

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



Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and there is much that we are grateful for again this year. We are pleased that UMSL has been selected by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine to receive the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award for the fourth consecutive year. Furthermore, this issue of *Community Connection* highlights a few additional accomplishments and activities taking place throughout our community, including several upcoming concerts and performances taking place at the beautiful UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center.

As we begin to prepare for the holiday season, know how grateful I am to live and work in this community with you. Good things continue to happen here every day.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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



UMSL receives seventh Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine

UMSL was one of [109 colleges and universities nationwide to receive the honor](#) this year after previously being recognized in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2020, 2021 and 2022. It was the only university in Missouri included on this year's list.

“We are extremely happy to receive this award once again,” said Tanisha Stevens, UMSL’s vice chancellor for diversity, equity and inclusion. “The very core of who we are as a university aligns with what makes the HEED award so special. It is our recruitment and retention efforts of our students. It’s how we think about inclusive hiring practices and who we bring into the university as members of our campus community. It’s about those intentional conversations that I think the university has been having for many years but really has been able to solidify within the last three years under Chancellor Kristin Sobolik and her vision for the university.” [Read more.](#)



UMSL launches new series to engage campus, community in deliberative dialogue on key societal issues

[The divisions in American society have become stark in recent years](#) and appear to be growing. People are sorting themselves

community.

STL Community LAB

[Click here](#) to learn about community development trainings and programs.

Events & Resources



2024 Youth Empowerment Program

December 1, 2023- application deadline

Held at UMSL and hosted by University of Missouri-Extension, YEP is a program for teens in grades 9 - 12 offering them a 9-session fellowship to enhance leadership skills and address community issues.

YEP participants can receive a \$25 monthly stipend and up to \$300 upon program completion. The program is funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health. [Click here](#) to submit an application for YEP by December 1, 2023.



Normandy Schools offering free tablets to NSC families

culturally and geographically and living with like-minded neighbors. It's increasingly rare to engage with differing ideas beyond the shouting that can occur on television or in public meetings.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is hoping to help people break through that noise and contentiousness. Recently, it hosted the first of what organizers hope will be a series of events designed to spur honest and open discussion of differing viewpoints on topics that have the potential to impact everyone.

The first [UMSL Forum for Community Dialogue](#) focused on the topic of “Economic Vitality: How can we improve our communities?” More than two dozen people took part in the event...“The diversity of people at the tables was so important,” said Patricia Zahn, UMSL’s director of community outreach and engagement. “We had people there from nonprofit, we had business people, we had real estate people, we had people in community development. There were a lot of different people attracted to this event.” [Read more.](#)



Walking The Walk

St. Louis County Community News, October 25, 2023

Loretta M. Davis loves to walk, so much so that at one point she led a walking group in her North County neighborhood via the Ten Toe Express program offered by transit advocacy group, Citizens for Modern Transit. But then life happened, and she took time off from the activity to help take care of her grandchildren.

Years later, she’s back with a new walking group in North County, helping other older adults stay active. The group meets at the North Hanley Transit Center on select Fridays through Nov. 17 and mixes walking and transit use, allowing participants to explore multiple cultural destinations across the region. The activity is sponsored through a partnership between CMT and the local chapter of AARP, an organization focusing on the needs of adults over the age of 50. Davis is excited about relaunching the group and hopes to attract more members. [Read More.](#)

The Normandy Schools Collective is partnering with Moolah Mobile to provide a free 10” Android tablet and one year of free AT&T internet service (renews each year for free with proof of eligibility).

This offer is available to any NSC family who receives: SNAP, Medicaid, Public Housing, WIC, Veteran’s Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program (Section 8 Vouchers), Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA/202/811), OR Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI). Click [here](#) to sign up.



Seamus Egan's Celtic Christmas

Friday, Dec. 1, 2023
8:00 PM

UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

At Irish music legend Seamus Egan's Celtic Christmas, the audience will be treated to some of the Celtic world's contributions to the sounds of the holiday season, performed by Egan and his incredibly talented bandmates. The performance, sponsored by UMSL Global, is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit! Click [here](#) for a sneak preview of the concert. Tickets are \$25.00 General admission and \$15.00 for



Normandy, Riverview districts returning to local control

Alvin Reid, *St. Louis American*, October 18, updated November 11, 2023

The Missouri Board of Education voted to return the local control of The Normandy Schools Collaborative and it will soon be led by a fully-elected Board of Education, ending Missouri State Board of Education governance which began in 2014. The Riverview Gardens School District remains, in part, under the control of the state board, but is on a path to have a fully-elected board seated by July 2024.

Normandy's current Joint Executive Governing Board consists of three state-appointed members and four locally elected board members. The board can now return to full local control on June 30, 2024, following the election of three new board members in April 2024. Michael Triplett, Normandy Schools Collaborative superintendent, said the district is encouraged by the decision. "We look forward to the hard work continuing as we move the district towards full accreditation," he said. "Although we do not have the preliminary data from the state's MAP Assessments, our interim (benchmark) assessment is a close predictor of how our students will perform or have performed. We expect we will see increases in student scores in math and reading and decreases in the number of students performing in the lowest two proficiency levels." [Read more.](#)



Transform UMSL - implementation of Campus Master Plan gets attention from

seniors. Click [here](#) for tickets or call (314) 516-4949.



Jazz for the Holidays

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023

3:00 PM

UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

Come for an afternoon of LIVE holiday music as UMSL proudly present the annual JAZZ FOR THE HOLIDAYS! This concert features the UMSL Alumni Jazz Orchestra, University Orchestra, Vocal Point, UMSL Alumni Percussion Ensemble, Voices of Jubilation and the Arianna String Quartet. It's a show not to be missed! Tickets are \$10.00 General admission or \$5.00 seniors. Click [here](#) for tickets or call (314) 516-4949.



Ambassadors of Harmony Sounds of the Season

Friday, Dec. 8, 2023

8:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023

The Society for College and University Planning at regional conference

Demolition and construction crews remain hard at work at the University of Missouri–St. Louis as a physical transformation of the campus continues to take shape. The university is embarking on \$110 million in improvement projects as it moves to consolidate the academic core on North Campus and enhance the student and prospective student experience through, among other things, upgrades to University Libraries and the creation of the Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center. It will also be moving to demolish several aging buildings on South Campus, freeing up 35 acres of land for the proposed North St. Louis County Business and Workforce District.

Work on the Transform UMSL initiative is scheduled to continue into 2026, but already, it's being used as a test case for others to learn from the value of planning and how to be ready to take advantage of opportunities to put those plans into action. Chancellor Kristin Sobolik joined Lamar Johnson Collaborative Managing Director Chip Crawford, Public Design Bureau Principal Engagement Specialist Liz Kramer and Urban Strategies, Inc. Partner Leigh McGrath in a panel presentation recently at The Society for College and University Planning's North Central Regional Conference...They talked about the development of the Campus Master Plan, approved by the University of Missouri Board of Curators in November 2021, which undergirds all the changes underway today. "Our master plan that we worked on with this group is really intrinsically meaningful and foundational for how our entire campus is moving forward," Sobolik said as she opened the 50-minute presentation to an audience of more than two dozen college and university planners. [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!

2:00 PM and 8:00 PM
Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023
2:00 PM
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

The four-time International Chorus Champions, the Ambassadors of Harmony, return to the Touhill stage for their annual holiday shows, Sounds of the Season. Join the chorus and its special guests to start your holiday season off right! Tickets range from \$22.50 to \$45.00. Click [here](#) for tickets or call (314) 516-4949.



The Nutcracker: A Shorter Tale

Friday, Dec. 15, 2023
Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023
11:00 AM
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

This abridged version of Saint Louis Ballet's The Nutcracker was created for younger audiences and those with limited attention spans. This narrated performance employs the same sets, costumes, special effects, and glorious dancing as the full-length presentations. Ideal for holiday field trips! Tickets range from \$27.00 to \$42.00. Click [here](#) for tickets or call (314) 516-4949.

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

If you wish to be removed from this group's mailing list. [Unsubscribe](#)