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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

Here we are—the final month of the 2023 and a wonderful time to reflect and celebrate a year of progress and transformation. There are many great things taking place on campus and in our community, and we are highlighting just a few again this month. We are very excited for the upcoming commencement ceremonies to be held on Saturday, December 16th (be prepared for a little more traffic around campus that day.) We wish the best for our graduates and know that they will be making a difference every day in our community.

As we celebrate the end of another year, we look forward to the promise of a new one filled with continued growth.

Happy Holidays!

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis



UMSL to honor nearly 1,000 students during fall commencement ceremonies

The University of Missouri–St. Louis will confer nearly 1,000 degrees as it celebrates summer and fall graduates during three commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Mark Twain Athletic Center

UMSL Community Connection newsletter

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

STL Community LAB

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Events & Resources



9:00 AM – College of Business Administration and College of Nursing

Address by Riisa Rawlins, interim CEO of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission

1:30 PM – College of Arts and Sciences

Address by Dan Isom, vice president of corporate safety, security and crisis management at Ameren

6 PM – College of Education, UMSL/Washington University Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program and School of Social Work

Address by Kathy Boyd-Fenger, executive director and head of school at LOGOS School

[Read more](#) about the commencement speakers and honorees.



Ferguson Farmers Winter Market

Third Saturdays,
November-April
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
33 N. Clay Ave., Ferguson

Find a variety of vendors including the EarthDance farm "Pay what you can" for produce booth.



Affinia Healthcare Opens New Ferguson Health Center, Adds Midwifery to Help Address Healthcare Disparities

Affinia Healthcare held a ribbon-cutting celebration for its new comprehensive health center in Ferguson, Mo. Designed as a new holistic approach to community health, the new site is adjacent to long-time community pillar, Emerson Family YMCA. ... Affinia Healthcare's decision to expand its presence in North St. Louis County is the result of a community health assessment that identified areas where unmet primary healthcare needs are prevalent. One of the critical needs in the North County area is access to prenatal and women's healthcare. There is one hospital in the North County area that delivers babies and a dwindling number of physicians and providers who offer obstetric/gynecologic care. To help meet this need, Affinia Healthcare is offering midwifery services at the new Ferguson location. [Read more](#).



Ferguson's Winter Wonderland

Friday, December 15
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
1050 Smith Ave.
Ferguson, MO 63135

This FREE holiday celebration features photos with Santa, Elsa's Castle, The Grinch Vendor Village, Carolers, Hot Chocolate, Balloon Twister & Lots of Lights!

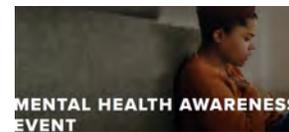
[Click here](#) for more information.



Ferguson-Florissant School Board receives national award

St. Louis County Community News, November 15, 2023

The Ferguson-Florissant School Board was honored at the National School Boards Association's (NSBA) Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Annual Conference last month



24:1 Mental Health Awareness Event

Saturday, December 16
10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
24:1 Cinema
6755 Page Ave.

Join area health partners for a community mental health awareness event. There will be several speakers from NAMI as well as resources and vendors on site.

Admission is free. The 24:1 Cinema will also be offering concessions to attendees for

before an audience of nearly 1,000 urban school board members. The Ferguson-Florissant School Board received the 2023 Award for Urban School Excellence, which considers four core areas of governance: School Board Performance; Academic Improvement; Educational Equity; and Community Engagement.

The 9,500-student Ferguson-Florissant School District's stated mission is to provide high-quality instruction "to every student in every neighborhood while prioritizing equity and compassionate relationships." Focused on data-driven decision-making and evidence-based practices, the Ferguson-Florissant board works toward measurable improvements in student achievement and narrowing opportunity gaps. [Read more.](#)



Walk Ferguson Group Celebrates 3 Years of Walking

St. Louis County Community News, November 22, 2023

Walk Ferguson, a walking group that explores the historic neighborhoods of this 168-year-old north St. Louis County municipality each week, celebrated its first three years of walking, meeting neighbors, and building new friendships in October. Walk founders and organizers Beth von Behren and Peggy Faul, both residents of Ferguson, launched the group with its initial hike in October 2020, partially in response to the COVID pandemic. "That summer of 2020, so many people all over were hitting the trails because all the gyms were closed," von Behren said. "There was a group in Kirkwood that had started walking together, and I shared their story on our Ferguson community page on Facebook with a question – 'Why don't we do this here?' Peggy spoke up right away and said 'Let's do it!'" [Read more.](#)



Geospatial Advanced Technology Lab to begin serving students in the spring semester

The newly constructed Geospatial Advanced Technology Lab on the fourth floor of Benton Hall is nearly complete and will begin welcoming students and researchers from across the University of Missouri–St. Louis – and beyond – in the spring semester. "This will be a hub for all research, training and geospatial workforce development on the UMSL campus and in

free.



Chancellor's Certificate in Advancing DEI in the Workplace

January 22 – June 14, 2024
Online

In celebration of UMSL's 60th year serving the St. Louis region, the UMSL Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is proud to continue its efforts to enhance the capacity of local companies, organizations, and agencies to build inclusive workplace cultures.

This Certificate in Advancing DEI in the Workplace is a fully on-line, non-credit bearing course open to all professionals in the St. Louis region. Space is limited as the cohort will consist of no more than 30 people from a variety of job sectors, backgrounds, and experiences.

Pre-registration is now open. The program fee is \$450 (\$350 for government, education, nonprofit employees, and UMSL alumni or UMSL community card holders. Group pricing: \$150 for each additional employee from the same organization). No payment is due until January 18, but an additional \$60 discount will be offered to those who pay before January 12. [Click here](#) for more information and registration.



MLK Day Observance
Monday, January 15, 2024
11:00 AM

St. Louis' geospatial ecosystem, where we are leading the talent initiative working group within the GeoFutures coalition," said Reda Amer, who has helped shepherd their development since taking over as the director of [UMSL's Geospatial Collaborative](#) last February. Recognizing the importance of developing talent to feed the region's growing geospatial sector, the state of Missouri directed more than \$1 million in funding through the MoExcels Workforce Initiative to establish the lab on campus. The university provided matching funds toward the project.

...
He [Reda Amer] noted local nonprofit organizations such as Unleashing Potential, Gateway Global, The Little Bit Foundation, Rung for Women and St. Louis Community College who will be able to bring students and adults to UMSL's labs to get training on the equipment. It's all part of the university's commitment to help lead the collaborative K-16 talent initiative and geospatial workforce development while strengthening and expanding its partnerships. UMSL has started offering a new undergraduate certificate program in GIS and has plans to develop graduate programs in GIS and geospatial science over the next few years. [Read more](#) and [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!

University of Missouri–St. Louis
Economic & Community Development
1 University Boulevard
341 Woods Hall
St. Louis, MO | 63121

UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

Save the date! This annual event features inspirational speakers, music and an announcement of the MLK scholarship awards. The keynote speaker this year is Ben Jealous, former NAACP President, Equality activist, and Executive Director of the Sierra Club. Check the [website](#) regularly for updated details on the event.
