoke at a session entitled "Partnerships Across Sectors," one of the 18 breakout sessions.

SEAN COOK/THE STATE NEWS