Greetings!

Letter from the
Superintendent

When I became Superintendent three and a half years ago, I had
high hopes for what we could accomplish together. The
University/Community effort to bring Normandy High School to
life is clear now. I can imagine the space completed and filled
with students pursuing their educational dreams. To the
northeast of the new Normandy High School will be Normandy
Elementary School, and to the southwest of the high school
will be the Normandy Early Learning Center.

I am thankful for the privilege to be alive now. At this time, in
the midst of the new year, I wonder whether the coming decade
will be a joyful start to the holiday season. For our students,
the end of the year is a busy time filled with wrapping up
schoolwork and planning for the year ahead. For our faculty
and staff, the end of the year speaks to the opportunities we
have when we work together. We can deepen our
understanding of community issues, as well as opportunities to
work with one another. We are thrilled at the number of
University/Community efforts that pursue research to deepen our
knowledge of the challenges we face. The future-looking
programs as highlighted here.

Look forward to the coming year. The work that is underway
represents the best in our community — will serve our young
students and families for years to come. There are a number of
opportunities to get involved, to volunteer, to make a difference.
As we look back on the past year, we can see the impact of
our work together. I am thankful for the chance to make a
difference, to stand up for the students we serve.

Social work professor Dr. Andrew Smith has been
engaged in community work in Ferguson since the outbreak of the
civil unrest following the shooting of Michael Brown. He
is nearing completion of a book titled “Resiliency
Building in Ferguson.” Smith will be joined by
Associate Teaching Professor Gary Gearhart and
Professor of Practice in Public Administration
Jehudah S. Tonis in an April event at Missouri State
University-Florissant Valley titled “The Civil Unrest
in Ferguson: 3 Years Later.” In 2017, Smith
visited Ferguson in a one-day trip that started at the city’s
residents and also got started on work examining police-
community relations. Smith spoke with Ferguson
residents, officers, and community leaders to
understand the context and impact of the unrest.

Smith and Gearhart are two of the co-founders of
Racial Harmony and Reconciliation in Ferguson,
which is a community movement aimed at bringing
college students in mind. In essence, it
apply for. To truly appreciate this, the UMSL Bridge program was
developed with Normandy students in mind. In essence, it
intends to support students who are the first in their families
to apply for college and need assistance navigating the
application process.

The tradition continues. The 18th Annual
Christmas Carol Concert will take place at 7
p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday) at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.
This year’s performance will feature the Missouri State
University-Florissant Valley Singers, the Missouri State
University-Florissant Valley Men’s Ensemble, the Missouri State
University-Florissant Valley Women’s Ensemble, and the Missouri State
University-Florissant Valley Chorale. The audience is encouraged to
arrive early to purchase tickets.

Questions, Comments or Share a
Community Story?