

University of Missouri—St. Louis

Chancellor's
Inauguration

Celebrating the installation of

Kristin Sobolik, Ph.D.

as the 8th chancellor of the
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Friday, April 30, 2021

UMSL

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI–ST . LOUIS.

Much like our graduates, the University of Missouri–St. Louis is also a success story. As the largest public research university in Missouri’s most populous and economically important region, UMSL provides excellent learning experiences and leadership opportunities to a diverse student body whose influence upon graduation is immense. No other university brings more to bear on the advancement of St. Louis than UMSL – which is fitting for a campus created just for that purpose.

In 1963, the university opened on the grounds of a closed golf course in Normandy, Missouri, out of a need to bring affordable, public education to the region. It had one building, a modest faculty and fewer than 700 students. Today, UMSL is spread across 450 acres of rolling hills in suburban St. Louis County and enrolls nearly 16,000 students. While UMSL’s more than 105,000 graduates are located in all 50 states and nearly 100 countries around the world, their greatest impact is felt right here in St. Louis where more than 75,000 alumni live, work and thrive in the region.

UMSL is a Tier 1 research university – one of four in Missouri – and ranks No. 126 nationally among all public universities. Last year, UMSL was included in U.S. News & World Report’s inaugural ‘Top Performers for Social Mobility’ rankings which measures how well universities educate and graduate Pell Grant eligible students. UMSL remains among the nation’s top performers in this area in this year’s annual rankings. The university is also a four-time recipient of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from Insights into Diversity magazine – the only Missouri university to earn this prestigious recognition repeatedly. Forbes Magazine has even named UMSL one of ‘America’s Best Colleges.’

For more than 50 years, the University of Missouri–St. Louis has been a beacon of hope, a force for good and a leader in the pursuit of excellence in education, meaningful research and community service. As this mission continues into the future, everyone at UMSL remains committed to providing much more than exceptional educational experiences.

OUR MISSION

We transform
LIVES

OUR VISION

The University of Missouri–St. Louis will be a beacon of hope, a force for good, and a leader in the pursuit of excellence in education, impactful research and community service. We boldly assert that education is for everyone who is willing and able to seek it out. We honor the duties inherent in our land-grant beginnings by positioning ourselves as partners in the search for knowledge, progress and positive change for ourselves, our communities, our world.

KRISTIN SOBOLIK, Ph.D.



Dr. Kristin Sobolik was appointed as the eighth chancellor of the University of Missouri–St. Louis in April 2020 and leads the region’s only public research university which enrolls nearly 16,000 students, employs more than 2,300 and generates an

economic impact of more than \$350 million annually to the state.

Chancellor Sobolik first joined the University of Missouri–St. Louis community in 2017 as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs – quickly rising to the role of executive vice chancellor followed by her appointment as interim chancellor and now, chancellor.

Throughout her time at UMSL, Chancellor Sobolik has led the development and implementation of the university’s five-year strategic plan, oversaw a successful 10-year renewal of UMSL’s accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission, introduced nearly a dozen new academic programs, and has increased private philanthropy by more than 20 percent.

Chancellor Sobolik serves on numerous area boards, including Greater St. Louis, Inc., Cortex Innovation District, Missouri Botanical Garden, BioSTL as well as the Development Committee of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri. Her accomplishments on and off campus led the St. Louis Business Journal to recognize her with a “Most Influential Business Women” award in 2020.

Chancellor Sobolik earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Iowa and a master’s and Ph.D. in anthropology from Texas A&M University. She is an interdisciplinary scholar who has helped develop the fields of archaeobiology and paleonutrition, with more than 100 publications, books and presentations on the topic. She and her husband, Dr. Scott D. Peterson, reside in St. Louis and have four children.

WITH REMARKS FROM

George Paz, BSBA 1982
Retired Chairman and CEO, Express Scripts
President of the Chancellor’s Council

Mun Choi, PhD
President, University of Missouri System

Blanche Touhill, PhD
Chancellor Emerita, UMSL

A VIDEO FEATURING

Rick Stevens
President, Christian Hospital
Member of the Chancellor’s Council

Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, PhD 2014
Superintendent, University City School District

Terry Elmendorf, BSBA 1986, MBA 1995
Retired Finance Vice President and CFO, Boeing
Member of the Chancellor’s Council

Eric’el Johnson, BSEE 2016
Radar IPT Lead, Boeing

Evelyn Bailey Moore, BSEE 2003
F/A-18 and EA-18G Chief Engineer, Boeing

Cindy Orf
Business Operations Specialist, Boeing

Dale Woods, MBA 2007
Corporate Director of Finance, Boeing

Ken Cella, BSBA 1993
Principal, Client Strategies Group, Edward Jones
Member of the Chancellor’s Council

Tanisha Stevens, PhD 2012
Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, UMSL

AND A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY

Andra Day
Golden Globe Winner and Grammy
and Academy Award-Nominee

Special Thanks to

Joel Aponte, Boeing

Steven Kraml, Boeing

Margo Schoolfield, Boeing

Jill Brownfield, Christian Hospital

John Gass, Christian Hospital

Christina Thurman, Christian Hospital

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Laura Blevins, UMSL

Sharon Fenoglio, UMSL

Sydney Moore, UMSL

Tanya Nettles, UMSL

Chelsea Nollau, UMSL

Jason Stahr, UMSL

UMSL

UMSL Alma Mater
Heart of Missouri

(Words and Music by John Francis Dill and Diane Ceccarini)

Rising high between two rivers history yet to tell,
Stands an honored Alma Mater, our UMSL.
Came to seek more understanding for my life to be.
Found my need for knowledge answered gratefully by thee.

Dreaming dreams about tomorrow, as I've learned today.
Now this heart deep in Missouri seeks a better way.
When at last my journey's over may its value be,
That it honors state and nation but above all, thee.

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