

[View this email in a webpage.](#)



Dear Neighbors and Community Partners,

Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away. But it is never too early to reflect on the things for which we are grateful and to share our appreciation of one another. 2020 has been a challenging year in so many ways. In the past several months we have seen schools, community organizations, businesses, local governments, hospitals, families, and more dramatically shift how they work, conduct their lives, and serve society. School districts transformed their educational model while also changing how they provide food and support to their students and families. Medical professionals are braving the front lines in the fight against the pandemic while also transitioning the delivery of care to tele-medicine. Businesses have had to rethink their operations and transform their stores to practice public health measures. Families have had to navigate work and childcare. Moreover, throughout the pandemic, people participated in the elections and the Census, and worked to address racism and institutional injustice.

While the challenges are great and divisions in society are real, so many in our community leaned in to support one another, to make hard changes, and engaged in community

### **COVID-19 Resources**

[Click here](#) to view resources for support during the pandemic.

### **UMSL Community Connection**

[Click here](#) to sign up for the community connection newsletter.

### **UMSL Community Card**

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

### **UMSL Contracts**

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)  
[Construction Bids](#)

### **Announcements and Activities**

**Roller Coaster Paper Challenge**  
**With The Magic House**  
November 14th 10:00 am - 11:00 am

life in new ways. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I share my deep gratitude for the ways that the people in our community have stepped up to encourage and support one another and will continue to do so as we move forward through these uncertain times.

Wishing you well!

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor, University of Missouri-St. Louis



## Cori Bush Becomes First Black Congresswoman In Missouri History

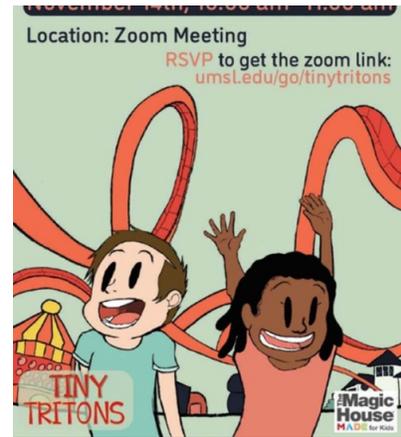
*St. Louis Public Radio*

Democrat Cori Bush, a nurse and political activist from Florissant, on Tuesday [Nov. 3, 2020] became the first Black woman from Missouri ever elected to Congress. Unlike her August primary contest against longtime 1st District incumbent Lacy Clay, Bush's general election against Republican Anthony Rogers and Libertarian Alex Furman was never in doubt. The district, which takes in all of St. Louis and portions of St. Louis County, is the most Democratic congressional district in the state. The Associated Press called the race shortly after the polls closed at 7 p.m.

"It's unbelievable," Bush told St. Louis Public Radio after speaking with voters in Clayton. "It's amazing. But it's also sad. Because it's 2020 and I'll be the first woman in the district and the first Black congresswoman ever for the state. But I wouldn't change this moment to be able to be here." [Click here](#) to read more.



## UMSL alumni Sharonica Hardin-Bartley and Doris Graham honored



**Join Tiny Tritons & the Magic House MADE for Kids Saturday, November 14 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

RSVP- [umsl.edu/go/tinytritons](https://umsl.edu/go/tinytritons)  
The event will be held virtually via Zoom. RSVP is required to receive the login link. We will start with an introduction to the design thinking process, so important to STEM learning today. Then the fun begins as families are given a roller coaster design challenge using just paper, scissors, and glue!



**VISTA**  
Volunteers in Service to America

Do you or someone you know have a passion for bettering the communities around you? Are you looking for an opportunity to learn, grow, and serve? AmeriCorps VISTA might be right for you! St. Louis Promise Zone and other local organizations are currently recruiting for VISTA positions, and you might be the perfect fit!

For an up-to-date list of VISTA openings, create an account on [my.americorps.gov](https://my.americorps.gov) and type "stlpz" in the search bar, or email [lwhite@stlpartnership.com](mailto:lwhite@stlpartnership.com).

- [St. Louis Promise Zone Community and Municipal Engagement VISTA](#)

## for excellence in education

On the surface, teachers spend their days instilling knowledge in their students – grammar, equations, important dates in American history. But that's only a minute part of an educator's role. Skilled teachers use their influence to equip students for success – imparting confidence and preparing them for the future.

On [a recent] Saturday, two University of Missouri–St. Louis College of Education alumni – Sharonica Hardin-Bartley and Doris Graham – were honored by the St. Louis American Foundation for their positive impact on students at the 33rd Annual Salute to Excellence in Education Scholarship & Awards Virtual Gala. Since 1988, the event has recognized outstanding educators and provided funding for St. Louis area schools. This year, the foundation and its partners awarded \$1.95 million in grants and scholarships to African American students.

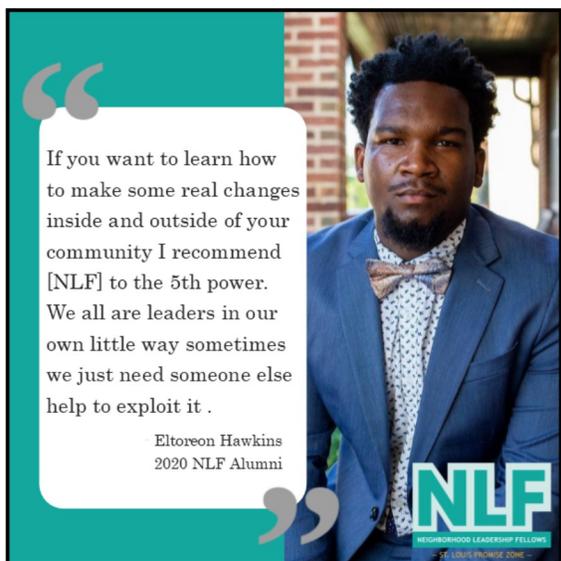
Sharonica Hardin-Bartley has served as superintendent of University City Schools since 2016. Doris Graham is a retired SLPS teacher who served on the Ferguson-Florissant School Board for 23 years and is on the St. Louis Community College Board of Trustees. [Click here](#) to read more about their recognition.

- [St. Louis Promise Zone Communications & Marketing VISTA](#)
- [St. Louis Metro Market Development VISTA](#)

**The Promise Zone is currently in search of new AmeriCorps VISTA partner sites.**

AmeriCorps VISTA members provide capacity to organizations doing great work in the region, and there are opportunities for organizations to host VISTAs-- particularly Black and brown-led organizations under the St. Louis Promise Zone VISTA umbrella to foster greater collaboration and support the work pushing for a more equitable and sustainable St. Louis for our most vulnerable neighbors.

The AmeriCorps VISTA Program includes a cost-share fee of \$3,600 per VISTA. The rest of the cost is supplemented by the Corporation for National and Community Service. If your organization is interested in hosting a VISTA or would like more information on the process, requirements, and structure of the AmeriCorps VISTA program, reach out to [lwhite@stlpartnership.com](mailto:lwhite@stlpartnership.com)



## Congratulations to 2020 Neighborhood Leadership Fellow Cohort

On Saturday September 19th, the 2020 Neighborhood Leadership Fellows cohort graduated after their nine-month leadership training. NLF aims at increasing the voices of North St. Louis City and County residents at the civic decision-making tables in order to produce more equitable regional policies for neighborhoods.

[Click HERE](#) to read the bios of the 23 NLF Graduates.



Posted by the St. Louis American

Don't chance it. Change it. Take control and know your risks with CV-19 CheckUp, an easy-to-use online tool that helps you understand your personal risks of getting COVID, spreading it to others and how serious it might be based on your answers to a series of questions. The tool is free, takes about 10 minutes to complete, and absolutely no personal information, not even





## UMSL Business Support

Recently, UMSL hosted two webinars to support and engage area businesses.

The UMSL **Local Business: Focus on Facilities** event was designed for area electrical, mechanical, painting, concrete, asphalt, general work or mover companies in North St. Louis County who are interested learning how to bid and work with UMSL on several upcoming campus facilities projects. For those unable to attend or further interested, the webinar can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/y2tylrw8>.

Additionally, the **“HIRING IN 2020 (and Beyond): If there isn’t a worker’s shortage, why am I having trouble hiring and retaining employees?”** webinar is now available for viewing at <https://tinyurl.com/y59dbxnR>. Discussion focused on workforce challenges and an overview of current hiring and retention issues—what’s working, what’s not and why it has changed. Offered in partnership with UM Extension, presenters at this session included:

- Phil Brandt, President and CEO, AAIM Employers’ Association
- Jim Hertel, Executive Director of Human Resources, UMSL
- Robert Russell, Director, Labor & Workforce Development Program, University of Missouri Extension
- Douglas Swanson, Coordinator - Labor Studies Program, UMSL, and Field Specialist in Labor & Workforce Development, University of Missouri Extension
- Matt Wittenborn, Training Director, Roofers and Waterproofers Local #2



## "UniverCities Exchange" highlights health disparities in St. Louis and Kansas City

When [Alexander Garza's](#) article [“Guns, Germs and Health Care,”](#) which focused on pandemics, was published last December in *Health Progress*, the journal of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, he had no idea how relevant the topic would become. Within a few months of publication, nations around the world enacted stay-at-home

a name or email address is needed to use it. Results are generated in a report unique to you and displayed instantly—nothing to sign up for or agree to. It’s that easy. To take the assessment, visit [Take Test](#).

**SEEKING CANDIDATES**

to serve on the ST. LOUIS COUNTY  
MU EXTENSION COUNCIL

The St. Louis County Extension Council members assist in planning and carrying out Extension’s educational efforts to improve people’s lives.

Candidates must reside within St. Louis County.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: **NOVEMBER 16**  
[extension.missouri.edu/stlouis](https://extension.missouri.edu/stlouis)

Extension  
University of Missouri

### Nominations are now being accepted for the 2021 St. Louis County Extension Council Elections.

Interested applicants are asked to send their resume and bio to [jamesdt@missouri.edu](mailto:jamesdt@missouri.edu) prior to Nov 16. Individuals who are interested in improving people’s lives, making communities better, and connecting the services of the university to the residents in St. Louis County should apply. Visit <https://extension.missouri.edu/stlouis> for more information.



Below are just a handful of the many offerings that Missouri’s SBDC is providing. **All of these classes are now fully virtual, and most are FREE:**

- 11/17: [Funding Options for Small Businesses](#)
- 11/18: [Starting a Small Business](#)
- 11/30: [How to Build a Boss Budget](#)

orders and industries were temporarily shut down as COVID-19 became the most destructive pandemic in a century.

Recently, the University of Missouri–St. Louis and the University of Missouri–Kansas City joined forces to examine “Health Disparities in the Time of COVID-19” at the inaugural event of the virtual “UniverCities Exchange” series. The UniverCities Exchange is a collaboration between the two universities that explores significant issues faced by both St. Louis and Kansas City.

Garza, the chief community health officer of SSM Health and task force commander for the St. Louis Metropolitan Pandemic Task Force, offered the keynote address, which was followed by a panel and question-and-answer session. Panelists were Diego Abente, president and CEO of Casa de Salud; Jannette Berkley-Patton, professor of biomedical and health informatics at the UMKC School of Medicine; Riisa Rawlins-Easley, chief of staff for the St. Louis Regional Health Commission; and Qiana Thomason, president and CEO of the Health Forward Foundation. Steve Kraske, host of “Up to Date” on KCUR, served as the moderator. [Click here](#) to read more and to [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!

**Check this catalog** for a full, up-to-date list of events.



The City of Ferguson is excited to share the draft OurFerguson2040 citywide comprehensive plan, which can be [downloaded as a pdf from this link](#).



### UMSL Recreation and Wellness Center update

Are you a member of the UMSL Recreation and Wellness Center? Beginning on November 22 through January 18, their hours will be:

- Monday – Friday: 6am-8pm
- Saturday: 8am-5pm
- Sunday: 11am-6pm

Other updates and changes to class schedules can be found at the [RCEW website](#),

---

UMSL Community Engagement Office  
One University Blvd, 426 Woods Hall | St. Louis, MO 63121  
314-516-5267 | [www.umsl.edu/collaborations](http://www.umsl.edu/collaborations)

University of Missouri–St. Louis  
Community Engagement  
1 University Boulevard  
426 Woods Hall  
St. Louis, MO | 63121

If you wish to be removed from this group's mailing list. Unsubscribe