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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

Autumn has arrived and we are gearing up for some engaging activities in and around campus. We look forward to seeing area youngsters again this year at our annual Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 28. Additionally, we are launching a new Forum for Community Dialogue and our first session will be held on October 19 with the theme "Economic Vitality: How can we improve our communities?"

This month, UMSL is pleased to highlight organizations and people, including our alumni, who are making a difference in our community. And we are proud to share that UMSL has once again made the *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Colleges" list of "Top Performers on Social Mobility" across the U.S. holding the #1 spot in the state of Missouri.

I look forward to seeing you out and about and invite you to take a walk on campus this fall and enjoy the changing colors. You will also see some of the construction taking place as part of our Transform UMSL initiative as we are creating a campus for the future.

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis



Alum Alexis Russell flourishes at Wells Fargo and hopes to help small businesses thrive

Alexis Russell grew up with parents who ran their own businesses. She witnessed how challenging it was to keep them afloat, particularly when it came to balancing the finances. She began helping out with the books and developed an aspiration to turn her burgeoning skills into a career. Her practical experience, coupled with the knowledge she gained earning a degree in accounting from the College of Business Administration at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, primed Russell for her career in finance and current role as a senior financial controls and oversight analyst at [Wells Fargo](#) where she's been for nearly two years.

... Russell's interest in accounting and business began when she was in grade school, having observed other business owners struggle with finances....Later, while a junior at McCluer South-Berkeley High School, Russell decided she wanted an even more rigorous curriculum. She went to then-superintendent Art McCoy – an UMSL graduate – who told her about dual enrollment courses at the university. At the time, the district didn't have some of the advanced courses she wanted, so the dual enrollment option seemed like a great idea that would help her reach her academic goals. [Read more.](#)



Covering The Community

St. Louis County Community News, September 27, 2023

Local organizations work to help families across the St. Louis community to address the growing need for diapers.

Diapers are one of the most essential needs for babies, yet the National Diaper Bank Network reported this year that nearly half of all families (47%) in the U.S. don't have enough diapers for their children, which is an increase from 2010 when 33% of families experience diaper need.

Since 2019, the average cost of diapers has increased 32%, causing a financial strain, particularly among low-wage earners and families living in poverty. The average price per diaper is 25 cents. The average child uses 10 diapers a day which adds up to about \$750 per year. Two organizations in St. Louis are

working to help families in need of diapers. [One is the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank in Wellston.] [Read more.](#)



UMSL gets high marks for supporting social mobility in latest US News 'Best Colleges' rankings

The University of Missouri–St. Louis continues to excel at helping students improve their socioeconomic status by achieving a college degree.

In the latest [U.S. News & World Report "Best Colleges" rankings](#), the publication ranked UMSL first in Missouri and No. 84 nationally on its list of "[Top Performers on Social Mobility](#)," which highlights how well universities have graduated students who receive federal Pell Grants. UMSL has made the list every year since it debuted in the 2020 rankings, and it has been first in Missouri each of the past two years. [Read More.](#)



St. Louis County Children's Service Fund announces 2023-2025 Grassroots Funding recipients

St. Louis County Community News, September 20, 2023

St. Louis County Children's Service Fund (CSF) announced its 2023-2025 Grassroots Funding recipients. In its second funding allocation, the Grassroots Funding cycle will distribute \$3,643,428 among 29 organizations that provide mental and behavioral health services to children and families in St. Louis County....Each funded program falls within one of CSF's focus areas, which includes crisis intervention, substance use treatment, therapeutic and non-therapeutic counseling, transitional housing and more. CSF staff, along with an external team of community reviewers, reviewed applications before recommendations were approved by the board of directors.

A few of the local 2023-2025 Grassroots funding recipients are The SoulFisher ministries, Bridging Families to Communities and Beyond, and A Red Circle among a list of others. [Read more.](#)





Transform UMSL update

UMSL Facilities Management continues to move [Transform UMSL](#) initiatives forward to reimagine and redefine the campus footprint through targeted investments. This initiative is a coordinated campus master planning approach that spans five years and includes more than \$100 million in public and private investments to reimagine and redefine the campus footprint.

One of the major efforts is the modernization and expansion of the Social Sciences and Business Building (SSB), which will require the deconstruction of the SSB Tower. SSB will be renovated and a new building expansion will be added in the footprint of the Tower. Additionally, the team is excited to share a look at the completed build-out of the second floor of our Patient Care Center. The new space allows students to engage in pre-clinical training in the same place as their in-person training at UMSL Eye Care and includes new classroom and skill room spaces to support the optometry program. [Check out the virtual tour](#) of this new space.

The community can follow progress and timelines by downloading the monthly [Transform UMSL Project Report](#). Questions are welcome during this exciting time of transformation at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Share with Us

We'd love to hear your questions and comments about UMSL and 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 newsletter

Received this as a forward?
[Click here](#) to subscribe.

UMSL Community Card

[Register](#) for a community card to receive benefits and discounts at UMSL events and facilities.

UMSL Careers

[Click here](#) to learn about job opportunities at UMSL. Check back regularly for new listings.

UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?
[Procurement Bids](#)
[Construction Bids](#)

Community Connect

[Click here](#) to learn about UMSL resources, services and programs available to the community.

STL Community LAB

[Click here](#) to learn about community development trainings and programs.

Events & Resources



North County Inc. Golf Tournament

Monday, October 16, 2023
10:00 AM registration & lunch
11:00 AM Shotgun Start
Glen Echo Country Club
3401 Lucas and Hunt Rd.

Join NCI for their annual North County Golf Tournament. There will be on-course refreshments and snacks. Awards reception and dinner after play. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



UMSL Forum for Community Dialogue

"Economic Vitality: How can we improve our communities?"

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023
4:00 – 6:00 PM
UMSL Campus
RCEW Building
8225 W. Florissant Road

During the 60th anniversary year, UMSL is launching the UMSL Forum for Community Dialogue. This first session of the program focuses on "What can government, businesses, and citizens do to enhance economic growth and vitality in our communities?" Participants

in this first forum will explore the advantages and trade-offs of three areas of focus to promote economic vitality. The purpose is to inspire thoughtful examination of differing points of view and a movement towards common ground around which the community can plan for its future. To register for the first event, or share interest for future sessions, click [here](#).



Trunk or Treat at UMSL
Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023
Noon – 2:00 PM
Millennium Student Center
17 Arnold B. Grobman Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Trunk or Treat is a service event for young children of UMSL families and the surrounding community. A safe and fun way for families to enjoy Halloween festivities, attendees will be able to walk from trunk or trunk and enjoy the "Trunk-or-Treating." They will be able to get a goody bag filled with candy and toys. Candy, peanut free, and non-candy bags will be available while supplies last. There will also be a face painter, balloon artist, and ice cream truck. Email questions to studentinvolvement@umsl.edu.



St. Louis Racial Equity Summit
November 9 – 11, 2023
America's Center Convention Complex
701 Convention Plaza,
St. Louis, MO 63101

UMSL is proud to be a cohost at this important community

event. With a keynote from Nikki Giovanni, this convening will serve as a platform to elevate, collaborate, and activate the people, practices, and resources necessary to achieve Racial Equity. In an effort to make the St. Louis Racial Equity Summit accessible to a wide variety of attendees, [registration](#) is set on a sliding scale from \$125 - \$399. To learn more about the Summit and the sessions, [click here](#).



**The UMSL Touhill
Performing Arts Center
Presents:**

[New Beginnings: Celebrating
10 Years of Success +
Transformation](#) (recognizing
the UMSL SUCCEED
anniversary)
Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023
5:00 PM

[TedXStLouisWomen Presents
Two Steps Forward](#)
Friday, Oct. 27, 2023
3:00 PM

["Loving You 2" Stage Play](#)
Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023
7:00 PM

The Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL has an exciting line up of concerts and performances for the community to enjoy. For tickets and other information for these and other upcoming events, click [here](#).

University of Missouri–St. Louis
Economic & Community Development
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