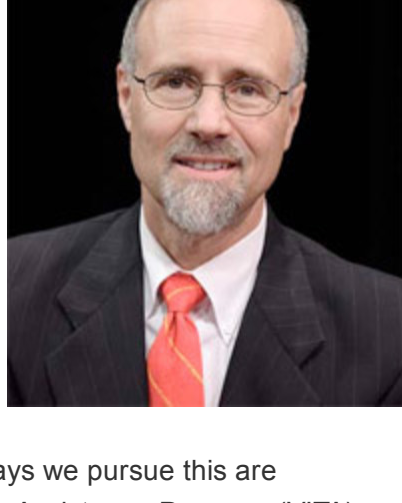




Letter from the Chancellor

Greetings!

As a public institution, UMSL is committed to improving the communities around our campus. We do this in part by supporting the financial and economic health of our neighbors and the region. Two ways we pursue this are through our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and UMSL Accelerate's Entrepreneur in Residence Program.



Last year UMSL staffed five VITA sites during the tax season. Our faculty, staff and student volunteers worked with 1,600 low income, disabled, or elderly members in our community to prepare their taxes free of charge. This service helps many households file correctly and receive a tax refund. Further information is in the article below. If the [VITA program](#) does not fit your situation, we hope you will find a local company to meet your individual needs.

This year, we have launched the [UMSL Accelerate Entrepreneur in Residence Program](#) which supports our entrepreneurs and small business community with no-cost mentoring on how to take an idea to market as well as how to expand and improve current businesses. I encourage local companies to take advantage of these supports and hope you find our nationally recognized experts helpful.

As always, we look forward to seeing you on campus and out in the community as we work together towards a thriving local economy.

Thank you,

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



Comings and Goings

Our long time neighbor, Schulte Hardware has closed after 113 years. After supplying us with cans of paint, keys, tools and home improvement merchandise, Schulte Hardware has shut its doors for good. We thank Schulte Hardware for years of service to our community.

While we say goodbye to a long-time business in our neighborhood, we welcome a new member of the community, Bright Star Learning Academy. The preschool will be located at 8525 Natural Bridge and plans to open in July 2018. In addition to serving youth, their purpose is to provide professional guidance, consultation, recreational activities and direct services to day care families in such areas as personal counseling, education, physical education through exercise, health, and nutrition.



UMSL Accelerate Launches Initiative to Help Community Entrepreneurs Thrive

As an entrepreneur, we don't know all the answers. There are too many roles to play when starting a business, and can seem impossible with our limited resources and know how. But there's good news for the local entrepreneur community. UMSL now offers entrepreneurs and small business owners in the community some resources that will help them thrive.

[UMSL Accelerate](#), UMSL's award winning and nationally recognized entrepreneurship & innovation resource, is inviting entrepreneurs in the local community to take advantage of a program, used by its very own students and faculty, to start and cultivate their ventures. This program is called [Entrepreneurs in Residence](#), and is offered to all participants at zero cost. Through this program, our successful mentors in the field can guide entrepreneurs in stages anywhere from turning an idea from mind to market, to offering support on scaling a current business. This unique curriculum can be applied to small businesses in multiple stages through monthly one-on-one consultations. Can you think of any other program in our community that provides as much customized and intimate guidance that cultivate local entrepreneurs and small business owners? To make an appointment, email or call UMSL Accelerate TODAY at accelerate@umsl.edu or (314) 516-4626. To learn more about what other UMSL Accelerate programs are offered to the community, visit accelerate.umsl.edu.

Author: Ala Al-Lozi, Assistant Director of UMSL Accelerate & 2015 UMSL MBA Graduate



Tax Season Is Here!

As we all know, tax season is upon us! Do you know of someone who needs help with taxes? Here are a couple of resources.

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Programs offers free income tax return preparation and tax information for families with income under \$54,000. On both February 17 and 24, you can find tax assistance at Believers Temple Word Fellowship Christian Church, 2115 Chambers Road, St. Louis, MO 63136 and at Beyond Housing, 6506 Wright Way Drive, St. Louis, MO 63121. You will need to bring: all w-2's, copy of 2016 tax return, copy of your check for direct deposit, valid picture identification (driver's license or passport), social security card, proof of your child care expenses, Forms 1095A, 1095B, or 1095C. If filing a joint return, both spouses must be present.

The UMSL Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program also provides free tax preparation for low income, disabled, and elderly members in our community. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. UMSL VITA, sponsored by the Gamma Psi Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, UMSL's Department of Accounting, GECC Tax Coalition and the IRS, has been offering this service now for 45 years! Business students volunteer by preparing federal and state income tax returns at one of five locations in the St. Louis metropolitan area. To find UMSL's and other's tax sites in our area and throughout the region, [click here](#).

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 Community Connection

[Sign up for this monthly newsletter!](#)

UMSL Calendars

Interested in events on campus?

[Campus Calender](#)

[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



Associated Black Collegians Annual High School Step Show

Saturday, February 17

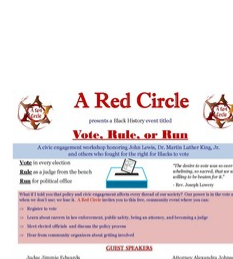
As Black History month comes to an end, there are a couple of events you don't want to miss. On Saturday, February 17 the annual High School Step Show will be held at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. The doors will open at 3 p.m. and the show will begin at 4 p.m. The pricing for tickets varies from \$5 for students to \$12 general audience tickets at the box office. Open to the public, this step show will showcase the talents of young high school students. It is exciting and a good time in a nice environment where you can spend a couple hours with the kids.



"I, Dred Scott, A Musical"

Saturday, February 24

Be sure to catch "I, Dred Scott, A Musical" at the Missouri History Museum on Saturday, February 24, 2017 at 2 p.m. This show tells the story of Dred and Harriet Scott and their two daughters' fight for their freedom. Audience members will gain a deeper understanding of the court case that happened here in our city.

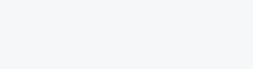


Vote, Rule, or Run!

Friday, February 23

On February 23rd at 9 a.m. and noon, A Red Circle presents a black history event titled "Vote, Rule, or Run". This civic education workshop honors John Lewis, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others who fought for the right for black people to vote. This free event will be held at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 1425 Stein Road in Ferguson. For more information about A Red Circle or the event please contact Erica R. Williams, Executive Director, at (314) 598-1939 or email erica.williams@aredcircle.org.

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