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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

What a summer we are having! As usual for this time of year, UMSL has been preparing the campus to welcome back students for the fall semester. However, recent flooding throughout St. Louis has had a terrible impact on so many people across St. Louis including students, staff and faculty who have lost homes, vehicles and belongings. For those who need help, [United Way 2-1-1](#) and the [Red Cross](#) are a couple of resources to connect people with needed services. Our own [UMSL Triton Emergency Fund](#) is providing critical support to students who lost transportation or have been displaced from their homes during the floods. Donated funds also help stock the Triton food pantry, providing food and necessities for those in need.

It has been beautiful to see UMSL and the broader St. Louis community come together to respond to this crisis. I am so proud to be a part of this community and so grateful for the supportive response.

UMSL Community Connection newsletter

Received this as a forward?
[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 Careers

[Click here](#) to learn about job opportunities at UMSL. Check back regularly for new listings.

We are looking forward to seeing more people back on campus for the fall semester, which starts on August 22nd. Be on the lookout for several fun activities this fall. In the meantime, we want to hear from you about how we can further support and collaborate with one another. We invite area residents to participate in our upcoming Community Focus Groups. Please sign up using one of the links at the end of this newsletter to share your ideas on how we can continue to work together to make our community the best place to live, work and play.

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis



Missouri Sen. Brian Williams touts unprecedented investment in UMSL, north St. Louis County

Dozens of elected officials and community members gathered on a recent afternoon at the Patient Care Center on the University of Missouri–St. Louis campus to celebrate an unprecedented investment from the State of Missouri in north St. Louis County.

Missouri Sen. Brian Williams and Chancellor Kristin Sobolik welcomed the excited crowd and detailed investments aimed at revitalizing St. Louis County, including a \$40 million investment toward the redevelopment of UMSL's campus. "We're here today to talk about a very important achievement here in this state," Williams said. "The governor signed budget bills that

UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)

[Construction Bids](#)

Community Connect

[Click here](#) to learn about resources, services and programs at UMSL available to the community.

STL Community LAB

[Click here](#) to learn about resources, services and programs at UMSL available to the community.

Events & Resources



Neighborhood Leadership Academy 2022 Registration Now Open

Early bird registration through August 22

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy takes place from Sept. 12 through Nov. 15, 2022. NLA connects university resources with neighborhood leaders from across the state of Missouri to learn together through a virtual project-based curriculum, developing the skills and building the networks necessary to create healthy, vibrant and whole communities. For more information, [click here](#).

would now appropriate millions of dollars right here to St. Louis County." [Read more.](#)



CLIMB Program provides area high school students hands-on research experience in UMSL labs

Thirteen interns from the Hazelwood, Jennings, Ritenour, Riverview Gardens and University City school districts took part in this summer's program.

Patricia Parker, the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Zoological Studies, established the CLIMB (the University of Missouri–St. Louis' Collaborative Laboratory Internships and Mentoring Blueprint) Program as a partnership with administrators in the Jennings School District in 2015. They wanted to help foster that level of scientific interest in high-ability but low-opportunity students who might not otherwise have had chances to receive comparable hands-on lab experience....After operating the program in a virtual format in 2020 and doing a group research project on bee pollination outdoors in community gardens last spring and summer because of COVID-19, CLIMB returned to its original format this summer. [Read more.](#)



UMSL opens its doors to Film Camp USA



Rental Assistance Clinic
Friday, August 12, 2022
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
6439 Plymouth Ave., 63133

A Red Circle's next Rental Assistance Clinic is August 12th! Anyone interested in finding out about this type of support or interest in volunteering is welcome. For more information, email Chris at chris@aredcircle.org



Wellston Day In the Park
Saturday, August 13, 2022
2:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Beautiful Trojan Park
6154 Etzel Ave., 63133

Calling all Wellston Alum for a Day-N-Park with a focus on "Keeping our history alive." Admission is free. Snacks & cool treats will be provided.

Mekhi Combs, a 13-year-old horror movie fan, had already been using his phone to edit short films and TikTok clips. Wanting to hone his skills, he signed up to learn professional editing skills in Film Camp USA, a summer program that teaches youth ages 8-18 about all aspects of film production including acting, editing, lighting, special effects and wardrobe. Combs was among 45 students who have spent much of the past eight weeks working on a short film, "Watchers." [The film debuted at the Touhill on July 30.]

Television and play production veteran Monica R. Butler created the summer program, and this summer UMSL Accelerate welcomed it into its office on the University of Missouri–St. Louis campus, providing the space the camp needed to effectively conduct its sessions. [Read more.](#)

Students from area school districts including Ferguson-Florissant, Normandy and Jennings participated in the program. KSDK Channel 5 recently featured the film camp on a news segment. [Watch the video.](#)

For more information, click [here.](#)



St. Louis Metro Market in Ferguson

Fridays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Boys and Girls Club of Greater St. Louis
9200 W. Florissant Ave.

Enjoy access to fresh, locally-sourced produce and other items at cost. Shop healthy on a budget. To learn more, visit STLmetromarket.org.



MEd student Jillian Dunn serves her community on Ferguson-Florissant Board of Education

For more than two years, Jillian Dunn attended Ferguson-Florissant School District Board of Education meetings faithfully. A Florissant resident, former math teacher at McCluer North High School and parent, Dunn listened to educators grappling with burnout during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and feeling like their voices weren't being heard. She became increasingly interested in learning about the decisions being made at the district level, supporting teachers and engaging the whole community in education issues.

It led her to join the Parker Road Parent Teacher Organization, where she eventually became president, and the FFSD



Good Food Friday with A Red Circle

Fridays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
North County Agricultural Education Center, 4521
Hamilton Ave, 63120

Join A Red Circle on upcoming Friday afternoons at the North County Agricultural Education Center in Pine Lawn to explore the community garden and receive fresh produce. For more information, [click here.](#)

Strategic Plan Steering Committee. The conversations she began having with community members compelled her to take the next step and run for a school board seat. "I realized, we're being really successful here, and I'm getting really great feedback from all sorts of people, whether it's the administrators at my daughter's school, the other parents, the teachers," Dunn said. [Read more.](#)



UMSL students play valuable roles in furthering the mission of St. Louis-based Food Outreach

Two current students at the University of Missouri–St. Louis are playing pivotal roles in addressing food insecurity for those living with chronic illnesses in the St. Louis area. Leizel Thomas, who is studying organizational leadership, and Noah Young, who is studying business administration, both work at Food Outreach, a St. Louis-based organization that provides comprehensive nutritional services to people living with HIV and cancer. A pilot program for veterans with diabetes is also underway. Thomas, a full-time employee since November 2019, serves as Nutrition Center coordinator and assistant chef, while Young, a part-time employee since February 2021, is Food Outreach's lead van driver.

Despite serving 1,800 clients across 160 zip codes in Missouri and Illinois, Food Outreach has a staff of just 14 employees, plus about 800 volunteers. Director of Client Services Kathy Spencer says this means every employee must wear a lot of hats, and that's certainly true of both Thomas and Young. [Read more.](#)



Operation
Food Search

OFS's MetroMarket Announces new community collaboration



Mobile Food Pantry Expands to 5 Transit Centers This Summer

St. Louis Area foodbank is expanding their free Food on the Move program this summer to help address food insecurity issues. A mobile food pantry will visit Metro Transit Centers on designated Saturdays:

First Saturday,
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Rock Road Transit Center

Second Saturday,
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Riverview Transit Center

Third Saturday,
10:00 a.m. – Noon
North Hanley Transit Center

For more information, click [here.](#)



Ferguson Farmers' Market

Every Saturday through
October 29, 2022
8:00 a.m. to Noon
501 S. Florissant Road,
63135

Fresh produce, great food, entertainment and fun for all every Saturday. For more information, [click here.](#)

STLToday, June 19, 2022

St. Louis MetroMarket, a “farmers market on wheels” from Operation Food Search (OFS), is pleased to announce a new collaboration with Dierbergs Markets and Mercy. Together, they are adding a new stop for the retrofitted metro bus’s route at the Boys and Girls Club Teen Center of Excellence in Ferguson that will bring fresh produce to communities lacking easy access to healthy options.

MetroMarket’s bus operates every Wednesday through Saturday, May through November, making two-hour stops at locations throughout the region. Fresh, affordable produce is carefully selected based on nutritional value and customers’ preferences, and then brought directly to designated sites in the community. [Read more.](#)



\$1 million in additional financial assistance available for Ameren Missouri customers

Ameren Missouri, July 13, 2022

With inflation causing more households to feel a financial pinch, Ameren Missouri has added \$1 million to its Clean Slate fund, a program that helps eligible moderate-income customers clear their past-due balances and start fresh.

“The Clean Slate program has been highly effective, helping thousands of families who often don’t qualify for state and federal assistance,” said Tara Oglesby, vice president of customer experience for Ameren Missouri. “We are excited to donate this additional \$1 million to offer more customers a path to get back on track. We hope to alleviate some of the financial strain many families are currently navigating while helping them stay cool and safe in the summer heat.”

[Read more.](#)



Earthdance Farms Pay What You Can Farm Stand

May – September

Fridays: 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sundays: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

October – November

Sundays: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

233 S. Dade Ave. Ferguson

Pay What You Can Farm Stand offers organically grown fruits, herbs and vegetables to everyone, regardless of income. [Click here](#) for more information.



Taste of Black STL, First & Last Brunch series

Saturday, August 27, 2022

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

417 Adams St., Ferguson

The final brunch of the season for the Taste of Black STL, First & Last Brunch series will take place at the end of August. Brunch features 3 different Brunch Experiences: Traditional, Winery & Boho Chic. Tickets start at \$25. For more information, click [here](#).

UMSL Seeks Participants for Community Focus Groups

UMSL is inviting community members to participate in focus groups with a variety of stakeholders in the community. We are reaching out to people who live in or own a business in the communities around campus to participate in either the resident or local business focus groups. We also are holding a session for local government representatives. The focus groups are by invitation only and will be held online using a Zoom platform. Each session is scheduled for an hour and fifteen minutes. We are looking for 7-11 participants per focus group. Please sign up at one of the links below if you are interested in participating.

Local Business and Alumni-Owned Business

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 8:30 AM on Zoom

Click [here](#) to register.

Area Residents and Alumni

Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 4:00 PM on Zoom

Click [here](#) to register.

Local Government Representatives

Friday, September 9, 2022 at 8:30 AM on Zoom

Click [here](#) to register.



FREE Live Concerts:

Soulful Fridays

Friday, September 2, 2022

Starting at 7:00 p.m.

Koeneman Park

8937 Old Lucas and Hunt Rd.

Mark Harris II is the featured entertainer for this final concert of the season. [Click here](#) for more information.

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!

University of Missouri–St. Louis
Economic & Community Development
1 University Boulevard
341 Woods Hall
St. Louis, MO | 63121

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