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Letter from the Chancellor

Greetings,

I hope this message finds you well. It is evident that COVID-19 continues to deeply impact all aspects of life. As we adjust in the face of this health crisis, I am heartened by the many ways the UMSL and St. Louis communities have come together to support each other.

Since many of our students are our neighbors, I want to share with you a few ways we are working to support their educational success. We launched the [Triton Emergency Assistance Fund](#) to help students meet urgent financial needs, whether they be rent or utility payments or help with transportation. We have assisted UMSL students with securing more than \$42,000 in emergency grants and scholarships over the last few weeks. We've continued to provide student workers who could not work remotely with paid administrative leave – the same as our regular staff members. This past week, we also made the decision to move all summer courses to 100 percent online and we've waived all online supplemental course fees for the summer to help them continue their academic progress.

Our mission to serve both in and outside the classroom remains strong. UMSL's health and counseling services have shifted to telehealth, the Child Advocacy Center produced a webinar on supporting children through uncertain times, and our pre-collegiate services have switched to online offerings. Our Community Innovation and Action Center and community

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](#)

Upcoming Event

Small Business Workshop:
Applying for Federal Relief Funds



Small Business Workshop: Applying for Federal Relief Dollars

Friday, April 10, 8:15-9:15 AM
Online: [Register](#)

The University of Missouri – St. Louis, MU Extension, North County Inc., Beyond Housing, the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, and MOSourceLink are partnering

partners have launched the [Connect\(For\)](#) news update to support nonprofit organizations navigating current conditions, and our faculty continue to share evidence-based insights into managing life in the era of physical distancing.

We are grateful for those in our community who are working tirelessly to support children, families, seniors and local businesses. School districts and nonprofits are delivering everything from meals to laptops to feed the body and mind as children learn from home. Many of our institutional partners are creating online resources to support and inform the region such as the [STL Response Dashboard](#). To our neighboring small businesses, we encourage you to connect with your lenders and business supports to access resources available to you during this challenging time. In the right hand column of the newsletter, we have listed organizations, resources and places to stay up-to-date on the latest COVID-19 response information.

As we move forward together during this time, please stay healthy, stay safe and stay connected.

In partnership,

Kristin Sobolik
Interim Chancellor, University of Missouri - St. Louis



Image courtesy of the St. Louis Regional Data Alliance.

COVID-19 dashboard: STL Response

In an era of social media and fake news, it can be difficult to find and organize reliable information – especially during a pandemic.

The [St. Louis Regional Data Alliance](#) – housed at the [University of Missouri–St. Louis' Community Innovation and Action Center](#) – is aiming to make that easier for the St. Louis region with [STL Response](#), a website with a dedicated COVID-19 dashboard featuring local news feeds, maps, and resource guides. Community volunteers and the RDA banded together to collect the best resources available in one place. For more information, visit the UMSL Daily article [here](#).



to offer this online information session with a panel of experts and local lenders on how to apply for federal funds.

The federal government recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which includes substantial funding for small businesses (for-profit, non-profit, and religious). If you are a small business, nonprofit, or religious institution with fewer than 500 employees, you may be eligible for funds to cover 2.5 months of payroll. Multiple loan programs and technical assistance are available. [Click here](#) to register.

COVID-19 Resources

Below is a collection of resources to help individuals or businesses residing in the area surrounding UMSL's campus. As an operational note, many of UMSL's health services are continuing to serve through telehealth means to support the physical and mental health of those in the community.

UMSL Coronavirus Updates

This webpage has information for the UMSL community.

General Resource Sites

Highlighted here are a few resources with extensive information on available resources. These sites include legislative updates, news, health services and other information.

Resident Resources

Residents can learn about resources by local organizations. There is information for those in need of food, shelter or other types of support.

Business Resources

This section is dedicated to supports for businesses covering funding, guidance, and technical assistance.

Image courtesy of Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis.

Children's Advocacy Services Provides Helpful Webinar to Families

The routines of everyday life have been put on pause by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for children that's meant no bus rides to school, sports team practices or scout meetings and uncertainty over when they might next get to play with their friends. It can be challenging for parents to know how to talk to and support their children, especially as they're dealing with their own sense of upheaval.

Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis, an affiliate of the University of Missouri–St. Louis, provided some guidance during a free webinar held for more than 250 registered viewers. For more information, visit the UMSL Daily article [here](#). Watch the webinar [here](#).



Photo Courtesy of August Jennewein at UMSL Daily.

UMSL Associate Professor Informed How to Deter and Recognize Fake News

Coronavirus has birthed not only a pandemic but an infodemic. There's a flood of information about the virus – correct and incorrect – that makes parsing reliability nearly impossible, according to the World Health Organization.

In order to understand what you can do to verify sources and how coronavirus is changing the media landscape, UMSL Daily called upon Lara Zwarun, associate professor of communication and media at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. For more information, visit the UMSL Daily article [here](#).



Photo Courtesy of August Jennewein at UMSL Daily.

Importance of Maintaining Social Connections amid Physical Separation

School District Links

Visit this webpage for information from local school districts - Normandy, Ferguson/Florissant, Jennings and Ritenour. These sites include ongoing efforts of these school districts to support students, families and the local community including free lunches, online lessons and other projects.

Online Activities

These resources allow users to enjoy free tours, online courses and other materials from the comfort of their own home.

The places Americans typically gather to socialize with friends and loved ones have been kept empty while the country tries to get control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people are now working remotely from home.

UMSL Daily spoke to Kamila White, an associate professor of clinical psychology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, about the need for people to find ways for socialization while still adhering to public health guidelines aimed at slowing the spread of the novel coronavirus. Follow the UMSL Daily article [here](#).

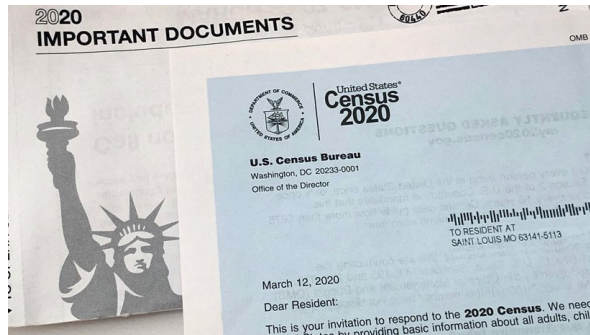


Photo Courtesy of August Jennewein at UMSL Daily.

The 2020 United States Census is Here

Missouri residents should have received information and instructions this past month about how to complete the U.S. Census. Federal funds are allocated through the completion of this census to distribute to each state's various programs including student loans, school funding, infrastructure and other important resources. The number of seats that Missouri holds in Congress is also determined by this census.

UMSL Daily interviewed Anita Manion and Adriano Udani, UMSL political scientists, about the importance of the census and how it impacts the residents of Missouri. Read the article [here](#).

It has never been easier to respond to the census, whether online, over the phone or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker. The census is available in 13 languages including English, Spanish and many others. For more information, visit 2020Census.gov and view the FAQ page at <https://ask.census.gov/>.

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!

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

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