

Crimson pride

I am particularly proud this week to be a Harvard alumnus.

Last month, Harvard University announced that students whose families' annual income is less than \$200,000 could attend for free. Then, this past week, the institution refused to comply with the Trump administration's demands to eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion hiring and admissions programs. As a result, the government froze more than \$2.2 billion worth of federal grants and \$60 million in contracts.

This means the university will most likely have to rely on its endowment, which is more than \$50 billion, to offset these losses. However, Harvard can use this endowment, the largest in the world, to make an even stronger statement: It can ensure that more deserving students have the opportunity to attend this great school, regardless of financial means, by covering the estimated \$86,926 annual total cost of attendance for those who cannot afford it.

If Harvard wants the brightest minds to come to Cambridge, Massachusetts, no matter their financial background, then now is the time to break the bank to do so.

Earl Martin Phalen, *Kansas City, Missouri*

The writer is chief executive of Great Jobs KC.