

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Entrepreneur of the Year Awards shine in newly renovated UMSL Innovation Center

UMSL honored Angela Garland, Jae Brandon-Blue, Charli Cooksey and Ben Molina at the 2025 Entrepreneur of the Year Awards for their achievements and contributions to the entrepreneurial community.



VantageLinks: Jake and Leah Amir combine their passions for tech and health care

UMSL alums Jake and Leah Amir were featured for combining their expertise in technology and health care through their company VantageLinks, showing how their UMSL education shaped their careers and business success.



Regina McWilliams' DBA Research Accepted for Journal Publication

MasterCard vice president and UMSL DBA alum Regina McWilliams earned recognition when her research on cultural microaggressions was accepted for academic publication.



Alum Quahana Hendree Turns Art Into Business

As founder of Q. Hendree Art Consulting, Quahan Hendree (BSBA 96') helps organizations transform workspaces to reflect culture and mission.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



On December 20, 2025, the Ed G. Smith College of Business will congratulate 305 students on their graduation! We are proud of their achievements. I hope you will enjoy reading our stories in this newsletter. The college continues to provide excellent education and professional preparation for our students, traditional and nontraditional, domestic and international. This month's video features our international students and their success. Their words are powerful and inspiring, reminding us of the great importance of strong partnerships with our business partners and community.

Shu Schiller, Ph.D.

Dean, Professor of Information Systems
Ed G. Smith College of Business
University of Missouri–St. Louis

MORE UMSL BUSINESS

- Marcia Countryman named MOCPA Outstanding Educator of the Year for her dedication to preparing UMSL accounting students for successful careers. - [Read More](#)
- Marketing professor Tessa Garcia-Collart led an immersive two-day digital marketing seminar at Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences in Finland. - [Read More.](#)
- About 300 alumni, students and community members turned out for UMSL's fifth annual 5K Run and Walk on North Campus. - [Read More](#)
- UMSL's DBA program welcomed the Class of 2028, a group of industry leaders advancing their careers through doctoral study. - [Read More](#)

- Online MBA students, faculty and alumni explored Chile on an immersive trip that blended cultural experiences with international business learning. - [Read More](#)
- UMSL's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center received a \$75,000 Small Business Administration grant to expand support for startups and the Anchor Accelerator program. - [Read More](#)
- UMSL hosted the 12th annual International Business Case Competition, with teams from across the country competing and one UMSL team finishing in the top three. - [Read More](#)
- Supply Chain symposium breaks new ground in its sixth year, bringing together students and professionals to explore trends and insights. - [Read More](#)

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