



UMSL received the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus Higher Education certification for the third straight year in recognition of its efforts to cultivate and maintain trees on campus. (Photos by August Jennewein)



Friends, neighbors, and community partners,

Spring has arrived! The trees are blooming and little green shoots are peaking through the ground in the gardens. Spring reminds us that there are better days ahead—there is hope in the air! This is time to enjoy and celebrate. This month we are excited to share that the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized UMSL as a Tree Campus for the third straight year—the trees sure do look good at this time of year. Further, the St. Vincent Greenway that runs through campus was recently featured by Great Rivers Greenway. I hope you can take advantage of our beautiful campus and greenways in the coming weeks.

One year ago this month I was named chancellor. I am inviting you all to celebrate my inauguration and the continued growth and development of UMSL as an anchor to this community, the St. Louis region, and beyond. My inauguration will take place on April 30 at 10:30 AM and will be a virtual event. I hope you can make it!

We also spotlight some local stories and efforts by our community partners including A Red Circle and Beyond Housing as they work with us to create a more sustainable, equitable

community. While we know there are better days ahead, we also recognize the effects of the pandemic and have provided information about rental assistance and other supports for those who might need them.

Be well, and enjoy the Spring beauty that is around us!

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri–St. Louis

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A cyclist rides along the St. Vincent Greenway and Wayne Goode Trail, past the Recreation and Wellness Center, and toward the tunnel passing under Arnold B. Grobman Drive.

## UMSL featured in Great Rivers Greenway's Partner Spotlight

Great Rivers Greenway has started highlighting one of its collaborative partners each month in its newsletter and featured the University of Missouri–St. Louis in its March edition.

"They are accountable and proactive in the operations and maintenance of the stretch of the St. Vincent Greenway that runs through their campus," the newsletter wrote of UMSL grounds staff members, led by Grounds Supervisor Gregory Ward, who maintain the area around the trail. "Most recently, UMSL has worked with Forest ReLeaf to improve the forest canopy on campus. Since 2017, they have planted more than 600 new trees! They have also applied for, and been approved for Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance grants for the past three years.

[Read more.](#)

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## Partner Spotlight





By Paula Miller, Graduate Student

## A Red Circle: Helping to Restore North County St. Louis

This month's feature is UMSL community partner, A Red Circle and an interview with Founder/Executive Director Erica Williams.

Recently celebrating its 4-year anniversary, A Red Circle's mission statement is "The holistic betterment of our community; reversing the effects of racism, one person and cause at a time...because all blood is red." Their focus is on restoring North County to a safe, vibrant, sustainable, and economically sound community that remains diverse. This collaborative organization advocates and develops holistic initiatives for the betterment of all.

"A Red Circle exists in North St. Louis County to promote community betterment through healthy food access, education, justice, civic engagement, and the arts. All of our work is conducted through a racial equity lens in collaboration with the community," according to Erica Williams, the organizations Founder and Executive Director. [Read more.](#)



The University of Missouri–St. Louis is home to more than 2,400, contributing to the beauty of the campus as they change with the different seasons.

## UMSL receives Tree Campus Higher Education certification for third straight year

The University of Missouri–St. Louis campus owes much of its beauty to the more than 2,400 trees growing amid its buildings. Whether they're flowering in the springtime, changing colors in the fall or providing shade in the months between, they decorate the landscape and make the campus a serene reprieve from the bustling roadways nearby.

The Arbor Day Foundation has once again recognized UMSL for its efforts to cultivate and maintain the trees on campus through its Tree Campus Higher Education certification. UMSL first received the certification in 2019. The University of Missouri–St. Louis is home to more than 2,400, contributing to the beauty of the campus as they change with the different seasons.

"UMSL understands the importance of trees and remains committed to these living anchors for not only campus beautification but for the enjoyment of all," UMSL Grounds Supervisor Gregory Ward said. "As we celebrate three years of Tree Campus Higher Education, we understand this is only the beginning as we serve to be better stewards of the land we occupy." [Read more.](#)



Submitted Photo, Image, and article, *Community News*, By Charlotte Beard, March 31, 2021  
Haleigh Andrea Ingram, a student at Lee Hamilton Elementary School has authored her first book, "I AM: Everything They Said I Couldn't Be."

By Charlotte Beard, *Community News* – St. Louis County, March 31, 2021

## The write stuff

While some third graders were entertaining fantasies of being a princess, a knight, or superhero, a third grader at Lee Hamilton Elementary School in Ferguson was working on her first book and thinking of ways to help people in the community.

Haleigh Andrea Ingram, a student at Lee Hamilton Elementary School has authored her first book – "I Am: Everything They Said I Couldn't Be." Her book signing and meet and greet was announced for March 27 at Ferguson's HollyLou Entertainment.

"We have the power to be who we aspire to be," states Ingram. "So many women and men have paved the way, making sacrifices for young people like you and me." Ingram shared that what inspired her to write the book was the story of Harriet Tubman which gives an account of the former slave's escape and her return to help many slaves reach freedom via the Underground Railroad. "I love black history," she stated. "I want all of the children my age to love it as much as I do."

[Read more, Page 1](#)



## Beyond Housing Launches “Once and for All”

A big initiative is being launched within the greater St. Louis. It's called “Once and for All” and is rooted in the simple fact that the region is only as strong as all of the communities within it. If St. Louis is going to succeed in the years ahead, it's vital to build up the underserved communities and the families within them. The initiative includes an effort to raise and invest over \$200 million in the 24:1 Community to create a stronger, more prosperous, and equitable St. Louis.

In partnership with St. Louis Fox 2 news, the campaign began with a series of videos called “Dear Lou,” designed to create tremendous buzz and awareness throughout the region. The “Dear Lou,” videos are an open letter to all of St. Louis that invites everyone to come together and help create a stronger, more equitable, and prosperous St. Louis—once and for all.

- [Things Can Always Change](#)
- [Can We Agree](#)
- [In This Together](#)

Learn how a comprehensive, holistic model for strengthening families and transforming communities provides a way to address these issues to create a stronger St. Louis at [www.onceandforall.org](http://www.onceandforall.org). #dearlou #onceandforall

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Saint Louis  
**COUNTY**

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**CARES**

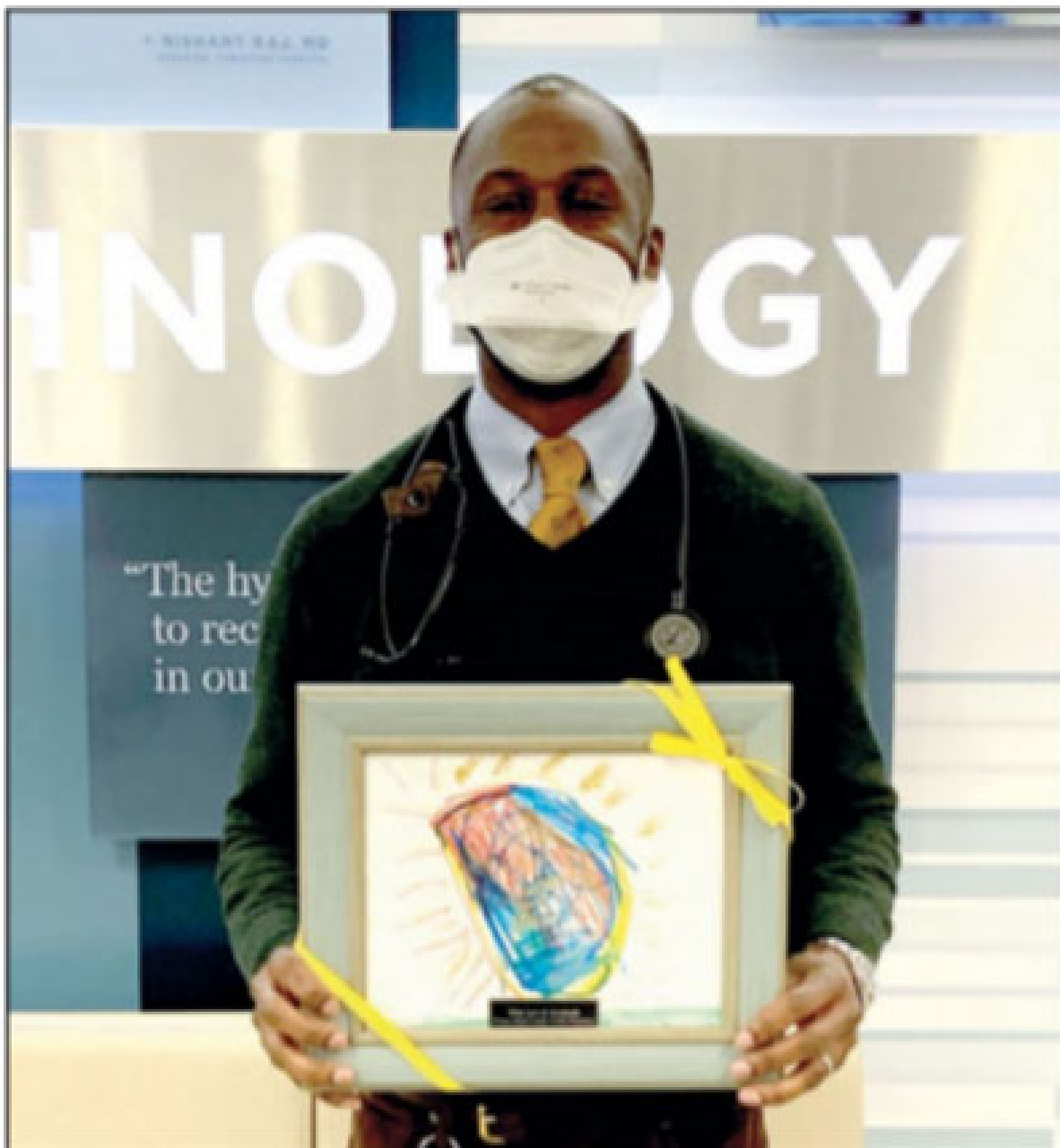
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## EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

### St. Louis County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Opening April 5, 2021, the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) provides back rent and temporary rental assistance for low- and moderate-income households that have had a loss of income, have qualified for unemployment benefits, faced significant costs, or experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals as well as landlords and property owners may be eligible for this assistance. [Click here](#) to learn more or dial the Call Center at (314) 806-0910.



**Photo submitted by *Community News*, March 17, 2021**  
**Dr. Duane Moore shows an appreciation gift he received for his work with the Crisis Nursery.**

By *Community News* – St. Louis County, March 17, 2021

## A young man's journey from volunteer to benefactor at the Crisis Nursery

In 1999, a young man walked into the Saint Louis Crisis Nursery to volunteer. As a second-year medical student, Duane Moore had been looking for a way to give back to his community and had heard good things about the Saint Louis Crisis Nursery. He knew of their mission to prevent child abuse and neglect by offering emergency care for children when a family faces a crisis like homelessness, domestic violence, or illness...

As Moore walked into the Crisis Nursery's Deaconess Hospital location that day, he could not have known he was starting a 20-plus year partnership that would include his facilitation of a \$25,000 gift from Christian Hospital to the Crisis Nursery in 2020. [Read more, P. 3](#)

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## 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!

### 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](#)

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## Upcoming Events



**Save the Date, April 30th**  
**Inauguration of UMSL Chancellor Kristin Sobolik!**

Friday, April 30 from  
10:30 - 11:30 AM  
Livestream event

Celebrate the ceremonial installation of

**Kristin Sobolik, Ph.D.**

For registration details to attend virtual event, [click here](#).

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### Create Your Own Journey: Midwest Digital Marketing Conference

Monday, April 26 - Thursday, April 29, 2021  
9 AM- 4 PM  
Online

Learn more about social media marketing strategies.

Wednesday and Thursday will be the FREE LIVE 2-day virtual summit featuring 14 of most in-demand speakers. In addition to the live portion, there will be 70 on-demand new-released breakout sessions for attendees to access.

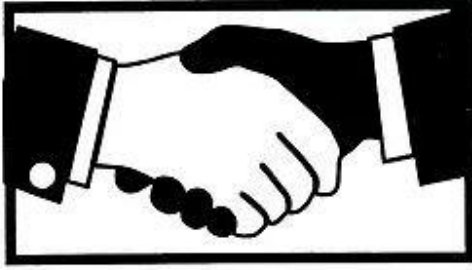
To view the promotional video, "Create Your Own Journey: Midwest Digital Marketing Conference," [click here](#). To register free and see additional workshop schedule information, [click here](#).



#### 24:1 Vaccination Clinic

Saturday, April 17  
8:15 AM – 4:30 PM  
Beyond Housing,  
6505 Wright Way Ave, 63121

Senator Brian Williams and Representative Kevin Windham are hosting a vaccination event in partnership with People's clinic. 300 slots available with priority to 24:1 residents. Call (314) 783-6793 to schedule an appointment.



# PROUD

People Reaching Out for  
Unity and Diversity

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Established 1995

## **The State of Education Reform**

Monday, April 19  
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Forward Through Ferguson will present their recent report analyzing the progress the St. Louis region has made towards implementing the Ferguson Commission's Education Reform calls to action since the report's release in 2015. Education outcomes in the Ferguson-Florissant School District and some structural barriers that have contributed to disparities in the region will be highlighted. This event will conclude with a courageous conversation about the State of Education in Ferguson led by PROUD-Ferguson. [Click here](#) to register.

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## **Virtual Programs**

### **Yoga Story Time**

Saturday, April 17  
10 - 11 AM

Exercise your child's body and mind with yoga poses, songs and stories. Ages 3-8. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering. To register, [click here](#).

### **Gardening with Native Shrubs & Trees**

Monday, April 19  
7 - 8 PM

Learn how Missouri's native woody plants play a critical role in our ecosystem and how to incorporate them in your landscape. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering. To register, [click here](#).

### **COVID-19 and Caregiving**

Tuesday, April 20  
11 AM - 12 PM

Caring for someone living with dementia during the COVID-19 pandemic adds unique challenges for caregivers. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association, this program provides simple tips caregivers can put in place whether the person living with dementia lives at home, in a residential facility, or care providers are coming into the home. To register, [click here](#).

**Understanding Personal and Business Credit**

Tuesday, April 20

1 - 2 PM

Learn how having great personal credit affects business credit and how to balance the two to help build your business. Gain a high-level overview of what lenders look for when you apply for new credit presented by St. Louis Builds Credit and Small Business Empowerment Center. To register, [click here](#).

**Tools for your Job Search**

Wednesday, April 21

3 - 4 PM

Use the library's databases to search for and create lists of relevant companies, discover industry profiles and find interview questions. To register, [click here](#).

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**City Nature Challenge 2021: St. Louis**

April 30 through May 3

Calling all citizen scientists, nature enthusiasts, and ecologists! Join people around the world to see which city can document the most species in 4 days. Let's do this, St. Louis! Also, your observations of local animals and plants will become data that could benefit local lands and waters. [Click here](#) for more details!

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### Ferguson Twilight Run 10M/5K/10K

Saturday, May 15

Make plans now to take part in this annual community event running through Ferguson's beautiful historic neighborhoods. The 2021 event includes a 10-mile, 5K, 10K, and 1-mile race options. (Note: the event is scheduled to be in person, but plans will be modified and changes made based on state, county, and city safety guidelines related to covid-19 at the time of the event.) For more information, [click here](#).



### Ferguson Children's Art Festival

Saturday, May 8  
8 AM - Noon  
Ferguson Farmer's Market

A North County Celebration, including:

- A live exhibit of local children's art;
- Creation of a printed booklet featuring local children's art to be given to participating children and teachers and for sale to market visitors;
- Distribution of creative project kits for children

The GSAC website will feature an online exhibit of local children's art (the whole month of May). For further information, [click here](#).

UMSL Community Engagement Office  
One University Blvd, 426 Woods Hall | St. Louis, MO 63121  
314-516-5267 | [www.umsi.edu/collaborations](http://www.umsi.edu/collaborations)

University of Missouri—St. Louis  
Community Engagement  
1 University Boulevard

4/15/2021

UMSL Community Connection - April 2021

426 Woods Hall

St. Louis, MO | 63121

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