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Community Connection

UMSL
University of Missouri–St. Louis





Dear Neighbors and Community Partners,

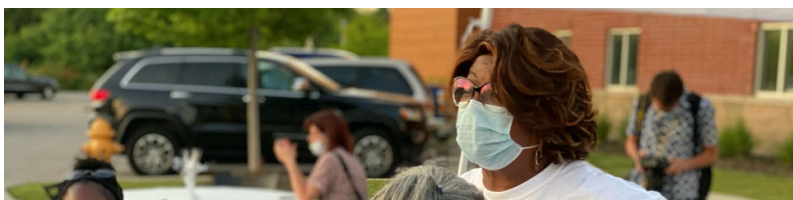
Over the past few weeks, we have continued to deal with the COVID-19 health pandemic while facing the long-standing systemic and institutional racism that plagues our nation. As we continue to work on and off campus with partners to address the health impacts of COVID-19 and engage in the deep work needed to end racial injustice, UMSL is committed to remaining a force for good.

Much work and change are needed in the coming weeks and months to address health and equity in our communities. In the immediate moment, UMSL mental health service units such as the Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis have a number of supports for individuals experiencing trauma. Free trainings for people who work with youth to support the broader community are in the works. Recently, our office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, working with our community engagement team, piloted a workshop with community partners to support access and inclusion practices for building a more welcoming workplace and community.

I also want to share with you the campus reopening strategy as we plan to safely resume activity on campus. UMSL staff and faculty are returning in planned phases over the next few months and we are doing our part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Currently, our plan is to have students coming back in the fall, and have created a hybrid learning environment to support both online and in-person classes. Online fees for the fall have again been eliminated to ease financial strains facing existing and interested students. For those who use our Optometry Clinic, services are open again at our Patient Care Center. Further, we are planning to reopen the Recreation and Wellness Center on August 1st ([click here](#) for details) and look forward to welcoming our community members back.

Lastly, many communities voted on June 2nd to choose their municipal and school leadership. We are pleased to celebrate the election of UMSL alumna Ella Jones, the first African-American and the first woman to serve as mayor of Ferguson. Congratulations to all of our newly elected area officials. We thank you for your willingness to serve our communities. In partnership,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor, University of Missouri–St. Louis



COVID-19 Resources

[Click here](#) to view resources for support during the pandemic.

UMSL Community Connection

[Click here](#) to sign up for the community connection newsletter.

UMSL Community Card

[Register](#) for a community card to receive benefits and discounts at UMSL events and facilities.

UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)
[Construction Bids](#)



St. Louis Area Metro Virtual Job Fair

St. Louis County Workforce Development will be hosting a virtual job fair on June 17th - 19th, 2020. The event will feature multiple industries and many employers in the St. Louis Metro Area, complete with direct application links and contact information for immediate follow up via phone or video call. [Click here](#) for more information.

Coronavirus Relief Fund

St. Louis County has released two funding opportunities related to the CARES Act under the Coronavirus Relief Fund related to the humanitarian response program. General information can be found by [clicking here](#). Applications are now being accepted for the following:

COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Program
Applications are being



Ferguson Elects Its First African American Mayor

St. Louis Public Radio • June 3, 2020

Voters in Ferguson shattered a barrier on Tuesday by electing Ella Jones as the city's first African American mayor, a milestone for a community that's been at the center of race and policing issues in the St. Louis region for nearly six years.

Jones will also be the first woman to hold the position.

Jones defeated fellow Councilwoman Heather Robinett to succeed James Knowles III, who was barred by term limits from running again. "People from the seniors to the young people understand that my goal is for us to be one — for us to work together," Jones said.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

UMSL is proud to count Ella Jones as an alumna. She earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from UMSL and completed training in municipal leadership from the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at UMSL.



UMSL Offers Community Workshop on Micro-aggressions

"I thought that the workshop was really great and informative, because a lot of people are unfamiliar with microaggressions and how the things they say can be hurtful even if it wasn't their intent. I would definitely recommend everyone to attend this workshop. I think it is an important step in reaching an equitable workplace and society as a whole." ~E. Maxwell, NCI

This month, the UMSL Office of Community Engagement and the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion piloted a free

accepted in the following impact areas including; seniors and homebound programs, housing stabilization and homeless prevention, technology, and social and emotional wellness for children. Please review the following [RFP](#) and [click here](#) to apply online.

Child Care Relief Program

Applications are being accepted for licensed and licensed-exempt child care providers in St. Louis County that have been impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please review the [RFP](#) and [click here](#) to apply online.



STL Response COVID-19 Resource Dashboard

The <https://stlresponse.org/> website is an inclusive crowdsourced community resource guide for the St. Louis metro area in response to COVID-19. For more help finding resources, visit stlmutualaid.org or contact 211 by dialing 2-1-1 or visiting 211helps.org.



UMSL plans for in-person classes, but waives online fees due to COVID-19

*St. Louis Business Journal
May 26, 2020*

The University of Missouri — St. Louis will continue to waive all online fees through the fall semester due to COVID-19.

diversity and inclusion training for several UMSL community partners. Titled "Recognizing and speaking up against unintentional racism (a.k.a. microaggressions)" the workshop focused on 1) learning to recognize microaggressions, 2) gaining an understanding of why microaggressions run counter to an inclusive and welcoming work environment, and 3) practicing strategies for effectively speaking up to counter microaggressions that they experience or witness.

The feedback from the session has been very positive thus far. Even though several people would have preferred attending an in-person workshop, the online platform worked well. One participant noted, "This was one of the most engaging and immediately applicable Zoom meetings I have had. Our Diversity Committee is wondering whether we can share any of the wisdom from today's session...Thank You!" Plans are underway to develop similar workshops this fall to be offered with community partners throughout the year.

The university already waived online course fees for the summer semester, which saved students more than \$1.6 million, officials said.

"UMSL has been and will always be committed to access and affordability," UMSL Chancellor Kristin Soboliksaid in a statement. "With the financial challenges facing students and their families, we must remain focused on doing everything possible to ensure they continue their academic progress, graduate and succeed in the workforce."



Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis Builds Capacity to Help Community Cope with Trauma

Americans were still coming to grips with the death toll from COVID-19 rising to more than 100,000 and unemployment surging to its highest levels since the Great Depression when the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis shone a light on the wounds of racism and set off nationwide protests of police brutality.

[Click here](#) to read more about how the Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis has been working to help children and families cope with trauma while training more than 500 community members to use a Resiliency and Coping Intervention to help the youth they serve deal with stressors in their everyday lives.



UMSL is planning to return to in-person classes this fall, but the university has increased its online and blended course offerings to give its students more flexibility. [Read more here.](#)



Images courtesy of the 2020 Missouri Census website

Step Up and Be Counted! Census 2020 is Underway

Good news, there is still time to take the Census! Self-response has been extended through October 31 and is available online or over the phone. EVERYONE living in the United States needs to be counted. Communities benefit from this data because it affects how funding is managed for city infrastructure, health care centers, the number of seats Missouri has in Congress, schools, and more. To see how your city or county is stacking up against others across the state, review [these rankings](#) or go to <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>.

Don't wait! Visit <https://2020census.gov/> for more information and to complete the Census now.





Social Mobility at UMSL: Access and Student Success

Two years after Aaron Ezell dropped out of Purdue University to tour as a musician, he'd had enough of the music business. He knew he had to find another direction and looked to his family for inspiration. Most relatives had working class jobs, but then there was his aunt. She'd graduated college, become a principal and was not only comfortable but also able to help the family out financially. "I decided she was the person I wanted to be," he says. "If college was the way that she got that done, I needed to go."

He enrolled in the University of Missouri–St. Louis College of Business Administration and joined Delta Sigma Phi business fraternity, making a connection that led to his first job at Edward Jones where he's now a financial advisor – a long way from college dropout. Ezell's rise demonstrates the power of an UMSL education to empower intragenerational change by lifting one's socioeconomic status.

"Social mobility is doing better than the generation before me, but it is also setting an example for the generation behind me," Ezell says. "I've got plenty of folks that are watching me and seeing me do things that nobody in my family has done before: traveling internationally, spending what they might consider crazy amounts of money or making investments."

[Click here](#) to read more about UMSL as a top performer on social mobility.



Ask an Expert: Sheila Grigsby Discusses Disproportionate Effects of COVID-19 on African American Communities

COVID-19 has fallen much harder on African Americans than everyone else in the city of St. Louis.

Of the approximately 2,000 reported cases of coronavirus, 1,256 were African Americans compared to 488 Caucasians. The deaths – 82 to 42 – tell a similar story.



Ferguson Farmers Market is Now Open

Drop by on Saturdays through October from 8 a.m. to noon at 501 S Florissant Rd. in Ferguson. Please make sure to wear a mask to the market as a courtesy to others even at outdoor venues. These safety precautions are in place to keep everyone safe and healthy. Note that the first hour is reserved for seniors and immune compromised. The Ferguson Farmers Market has also been providing free delivery! For a full list of vendors please visit Ferguson Farmer's Market [website](#) or Facebook [page](#).



EarthDance Supports for Community

[Click here](#) to learn more about how EarthDance is responding during this pandemic from sharing the harvest with people and organizations who are on the frontlines of feeding the most vulnerable in the St. Louis community to offering digital farm & garden education.



Missouri Food Finder

The Missouri Food Finder is a new online tool provided as a

Though states' racial data reporting has been scattershot, that is a pattern that holds true throughout the United States. In order to discover why, what can be done and how the events after George Floyd's death in Minneapolis have exacerbated the situation, UMSL Daily turned to University of Missouri–St. Louis Assistant Professor of Nursing Sheila Grigsby in this latest installment of our Ask an Expert series.

courtesy to help consumers and local food sources connect. Check out this video (https://youtu.be/SSrP-t5_oog) and then find local food sources at <https://mofoodfinder.org/>.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Share with Us

UMSL is interested to know more about your thoughts and questions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and how we might better support surrounding communities during this health crisis. Take a short survey [here](#) to share your thoughts!

We'd love to hear your questions and comments about UMSL and stories about great things happening in our communities. Your thoughts will help shape content covered in future newsletters to be pertinent to you and your neighbors. Leave any suggestions, questions, or stories [here](#). Thank you!

UMSL Community Engagement Office
One University Blvd, 426 Woods Hall | St. Louis, MO 63121
314-516-5267 | www.umsl.edu/collaborations

University of Missouri–St. Louis
Community Engagement
1 University Boulevard
426 Woods Hall
St. Louis, MO | 63121

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