



Dear friends, neighbors and community partners,

What an exciting few weeks we have had recently! We were fortunate to have a beautiful day to see the solar eclipse and share in the excitement taking place across the globe. Even though our view was partial, it was truly spectacular! It was a learning experience and a celebration at the same time. This month we also celebrated our undergraduate student researchers with our local legislators in Jefferson City. Additionally, we just established a new partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri, ensuring college access to more young people in our community. These are a just a few of features included in the newsletter this month. Enjoy!

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis



UMSL hosts community dialogue on ways to promote economic justice across the St. Louis region

Nearly 50 people, including members of the UMSL faculty and staff as well as roughly two dozen community members,

UMSL Community Connection newsletter

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STL Community LAB

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Events & Resources

gathered recently to take part in the event titled “Economic Justice: What’s Possible in the 314?” The forum sparked discussion about ways to improve equity and prosperity across the region. A panel discussion between five individuals who have been working toward economic justice in the St. Louis region included Stefani Weeden-Smith, the director of the St. Louis Anchor Action Network co-led by UMSL and Edward Jones; Jaclyn Belt, a UMSL MPPA graduate and the chief transformation officer at Beyond Housing; Kelly McGowan, the founder and executive director of Transform 314; and Durrell Smith and Stephen Davis, both of the St. Louis Development Corporation. Attendees had an opportunity to ask questions of the panelists and ended the afternoon by engaging in discussion with each other using the National Issues Forums Institute model of deliberative dialogue.

This was the second installment of the *UMSL Forum for Community Dialogue* series launched last fall. [Read more.](#)



Two St. Louis County School Districts [Ferguson-Florissant and Ritenour] Received Multi-Million Dollar Federal Clean School Bus Grants That Will Provide Schools with Electric Buses

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In effort to support more sustainability in the North county area, two St. Louis County school districts have received Federal Clean School Bus grants that will provide electric buses. The multi-million dollar grant will supply the Ferguson-Florissant School District and the Ritenour School District with the infrastructure needed to charge and maintain the electric buses through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program. The grant is alignment with the Ferguson-Florissant School District's sustainability goals. “Sustainability is a top priority for our school district because it's just good sense - we want to leave a cleaner, healthier environment for our community,” said Onye Holloman, the district's director of communications and marketing. [Read more.](#)



The Team (left to right): Olivia Ramsdott (budget) Thomas Chapman (Designer), Henry Bowes (Recorder), Miyauna Bryant (Project Manager), Garek Bonkowski (budget)

NASA Selects Local Ferguson Florissant 8th Grade Team

Ferguson Citywalk website, March 2024



Ferguson Indoor Farmers Market

Saturday, April 20, 2024
9:00 a.m. - Noon
St. Stephen's Episcopal
33 N. Clay Ave., 63135

Find fresh produce all year long. Includes pay what you can for produce at the Earthdance booth.



UMSL Piano Studio Recital

Tuesday, Apr 23, 2024
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

University Piano Studio presents a wonderful evening of piano music filled with elegance, depth, and delight! Meet the students and professor Alla Voskoboynikova in the Lee Theater Lobby after the concert! Click [here](#) for more information.



Earthdance Farms Plant Sale

May 3 - May 5, 2024
Times vary
233 S. Dade Ave.,
Ferguson

Earthdance Farms is having a plant sale! The community is invited to meet and chat with farmers and team members IN PERSON while shopping, hearing about the varieties,

Five young students from Gina Pereda's 8th grade science class at the Ferguson Florissant School District STEAM Academy Middle School were selected as winners of NASA's TechRise Student Challenge which is a national science competition by NASA to receive a \$1,500 grant.

They will work directly with NASA mentors to complete their project which will be launched on a future NASA rocket powered lander test flight on a test field designed to simulate the moon's surface. Their project centers around detecting vibrations of a rocket as it rises in altitude and the temperature changes that occur as a result. They hope to build a sensor that will give astronauts advanced notice of these changes which will allow them to deploy early safety measures. [Read more.](#)



UMSL formalizes partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri to support future students with scholarships

UMSL is partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri once again, and will provide \$5,250 Margaret Bush Wilson Scholarships and wraparound support services to BBBSEMO students enrolling in the university beginning in the 2024-25 academic year.

UMSL is committed to expanding access to higher education for students of every background and helping them bolster their futures by earning their degrees. BBBSEMO is committing to identifying students who would be a good fit for UMSL and meet the university's selective admissions requirements. The organization will initiate contact with the university and connect students to UMSL admissions representatives. The university also will host BBBSEMO students and their families in annual personalized visit days and provide financial aid workshops. [Read more.](#)



UMSL Biology student Jesse Laseter (center) speaks to State Sen. Brian Williams (at left) about his research during UM System Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. Laseter and fellow biology major Zachary Pfeiffer (at right) have been researching the presence of small predators in Missouri glades. (Photos by Abbie Lankitus/University of Missouri System)

and learning to give home gardens a successful start this spring. Click [here](#) to learn more.



NCI 47th Annual Leadership Breakfast
Friday, May 17, 2024
7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

At the North County Incorporated (NCI) Annual Breakfast, awards will be presented to those individuals who have shown a strong commitment to the North St. Louis County region through their business, civic and/or humanitarian acts. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

**FERGUSON
TWILIGHT RUN**
10m★5k★10K
& 1 MILE FUN RUN

Ferguson Twilight Run
Saturday, May 18, 2024
4:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Plaza at 501
Florissant & Suburban Ave.

The in-person 2024 Ferguson Twilight Run is taking place in Downtown Ferguson! Virtual FTR activities will take place over the course of the weekend. In-person distances include one mile, 5k (3.1 miles), 10k (6.2 miles) and 10 mile. For event information and registration, click [here](#).



**UMSL Bridge Program:
Summer Academy**

Students showcase their research during Undergraduate Research Day at the Missouri Capitol

Seven University of Missouri–St. Louis students joined with 36 of their peers from across the University of Missouri System in taking part in Undergraduate Research Day recently at the Missouri State Capitol. The annual event was a chance for students to meet with legislators and share their research innovations from a breadth of disciplines, including biology, health, history and psychology.

“The University of Missouri System Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol illustrates these student accomplishments and allows our elected officials to see, firsthand, the exciting innovations taking place at the University of Missouri–Columbia, University of Missouri–Kansas City, Missouri University of Science and Technology and the University of Missouri–St. Louis,” UM System President Mun Choi wrote in a letter to legislators. [Read more](#).

Weekdays from
June 17– July 12, 2024
7:45 a.m. - Noon
Registration Deadline:
May 31, 2024

The award-winning Bridge Program at UMSL continues to provide unique and comprehensive college preparation services to students and their families. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and be enrolled in a St. Louis metropolitan area school in grades 6-8 for the Middle School Academy or grades 9-10 for the High School Summer Academy. It is FREE to attend. [Click here](#) to learn more and apply today.

Share with Us

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!

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