

February 2025



Dear friends, neighbors and community partners,

Even in the midst of winter, there are so many exciting things taking place on campus and in our community. We are pleased to announce the new \$9.55M in funding to the API Innovation Center at UMSL to help reshore active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) production. We are also excited to see new businesses opening in the community and to celebrate growth and achievement in our area schools.

There are several events coming up from concerts to clean-up days to community forums—opportunities for people to listen, learn, and share ideas. All of these initiatives help us create a vibrant and engaged community. As always, I encourage you to continue to participate and get involved. Together we can make positive change in our community and in our world!

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.

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## Missouri Department of Economic Development providing \$9.55M in funding to API Innovation Center, UMSL

The [Missouri Department of Economic Development](#) is providing \$9.55 million in new funding to the [API Innovation Center](#) and UMSL as they partner to reshore active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) production, enhance national health security, and position Missouri as a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub. The new investment is aimed at advancing critical research and development at [APIIC's new state-of-the-art lab](#) in the Science Learning Building on UMSL's campus. It underscores the state's commitment to fostering innovation and creating an advanced manufacturing ecosystem that drives regional economic growth through the U.S.-based production of critical medicines.

"Our collaborative work with APIIC exemplifies our shared vision to solidify St. Louis as a national hub for API development and production," said Chris Spilling, UMSL's vice chancellor for research and economic and community development. "UMSL's longstanding excellence in chemistry and workforce development combined with the advanced manufacturing ecosystem that APIIC has built creates a unique and powerful platform to address these challenges."...To date, APIIC has initiated the development of six critical pharmaceutical molecules used in the production of medications to treat cancer, asthma and anxiety. Missouri's leadership plays a pivotal role in reshaping the pharmaceutical manufacturing landscape. A recent analysis showed the potential for APIIC to generate \$1.2 billion in regional economic growth over the next five years, with an impact of up to \$51 million per drug developed and manufactured in the state. [Read more.](#)



## Eye on UMSL: Friends in high places

A group of local legislators from St. Louis County, the City of St. Louis and the state of Missouri received the 2024 Friend of

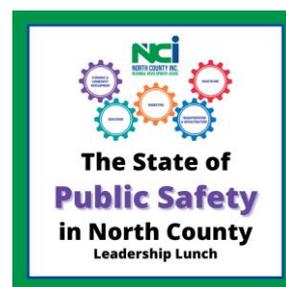
## Events & Resources



### SLSO Free Access Tickets - Winter/Spring 2025

Various venues including the Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL

Complimentary tickets for St. Louis Symphony Orchestra concerts are available through partner organizations, including 24:1 among others, while supplies last. There are a variety of performances like Beethoven's Ninth, Lift Every Voice, and Concerts for Kids. [Read more & register.](#)



### State of North County Luncheon 2025

Thursday February 27, 2025  
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM  
12775 New Halls Ferry Road

Join NCI for lunch and an educational event centered around policing and public safety in the North County community. Attendees will gain insights into increases in safety measures, recent advancements, and outreach occurring throughout the community. [Click here](#) for information.



**UMSL Brass Day**  
Saturday March 8, 2025  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
UMSL

## February 2025

Higher Education Award from the Alumni Association at the University of Missouri–St. Louis on January 23.

Those honored include, from left to right, St. Louis County Councilwoman Rita Heard Days; St. Louis County Councilwoman Shalonda Webb; Missouri Rep. Raychel Proudie; Ferguson Mayor Ella Jones; Darlene Green, comptroller of the City of St. Louis; Alderwoman Laura Keys of Ward 11; and St. Louis County Councilwoman Gretchen Bangert. Other recipients not pictured included Missouri Sen. Doug Beck and Missouri Rep. Tricia Byrnes. Also photographed were UMSL Alumni Association Advocacy Committee Co-Chairmen Rory Riddler and Jim Wallace (at left) and Chancellor Kristin Sobolik (at right).

The Friends of Higher Education Award was created to recognize both Democratic and Republican leaders who have demonstrated their support of higher education in the state. Nominations consider a legislator's attendance at legislative advocacy-sponsored events; time spent volunteering to programs or mentorship of UMSL students; work sponsoring, testifying and voting for increased funding for UMSL; or sponsorship of legislation benefitting university students. The UMSL Alumni Association also recognized former Missouri Gov. Mike Parson for his work in higher education. [Read more.](#)



## Ferguson's organic farm is now solar powered, and not just the crops

STLPR, Jan. 16, 2025

EarthDance Organic Farm School in Ferguson is adding solar power to its list of sustainable practices. The 13-acre farm is a few weeks into using a new solar array that is providing it with 87% of its power needs. "We're all about good stewardship and wanted to extend that into our energy use," said Molly Rockamann, founder and CEO of EarthDance. "As a place that welcomes thousands of visitors annually, we're excited to be able to showcase this way of having renewable energy."

In addition to holding classes to teach future farmers and gardeners, the organic and regenerative farm grows vegetables that are sold at the Ferguson Farmers Market, at an on-site farm stand that charges on a sliding scale, and distributed through other community programs. Rockamann said the increased power is already allowing the farm to add a new walk-in cooler to store produce.... The 30 kilowatts of solar panels are on the roofs of two buildings at the farm. The total cost of

This fun, brass-filled day is open to all brass players in the community from those in 8th grade through adult. Highlights include technique sessions with UMSL Brass faculty, a masterclass opportunity with Seraph Brass, side-by-side rehearsals with UMSL students and faculty, and a concert at 2:30 PM featuring participants and the Seraph Brass. A pizza lunch and UMSL Music swag are provided! The fee is \$20, with free admission for students from Des Lee Collaborative member schools. [Register here.](#)



### Eileen Ivers Irish Fiddle Concert

Thursday, March 13, 2025  
8:00 PM  
Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL

UMSL Global is excited to announce a concert featuring the extraordinary Grammy-awarded fiddler, Eileen Ivers. She's been called a "sensation" by Billboard magazine and "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin," by *The New York Times*. "She electrifies the crowd with a dazzling show of virtuoso playing," says *The Irish Times*. [Click here](#) for tickets.



### NSC Board of Education Candidates Forum

Thursday, March 27, 2025  
6:00 - 7:30 PM  
Beyond Housing  
6506 Wright Way

Community members are invited to a forum with questions moderated by the League of Women Voters.

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\$80,000 was paid for by the farm through donations, but the farm will get a quarter of those funds back through a reimbursement program that is part of the federal Inflation Reduction Act. [Read more.](#)

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### Incarnate Word Academy basketball team continues to rack up wins – and their hold on a national record

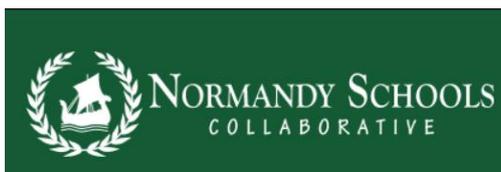
STLPR, Jan. 20, 2025

*Dan Rolfes, coach of Incarnate Word Academy's girls' basketball team, suffered a heart attack last March after a Red Knights state semifinal victory. Doctors gave him a 1% chance to live. Rolfes survived — and has thrived.*

Being the best at anything can come with an inflated ego and extra anxiety to remain on top. The young ladies of Incarnate Word Academy's varsity basketball team have managed to defeat both ills — as well as every last one of their opponents for 141 games. The team now holds the national record for the most consecutive wins of a girls high school basketball team.

The Red Knights' winning streak started five years ago, before any of its current players joined the team.... Coach Rolfes invests a lot of time and energy into his athletes, but he doesn't focus on being undefeated. The goal is simply to continue to work and grow together — and win the state championship. [Read more.](#)

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### Viking Victories

Normandy Schools Collaborative achieved significant academic growth last year, with 70% of kindergarteners reading at or above grade level, up from 12%. Dual enrollment and AP programs were reinstated, engaging over 45 scholars, while 98% of teachers are certified. Attendance improved by 25%, supported by programs like Read 180 and i-Ready diagnostics.

Since August 2023, \$400,000 has been invested in safety enhancements, including added security, panic button badges, updated surveillance, and a cell phone ban for middle and high school students. Governance returned to full local control in June 2024, and Superintendent Dr. Michael Triplett launched an advisory board for scholars and families. Over \$6 million has

The event will be live streamed on the Normandy Schools Collaborative YouTube and Facebook pages. [Click here](#) for details.

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### Community Resource Fair

Saturday, March 29, 2025  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
North County Recreation Complex  
2577 Redman Avenue

The community is invited for a day filled with valuable information and resources from local organizations focused on health services, educational opportunities, and other community supports. Attendees will meet representatives from various agencies and learn about the services they offer. [Register here](#) for the free event.

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### Food On The Move

First Saturdays  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Rock road Transit Center,  
7001 St. Charles Rock Rd.

Third Tuesdays  
2:30 - 4:00 PM  
Rock Road Transit Center,  
7001 St. Charles Rock Rd.

Third Saturdays  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
North Hanley Transit Center,  
4300 Hanley Rd.

St. Louis Area Foodbank's mobile pantry offers transit riders, area residents and visitors fresh healthy food free of charge. [Click here](#) for more information.

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## February 2025

been saved since March 2023, with a \$27 million Fund Reserve ensuring long-term stability. [Read more.](#)

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## Christine's Coffee Opens in Bel-Nor

The Bel-Nor community has a fresh new spot to enjoy their favorite brews! Christine's Coffee opened its doors on early February offering a cozy and welcoming space for coffee lovers. For a morning pick-me-up or a relaxed evening cup, Christine's Coffee will be serving customers Sunday from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM and Monday through Saturday from 7:00 AM to 8:30 PM.

Located at 8406 Natural Bridge Rd, this is an exciting new addition to the neighborhood. More information can be found online at [christinescoffee.net](http://christinescoffee.net) and on [Facebook](#).

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## 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!

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