

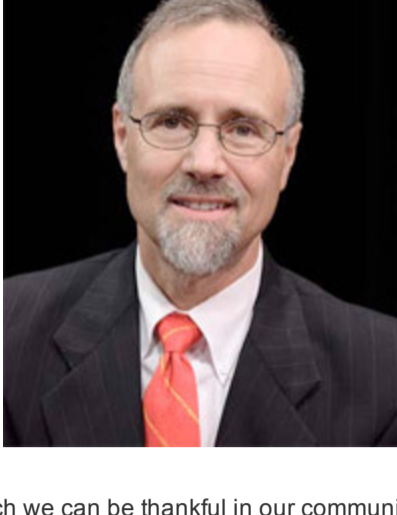


## Letter from the Chancellor

Greetings!

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of November, with Thanksgiving upon us.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the many wonderful partnerships and opportunities that we have and to recognize and be thankful for the good things in our lives. The list for which we can be thankful in our community is a long one, but I want to mention a few. Recently, North County Inc. celebrated [30 Leaders in their Thirties](#). UMSL couldn't be more grateful to work in a community with the type of young, passionate leaders honored at this annual event. We are also thankful for Beyond Housing's work to improve the communities in the Normandy Schools Collaborative, and we hope you will consider participating in [Beyond Housing's Holiday Friends 2017 program](#).



Before leaving you to read more about each of these events and other things taking place in the next few weeks, I want to take this opportunity to offer thanks to all the faculty, administrators, parents, and community partners working to improve the performance of the Normandy Schools Collaborative. We learned last week in Superintendent Dr. Charles Pearson's letter to the community that Normandy considerably improved its annual performance score – up almost 8 points from the year before, after having made enormous gains since the 7.1% it earned in 2014. Dr. Pearson shared that Normandy was the "only St. Louis-area district that increased the number of points earned each year for the past four years without relying on hold harmless," now earning 62.5% of all possible points and scoring "as well as a provisionally accredited district" for two years in a row while working toward full accreditation.

The UMSL campus sits within the Normandy Schools Collaborative boundaries and cares deeply about the success of our community's children. We are grateful to be a partner in the district's drive to improve student achievement and offer support in a variety of ways. For instance, our School of Optometry regularly provides eye exams and services through our Mobile Eye Unit to ensure that students can see to learn. Students and faculty in our School of Education and Department of Music programs are present in the school buildings, offering classroom support, professional development for teachers and tutoring throughout the year. UMSL Community Psychological Services also partners with Normandy to provide support services, counseling, and intervention programming for area youth and families to enhance positive development and family stability.

As Dr. Pearson wrote in his letter, "We must be able to dream bigger than what we see in the moment, what we see in the circumstances around us." Let us give thanks for what we have been able to do to date and dream bigger about tomorrow.

Thank you and have a great Thanksgiving season!

Tom George, Chancellor, University of Missouri–St. Louis



## Want to Give Back? Take Part in Beyond Housing's Holiday Friends

Beyond Housing is making a difference every day for people living in the communities in our area. This year, they are again asking everyone to consider adopting a family and share the holiday spirit of THANKS and GIVING! Every year, Beyond Housing hosts a gift giving program to ensure families have a little something extra under the tree. They spread the holiday cheer to low income families that struggle to afford basic living needs.

Members of the community can participate in this program by adopting families and purchasing items from their family wish list such as: shoes, coats, bed linens, etc. Gifts can be dropped off on December 11 and 12. For details visit, click [here](#).



## UMSL Alumni and Employees Making a Difference in North County

Recently, North County Incorporated recognized [30 Leaders in their Thirties](#) at a celebration at Christian Hospital. The list included eight alumni and a staff member at UMSL who are working to make our community a better place to live and work.

"With UMSL alumni and staff making up almost a third of the recipients, it goes to show the great impact the university has on the region and the highly skilled and passionate professionals it helps create and attract," Chancellor [Tom George](#) said. Read more by clicking [here](#).



## Ferguson Farmers Market - Dec. 16

Make plans to visit the Ferguson Farmers Winter Market from 9am-noon Saturday, December 16th at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 33N Clay, Ferguson MO 63135. Visit the Ferguson Farmers Market [website](#) for more information.

## Questions, Comments or Share a Community Story?

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!

## UMSL Calendars

Interested in events on campus?

[Campus Calendar](#)

[Athletics](#)

[Performances](#)

## UMSL Careers

Interested in a job at UMSL?

[Open Positions](#)

## UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)

[Construction Bids](#)

## Upcoming Events



### Jazz for the Holidays

December 3, 2017

This holiday favorite showcases holiday songs with a jazzy flair. The 3pm concert features such classics as "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Christmas Song," "Jingle Bells" and selections from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. [To add to the celebration, this event is free and open to the public.](#)



### Cornerstones

December 6, 2017

UMSL's University Wind Ensemble will perform a program titled "Cornerstones" made up of standard songs for the Wind Band. The concert will also feature a Junior Honors Band consisting of talented eleventh grade students from area high schools.

This event is free and open to the public. Click [here](#) for more information.



### Sounds of the Season

December 8-10, 2017

#### Tickets

Sounds of the Season featuring Ambassadors of Harmony is a heartwarming event filled with musical favorites that will get you in the spirit. The show has become a yearly tradition over the past three decades by combining comedy and the lighter side of popular holiday songs with classic carols and sacred music that tell the story of the season.



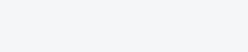
### The Nutcracker

December 15-23, 2017

#### Tickets

This Saint Louis favorite with dazzling costumes, sets and special effects returns to the Touhill. The large professional cast of company dancers and special guests swells with students from the school of the Saint Louis Ballet in children's roles. This show is performed to the traditional Tchaikovsky score. A special [Sugar Plum Fairy Luncheon](#) presented by Saint Louis Ballet is also on the schedule on both December 16 & 17.

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