



Dear friends, neighbors and community partners,

While July is normally a quiet time on campus, with most university students away for summer break, this year's summer semester has been a busy time with lots of energy all around campus. UMSL has hosted several summer camps and youth programs including a new one with Girls Inc., featured below. We are thrilled to move forward with Transform UMSL, the university's physical transformation of our 350-acre campus, focused on building a metropolitan campus that will serve our students today and well into the future. The university is grateful to have received more than \$36 million in capital funding from the state of Missouri this legislative session. This investment from the state will help fund several key initiatives, like Transform UMSL and new workforce initiatives on our campus. And UMSL's commitment to our neighborhood partners continues as we celebrate progress and economic development in our community, including the recent opening of the Sundance Café on Natural Bridge Road. We're looking forward to more good things to come!

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri–St.  
Louis



## 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.



## Girls Inc. and First Bank partner host 6-week Entrepreneurship and Business Program on UMSL’s campus

For six weeks this summer, UMSL hosted a transformative Entrepreneurship and Business Program that is a partnership between Girls Inc. of St. Louis and First Bank. This new program is designed to empower young women by offering guidance in different aspects of business. The program is modeled after Girls Inc.’s successful Eureka! program, which focuses on promoting STEM careers and is in its ninth year.

The program officially started in early June and representatives from First Bank – Ellen Dierberg Milne, vice chairwoman of the board, and Stacy Clay, the director of community affairs – attended a morning session to meet and chat with the participants. Girls Inc. President and CEO Cheryl Jones made the introductions. “If it was not for Ellen and First Bank, and if it was not for UMSL, this would not exist,” she told the students.... Then, Jones asked which student leader wanted to introduce themselves first.

Madysen Hayes immediately stood up and walked to the front. “Good morning,” she said. “My name is Madison Hayes. I am a proud member of Girls Inc., and I attend Lucas Crossing Middle School. The business that I want to develop is a small jewelry business.” [Read more.](#)



## August graduate Elexis Hubbard applies social work skills, volunteer experience at UMSL’s Community Innovation and Action Center

After a long road, Elexis Hubbard is more than ready for graduation. “It feels amazing to be right at the finish line, practically,” she said. “It has been a long time coming since I

---

## Events & Resources

---



### 2024 Neighborhood Leadership Academy - Registration now open!

Scholarship deadline:

August 1, 2024

Application deadline:

August 21, 2024

- 10 weekly sessions from 6:00 – 9:00 PM
- Hybrid Academy - Wednesdays, September 11- November 13 on Zoom (for any Missouri resident)
- In-Person Academy - Tuesdays, September 17-November 19 (St. Louis area residents)

Development of neighborhood leaders is critical to long-term community success. The Neighborhood Leadership Academy provides leadership training that emphasizes community building principles and strategies, project planning, and personal leadership skills. Participants gain tools needed to effectively engage and make a difference in their communities while building connections with other changemakers and neighborhood advocates. Registration is \$325. Full & Partial Scholarships are available (scholarship deadline is August 1). Click [here](#) to learn more about the program, session topics and to read about NLA alumni!

first started school back in 2017 [after having graduated from Ritenour High School]. So, to finally be here at this moment feels amazing, and I'm ready to start doing things that I care about." Hubbard's academic journey has included several challenges – briefly dropping out of school, transferring schools and switching majors – but she adapted and, ultimately, persevered. ... During her time at the university, Hubbard was deeply involved on campus and in the community. She served as the 2023-24 Newman Civic Fellow and as president of UMSL's chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, a national co-ed service fraternity. In her free time, she regularly volunteered with organizations such as Gateway Pet Guardians and the Ritenour Co-Care Food Pantry.

Hubbard is currently finishing her final practicum hours with UMSL's Community Innovation and Action Center, where she has put her social work education and community outreach experience to use. She's working closely with the Saint Louis Zoo to develop youth programs for its new WildCare Park in north St. Louis County and with the Kinloch community to create a panel discussion event. After the completion of her practicum and graduation, she plans to pursue an MSW and MPPA at UMSL simultaneously starting in the 2025 spring semester. [Read more.](#)



## UMSL Millennium Student Center again to serve as polling place and early voting satellite site for primary, general elections

All residents of St. Louis County who are registered voters will again be able to cast their votes on the University of Missouri–St. Louis campus in both the primary and general elections this year. The UMSL Millennium Student Center at [117 Arnold Grohman Drive](#) will serve as a polling place for St. Louis County voters on August 6 and November 5 in one of the third-floor Century Rooms from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM both days.

Additionally, voters do not have to go to the Board of Elections office to vote early. **UMSL is an option and will serve as a satellite site** for returning absentee ballots or casting absentee ballots in person.

- Weekdays, July 23 thru August 5 (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM)
- Saturdays, July 27 and August 3 (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)
- Monday, August 5 (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM)

"I think it's good for the local community, people who live near

## YOUR CORNER FEDERAL JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR



### Federal Job and Resource Fair

Saturday, July 13, 2024  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
UMSL Millenium Center  
17 Arnold B Grobman Dr.

The community is invited to a Federal Job and Resource Fair hosted by Congresswoman Cori Bush. This is an opportunity to discover exciting career opportunities, network with federal agencies, and learn more about constituent services. Click [here](#) to learn more.



**Jazz Triple Play 2**  
Sunday, July 21, 2024  
7:00 PM  
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

Breakaway Productions in association with Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center welcomes the 2024 version of Jazz Triple Play. This year, three premiere artists on the smooth jazz platform—Norman Brown, Paul Taylor, and Brian Simpson—are sure to have your undivided musical ear. Click [here](#) for tickets ranging \$55 - \$75.



### Beyond the Backpack

UMSL,” said David Kimball, chair of the Department of Political Science who was one of the people who suggested the [Board of Elections](#) consider the university as a polling place. “It may be convenient for our students and our faculty and staff, particularly now that the county has this policy where you can vote at any polling place and you don’t have to go to your assigned polling place. Generally, it might bring more people to campus.” St. Louis County first started allowing voters to vote at any polling place in 2020 and UMSL became a polling place including absentee voting in 2022. Learn more about voting in St. Louis County on [this video](#).

Saturday, August 10, 2024  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Normandy Early Learning  
Center and Lucas Crossing  
School Campus  
7855 Natural Bridge Rd.

Area youngsters are invited to join the Normandy Schools Collaborative and Beyond Housing for a fun back to school event! They will have everything needed for the new school year in one place, plus some extra fun activities to close out the summer!

- FREE backpacks
- FREE school supplies
- FREE physicals, dental screenings, and immunizations
- FREE shoes
- FREE haircuts
- FREE lunch
- School registration
- Petting zoo, bounce house, DJ, and a lot more fun for kids!

Click [here](#) for more information.



## Eagerly awaited Sundance Café opens

The long awaited Sundance Café (operating in the former Breakaway restaurant space) opened June 14, 2024. People driving down Natural Bridge Road near the UMSL campus saw the “coming soon” sign on the awning of the building for some time, waiting with eager anticipation for the opening of the new café. The community is now invited to enjoy the great food and wonderful service, hosted by Bel-Nor resident Kirk Kirkpatrick, for lunch and dinner, 11:00-8:00 daily except Sunday. The patio will also be opening soon for outdoor dining pleasure.

Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/SundanceCafeBelNor>



## Summer Lunches at St. Louis County Libraries

Weekdays through  
August 16, 2024  
Noon to 1:00 PM  
Natural Bridge Branch  
7606 Natural Bridge Road  
and other SLCL locations

SLCL and Operation Food Search are teaming up to provide nutritious lunches and activities for area children this summer. Pizza will be provided on Fridays. Meals must be eaten on-site and will be available free of charge for children 18 and under. Click [here](#) to learn more.



## Beyond Housing updates State of the Community

Recently, Beyond Housing put out a short synopsis of stories highlighting several of their initiatives and the activities that are making a difference in the community. These included the introduction of their Transformative Services Division and several of its service specializations, as well as updates on other facets of Beyond Housing’s comprehensive approach to community development. [Read more](#).



**Ferguson Concert Series**  
Third Fridays through  
September  
7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Plaza at 501  
501 S. Florissant

## State of Missouri makes significant investments in new academic programs and ongoing campus transformation at UMSL

At the end of June, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson signed the state’s Fiscal Year 2025 budget, which includes more than \$36 million in capital funding for the University of Missouri–St. Louis. The budget calls for \$15 million in capital funding to support the launch of the university’s new School of Engineering, as well as \$20 million in new American Rescue Plan Act funding to continue UMSL’s [Transform UMSL](#) initiative, the university’s first step in realizing its [Campus Master Plan](#), and capital funding to renovate spaces for the UMSL [Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center](#) and for the university’s [Advanced Workforce Center](#).

“We are grateful to Gov. Parson and other elected officials in Jefferson City for their continued support of our work and mission,” Chancellor Kristin Sobolik said. “We want to especially thank Missouri Sen. Brian Williams, Speaker of the House Dean Plocher, other members of the St. Louis legislative delegation, the University of Missouri Board of Curators and President Mun Choi for recognizing the vital role UMSL plays within our region, and our ability to unlock access and opportunity for students of every background and prepare them for success in the changing workforce.” [Read more](#).

---

## 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