

March 2025



Dear friends, neighbors and community partners,

March is finally here with the promise of spring days ahead. This month we are highlighting just a few important partnerships with local organizations and other investments taking place in the community. We recently held the grand opening for the API Innovation Center at UMSL which will serve to reshore production of active pharmaceutical ingredients needed for essential medications in the U.S. Our College of Optometry started a new partnership with Ritenour School District Husky Health Center to provide eye care to students. And UMSL will again be a polling location for the general election on April 8th. Any registered voter in St. Louis County will be able to vote on campus.

There are lots of other activities taking place in and around UMSL in the weeks ahead from concerts to farmers markets. Be sure to check out the UMSL [events calendar](#) regularly to keep up-to-date on campus opportunities.

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.

Events & Resources



UMSL, API Innovation Center mark grand opening of new research and development labs in Science Complex

The new labs at the API Innovation Center will play a key role in safeguarding national health security and solidifying the St. Louis region as a hub for domestic active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) production. [Tony Sardella](#) had a clear vision to reshore production of APIs needed for essential medications in the United States. Chancellor Kristin Sobolik and Vice Chancellor Chris Spilling, along with Missouri State Sen. Brian Williams, recognized the potential of this initiative. The opening of the research and development laboratories in UMSL's Science Complex marked a significant milestone, with over 60 attendees participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Most APIs are currently manufactured outside the United States, posing a threat to the availability of essential medications. Williams secured a \$15 million grant during Missouri's 2022 legislative session, and the API Innovation Center recently received \$14 million in federal funding, along with \$9.55 million in state funding for research and development. The lab will focus on developing APIs such as propofol, bupivacaine, albuterol, metoprolol, and lorazepam. [Read more.](#)



College of Optometry partnering with Ritenour School District Husky Health Center to provide eye care to students

The newly opened [Husky Health Center](#) allows students to access little-to-no-cost medical care and behavioral health services during school hours. Third-year optometry student Kiley Stout has reviewed studies showing that 80 percent of learning is visual and has witnessed the impact of eye care on learning by providing eye examinations at the center. "Seeing



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 which range from \$15-\$25.



A Red Circle's Community Resource Fair

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

Coordinated by A Red Circle, 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.

March 2025

this firsthand reinforced my belief that optometry plays a key role in a child's success," Stout said. The partnership between UMSL and the Husky Health Center has been in the works since last fall, and UMSL students officially began seeing patients in early January.

Ritenour School District Superintendent Chris Kilbride emphasized the importance of UMSL's Optometry Center in removing barriers to student success. The College of Optometry has its own dedicated office at the center, where third-year students provide comprehensive eye exams to Ritenour students. Stout noted that school-based health centers are critical in bridging healthcare gaps, as many families face barriers to regular eye care. "Husky Health Center removes these obstacles by providing essential medical services during school hours," she said. Students gain valuable experience working with pediatric patients, improving their clinical skills while contributing to the community's well-being. [Read more.](#)



Real Help for Small Businesses in North County

North County Inc. partners with local municipalities, Chambers of Commerce, colleges, banks, nonprofits, and more to empower small business owners in North St. Louis County. This free service is available to all small businesses in the area.

Real Help for Small Businesses:

- **Business Analysis:** They start with a detailed business assessment to identify the current status of the business and the resources needed.
- **Connection to Resources:** A Small Business Navigator works to find the right programs and opportunities for growth.
- **Continued Support:** Ongoing assistance is available from a Navigator, who will help measure success along the way.

[Read more.](#)



Dance St Louis presents Collage Dance Collective
Saturday, April 5, 2025
7:30 PM
Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL

Collage Dance Collective is the powerful, pioneering and breathtaking company recently named a "Southern Cultural Treasure" by South Arts and the Ford Foundation. Rooted in the heartland of Memphis, TN, Collage Dance Collective embodies the greatness of American dance and is at the national forefront of inspiring the growth and diversity of ballet. Tickets range from \$45-\$70. [Click here](#) for more information.



Bread Making 101 with Chef Queenie

Sunday, April 6 or
Monday, May 5, 2025
10:00 AM
4517 Hamilton Ave

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



Community helps Drake's Place in Ferguson recover after fire

First Alert 4 online, February 19, 2025

The Ferguson community came together to support Drake's Place American Cuisine after a fire on January 16 caused over \$200,000 in damage. While firefighters saved the restaurant's structure, much of the interior and equipment were lost. To aid in the recovery, Ferguson Brewing Company and Vincenzo's Italian held a Dine to Donate event, donating a portion of their proceeds. [Learn more](#) about the recovery efforts.



St. Louis County Board of Elections Polling Place at UMSL

Tuesday, April 8, 2025
6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
UMSL Millennium Student Center
17 Arnold Grobman Dr.

Any registered St. Louis County voter will be able to cast a ballot at UMSL for the April general elections. [Click here](#) for more information from St. Louis County Board of Elections, see what's on the ballot, and learn about early voting options.



UMSL Athletics Unveils New Louie Logo

The University of Missouri-St. Louis athletics department unveiled a new Louie logo at a pep rally in late February during homecoming week. The new logo, created by Design Consultant/Illustrator W. Scott Matthews, becomes the new primary athletic logo. "A hellbender newt is a great character to begin with," Matthews said. "It was my goal to help make the logo version of Louie as cool as any mascot in college sports."

"We are thrilled to unveil our new mascot graphic, a bold and dynamic representation of the pride, passion, and energy that defines our athletics program," UMSL Executive Director of Athletics Dr. Holly Sheilley said. "Wanting more is what continues to move us as we continue to build a culture of excellence and unity within our campus and community." [Read more.](#)



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.

March 2025

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!
