

April 2025



Dear friends, neighbors and community partners,

It's April, and so far this year we have had some wonderful news to celebrate and share. It was exciting to hold the State of the County address at our beautiful Touhill Performing Arts Center last month, that included signing of the bill appropriating \$10M to support the North County Business and Workforce District on our south campus. We also recently published a report showing that UMSL's annual economic impact on the St. Louis region exceeds \$522.5 million. It is clear that investment in UMSL is investment in the community.

As usual, this month, we feature a few projects with partner organizations in the St. Louis region. These include North County Inc., as well as the new Save Lives Now! initiative being led by the East-West Gateway Council of Governments. There is tremendous potential for these collaborative investments and efforts to have a positive impact for individuals and neighborhoods in our area. There is already much to celebrate in 2025, and I know that working together we will continue to make great things happen!

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis



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Events & Resources

April 2025



County Executive Dr. Sam Page signs bill directing \$10M to UMSL to support planned North County Business and Workforce District

During the State of the County Address, St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page invited University of Missouri–St. Louis Chancellor Kristin Sobolik and St. Louis County Council Chair Rita Heard Days to the stage at the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. A table and chairs were placed beside the lectern, where Page proceeded to sign a bill directing \$10 million to support the [UMSL North County Business and Workforce District](#), planned for the university's South Campus. Page highlighted that working with the council, including Chair Rita Days, made it possible to appropriate these funds to UMSL, furthering their efforts in campus transformation and community involvement.

[The St. Louis County Council had previously voted in December](#) to appropriate the funds for the project, complementing UMSL's \$110 million Transform UMSL initiative. This initiative aims to modernize the campus, establish a more cohesive academic core on North Campus, and open 35 acres of land on South Campus for mixed-use redevelopment. Additionally, the State of Missouri has directed \$80 million in ARPA funding to support the initiative, along with private donations. The district's plans include attracting businesses, employees, and amenities like childcare centers, grocery stores, and restaurants to positively impact the community. Sobolik expressed gratitude to Page, Days, and the St. Louis County Council for their continuous support in advancing UMSL's mission and development. [Read more.](#)



Brahms' Violin Concerto
Friday, April 11, 2025
to Sunday, April 13, 2025
Touhill Performing Arts
Center at UMSL

The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra is presenting "Brahms' Violin Concerto: Friendship and Solace" at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Renowned violinist Christian Tetzlaff will perform Brahms' Violin Concerto, a piece he describes as "filled with humanity, speaking of pain and joy, solace and companionship." Conductor John Storgårds will lead the orchestra in Sibelius's Lemminkäinen Suite, which celebrates the journeys of a Finnish folk hero. The concert is approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes, including intermission. [Click here](#) for tickets which range from \$20-\$70.



**Incarnate Word Academy
Spring Boutique**
Thursday, April 24, 2025
5:00 - 9:00 PM
2788 Normandy Drive

The 13th Annual IWA Spring Boutique will feature a diverse lineup of vendors, offering a variety of products for attendees to explore and enjoy. General admission is \$30 and includes shopping from over 50 local vendors, food samples from local



UMSL's economic impact on the St. Louis region exceeds \$522.5 million

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The University of Missouri–St. Louis plays a critical role in developing the professional workforce in St. Louis and serves as a key driver of economic development throughout the region. A [new report](#) from the nationally recognized consulting firm Tripp Umbach quantifies that impact, revealing that UMSL contributed more than \$522.5 million to the region's economy in fiscal year 2023 by combining direct spending with indirect economic activity generated by the university's presence. UMSL provided direct support for 2,904 full-time and part-time jobs, while expenditures on capital projects, development and planning initiatives, and suppliers contributed to another 3,794 jobs across the metropolitan area. Chancellor Kristin Sobolik emphasized the university's role in St. Louis' success, highlighting its high-quality education and broader economic contributions. The analysis estimated that UMSL alumni contribute \$14 billion to the metropolitan St. Louis economy, with an impact of \$14.3 billion across the state of Missouri.

On the heels of its 60th anniversary celebration in 2023, UMSL leaders engaged Tripp Umbach to assess the university's economic influence specifically within the St. Louis metropolitan area, including the city of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and surrounding counties in Missouri and Illinois. UMSL's statewide impact of \$555.1 million represented a 29% increase from the last economic impact report, which used fiscal year 2021 data. ... UMSL contributed \$248.2 million to St. Louis County and \$176.3 million to the city of St. Louis, supporting and sustaining 3,181 jobs in St. Louis County and 2,261 jobs in the city. Additionally, UMSL students and employees donated an estimated \$23.2 million in voluntary time across the region during FY23. [Read more.](#)

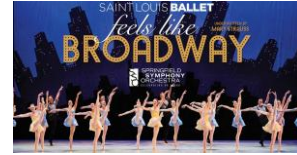


State of North County Leadership Luncheon: Public Safety 2025

North County Inc. (NCI) recently hosted its State of North County Leadership Luncheon, focusing on economic investment and growth in the community. Over 120 community, civic, and business leaders gathered to learn about the nearly \$2.8 billion in investment happening throughout North County....Rebecca Zoll, president/CEO of NCI, noted "It is exciting to see this level of investment throughout the area and know that quality jobs are being created for the people who live here."

Both private and public investments currently underway include the Boeing expansion, Clayco's relocation, Performance Food Group, the I-270 north corridor, R & R Marketplace, new

restaurants, and two drinks. [Click here](#) for tickets.



Saint Louis Ballet: Feels Like Broadway

Saturday, April 26, 2025 and
Sunday, April 27, 2025
2:30 PM
Touhill Performing Arts
Center at UMSL

Saint Louis Ballet presents a captivating celebration of American musical theatre, featuring ballets that embody the energy and rhythm of Broadway. With live accompaniment by the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, the performance includes *Carousel* (A Dance) by Christopher Wheeldon, set to Richard Rodgers' Broadway score; *Interplay* by Jerome Robbins, a jazzy ballet reminiscent of *West Side Story*; and *Who Cares?* by George Balanchine, a lively piece set to Gershwin melodies. Tickets range from \$43-\$96. [Click here](#) for more information.



LM39 WEEKEND

Saturday, May 3, 2025
11:00 AM
Normandy High School
6701 St. Charles Rock Road

The Athlete Mental Health Awareness Jamboree, hosted by the LM39 Foundation, is a family-

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buildings/renovations at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis campuses. Additional developments include several new housing projects, municipal recreational improvements, and dozens of new businesses. [Read more.](#)



UMSL criminologists Chris Sullivan, Lee Slocum contributing expertise in research, data collection to Save Lives Now! Initiative

Elected leaders, law enforcement and criminal justice officials and representatives of community organizations from across the St. Louis region gathered recently at UMSL for the latest Save Lives Now! Advisory Council meeting. "There are some wonderful people doing wonderful work in the room," the initiative's director, Brandon Sterling, said as he surveyed an audience that included St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page and St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones and welcomed them all to the third-floor Chamber.

A pair of UMSL faculty members, Chris Sullivan and Lee Slocum, both from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, were also listening intently from the fourth row as Sterling began to discuss the progress of Save Lives Now!, which is working toward a goal of reducing violent street crime by 20% across the St. Louis region over the next three years. Both Sullivan, the department's chair and the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Youth Crime and Violence, and Slocum, a professor and the director of the department's master's program, are serving as part of the implementation team for the effort, which is being led by the East-West Gateway Council of Governments.

Next month, Save Lives Now! will begin rolling out a pilot program in the city with plans to begin serving 40 individuals considered at high risk of becoming offenders. The initiative aims to break the cycle of violence by deploying a three-pronged strategy of focused deterrence, cognitive behavior theory and street outreach. The expectation is that Save Lives Now! will launch similar efforts with an additional 45 participants from targeted areas of St. Louis County (including Ferguson, Berkeley, and Jennings) and St. Clair County in Illinois. Sullivan and Slocum will provide research and evaluation of those efforts, not only this year but over the next three years, as the initiative ramps up to a planned 500 total participants across the region. [Read more.](#)

friendly event dedicated to promoting athlete well-being. The event features interactive activities, valuable resources, and open discussions focused on mental health in sports. [Click here](#) for free registration.



THE CREATIVE SPOT GRAND OPENING!

Saturday, May 3, 2025
12:00 to 4:00 PM
414 S. Florissant Rd

A Red Circle invites the community to celebrate the grand opening of its new arts and music center, The Creative Spot. This special event will feature an exciting raffle with a selection of prizes, ranging from brand-new household items and tablets to unique community artwork for families to enjoy. [Register here](#) for the free event.



Bread Making 101 with Chef Queenie

Monday, May 5, 2025
10:00 AM
4517 Hamilton Ave

Local Chef Queenie offers a fun, flour-filled adventure to bake bread that will wow the taste buds. Tickets are \$15. [Click here](#) for more information.



Massive clean-up effort underway to revitalize historic city in north St. Louis County

KSDK-TV, March 10, 2025

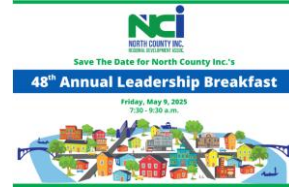
Kinloch City Manager Justine Blue expressed hope for the future of Kinloch as cleanup efforts began [on a recent] Monday morning. The city, once vibrant and rich with history, has faced years of illegal dumping and neglect. Alandon Pitts with the Regional Business Council noted that trash covered nearly every street, a result of decades of waste piling up. Blue highlighted that Kinloch, the first Black city incorporated in Missouri, suffered significant decline following airport buyouts that led to a loss of more than 80% of the population. Despite past cleanup efforts, illegal dumping continued, reinforcing the city's reputation as a dumping ground. However, Monday marked a turning point as multiple trucks removed nearly 500 tons of trash, kicking off Phase One of the "2025 Kinloch Block Builders" event.

The cleanup, supported by the Urban League and multiple partners, aims to restore Kinloch and revitalize the community.... With Phase One concluding, Phase Two is set to begin in May with hundreds of volunteers, followed by Phase Three, which will focus on development and community meetings. [Read more.](#)



Grand Opening of API Innovation Center & UMSL State-of-the-Art Research and Development Lab

HEC Science and Technology, March 25, 2025



NCI 48th Annual Leadership Breakfast

Friday, May 9, 2025
7:30 - 9:30 AM

At the North County Incorporated (NCI) Annual Breakfast, awards will be presented to individuals who have shown a strong commitment to the North St. Louis County region through their business, civic and/or humanitarian acts. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.



Ferguson Twilight Run

Saturday, May 17, 2025
4:30 PM
Plaza @ 501
501 S. Florissant

The in-person 2025 Ferguson Twilight Run is taking place in Downtown Ferguson! Virtual FTR activities will take place over the course of the weekend. Pre-Race entertainment starts at 4:30 PM and the concert ends at 9:30 PM. The 1-mile distance starts at 5:00 PM; the 5K starts at 6:00 PM; and the 10K starts at 5:45 PM. Road closures are expected after 4:30 PM. For event information and registration, [click here](#).

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The API Innovation Center and UMSL are teaming up with a \$9.55 million investment to reshape the future of small-molecule pharmaceutical manufacturing in the U.S. This new lab in St. Louis aims to bring vital API production back to American soil, strengthening national health security. A ribbon cutting was held earlier this year at UMSL to launch the new facility. [Watch the video.](#)

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!
