Letter from the Chancellor

Greetings,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are excited about 2020. With each new year, many people take the time to reflect on the past and set new goals for the future, and it is fitting that we start the new year in January celebrating the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. His words and actions have inspired individuals and institutions to create a more just and inclusive world. On January 20th, UMSL will commemorate his life at our annual MLK Day Holiday Observance at the Touhill with a focus on furthering Dr. King’s legacy of love, unity and inclusion. You are all invited to attend and celebrate with us.

We will also host our 12th annual MLK Day of Service with students, faculty and staff providing volunteer service throughout the local community on that day. And as we do year-in and year-out, we will continue to pursue the values Martin Luther King, Jr. championed by making education accessible to all, welcoming the community to campus for recreation and enrichment, and partnering with our neighbors on initiatives that make North County and St. Louis a great place to live—rich with new opportunity.
Again, we invite you to join us on January 20th at our annual observance, or consider taking part in a service project around the community on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. As always, we look forward to seeing you on and off campus throughout the year.

Wishing you all the best!

Kristin Sobolik
Interim Chancellor, University of Missouri - St. Louis

Get your Community Card Today! Enjoy 8 free visits to UMSL's Recreation and Wellness Center in January 2020 and 5% off annual membership.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is happy to offer discounts and benefits to households in communities nearby campus through the new UMSL Community Card. This January, UMSL invites residents to visit our Recreation and Wellness Center. You can visit up to 8 times in the month of January for FREE! After your eight visits, you will have a one week opportunity to purchase a 9 or 12 month membership and receive one extra month free. As a Community Card member, you will receive an additional 5% off of your final membership price. For more information about what the Recreation and Wellness Center has to offer click here. To sign up for your UMSL Community Card, click here.

New school food market program helps families in Cahokia & Jennings

January 20, 2020
7:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MLK Day of Service is a national initiative to make the recognition of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a “day on, not a day off.” Volunteers learn that small changes can have a huge impact within their own neighborhood. Past projects undertaken on MLK Day of Service have included painting, landscaping and remodeling houses for low-income families and homeowners, tutoring elementary school students, and upgrading school classrooms and resource centers.

For more information click here.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance

January 20, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Touhill Performing Arts Center

The UMSL College of Education faculty and students from Kappa Delta Pi Chapter will coordinate a concurrent program for children ages 5-11. The chapter has coordinated this award winning MLK children’s program for the past nine years. Registration for this program is available on a first come first serve basis. Please contact the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at 314-516-5695. All are welcomed to attend. Please share with colleagues, family, friends, and the community. To see a list of who the program will feature, click here.
Bayer Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, has awarded a $90,000 grant to the St. Louis Area Foodbank to support its new School Food Markets program, a pilot initiative aimed at helping students and families in the Cahokia, Ill. and Jennings, Mo. school districts combat hunger and food insecurity.

The School Food Markets program will be operated by the Foodbank and located within Fairview Elementary School and the Jennings Educational Training School in Jennings and at the Power of Change Family Multiplex in Cahokia. Through its various relationships within the food industry, the Foodbank will furnish each market with a selection of fresh foods and staple grocery items for students and their families at no cost.

For now, more than 1,900 students in the Cahokia and Jennings school districts will be served by the School Food Markets. Students receive snacks during the day and parents will be given a full bag of groceries to take home. Once the program expands to other schools in both districts, it’s estimated that nearly 5,000 students and their families will be participants.

The text above are excerpts from the article. To read the full article click here.

UMSL and SoulFisher Ministries present Successful Second Chances Employer Panel

The SoulFisher Ministries and the University of Missouri - St. Louis present their next installment of their Successful Second Chances Employer Panel series on Friday, January 24. Hosted at St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley, Senator Jamilah Nasheed will give a keynote on the importance of livable wages and the win-win behind hiring justice-involved individuals. Also hear from justice-involved individuals who have had success in spite of having a felony conviction and are making a difference in the community, employers who have made a commitment to supporting this population through meaningful employment with a livable wage, and the Missouri Department of Corrections on their engagement with Workforce Development. The event is free but registration requested. Click here to register.

National Geographic LIVE! with Wildlife Photographer Steve Winter: On the Trail of Big Cats

January 31, 2020
7:30 p.m.
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts

Join award-winning National Geographic photographer Steve Winter for a thrilling journey into the world of the big cats. Winter’s mission is to share the beauty of these animals while reinvigorating efforts to save them. From trekking high in India’s Himalaya in search of rare snow leopards to stalking the elusive jaguar in Latin American jungles, this determined explorer comes face to face with his subjects. Spend an evening daringly close to the big cats—through the unforgettable stories and images of Steve Winter. Click here for tickets.

Ferguson Twilight Run
10M/5K/10K

May 16, 2020

Enjoy a USATF-certified course through Ferguson’s beautiful historic neighborhoods in the annual Ferguson Twilight Run managed under Live Well Events. The 2020 event includes a 10-mile course in addition to our 5K, 10K, and 1-mile race options. All races begin and end at the Plaza at 501 (501 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson MO 63135) with professional timing by Big River Running. The race begins with pre-race entertainment along with cheer stations and bands along the course. After race entertainment includes live
Share with us: Take the community feedback questionnaire and share input on this newsletter

UMSL is interested to know more about your thoughts regarding the university and how we might better support surrounding communities. Take a short survey by clicking here to share your thoughts!

We'd love to hear from you about how we can improve our communication with the community and hear your questions and comments about UMSL and neighboring communities. We also welcome 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!