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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

As we move through April, we see the sprouts of springtime popping through the ground with the promise of blossoms in the months ahead. The same holds for the transformative opportunities that are developing and moving forward for our university and our community.

Looking at the opportunities ahead, I am always reminded of UMSL's founding—coming from the efforts of community leaders partnering with the University of Missouri in response to a community need. Today we have new prospects to continue to transform our community together. Recently, Senator Brian Williams held a town hall on campus to discuss the opportunity for a North St. Louis County Business and Workforce District and get feedback from the community on what is needed and possible for this development on UMSL's South Campus. We are excited to leverage university assets in partnership with community around the development, making a difference for neighbors and the region both today and for years to come.

From education and workforce development to entertainment and wellbeing, our community continues to be a place of opportunity because of the many committed residents and community leaders in North County. The right-hand column of this month's newsletter is filled with options for summer camps, apprenticeships, races, and events. We hope you have a chance to take advantage of the many offerings available in the weeks ahead and look forward to seeing you out and about in our community.

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri–St. Louis





## Town hall gives community members chance to learn, offer feedback on proposed South Campus redevelopment

Missouri Sen. Brian Williams held a town hall meeting Saturday morning to share plans for and receive feedback on the proposed development of the North St. Louis County Business and Workforce District on South Campus at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Dozens of elected officials and residents from neighboring communities turned out to UMSL's Ward E. Barnes Building to hear from Williams and UMSL officials about what they envision for the project, which Williams has helped champion.

“The idea for the district is an ambitious project designed to improve the quality of life and economic impact for the St. Louis region, north St. Louis County and the State of Missouri,” Chancellor Kristin Sobolik said as she welcomed those in attendance to the UMSL campus. “The district, as well as our plan to consolidate the university’s academic core on our North Campus, is in alignment with the campus master plan, UMSL’s map to transform our campus into the public, urban university for the future. This transformation will better serve our students and the community while confirming UMSL’s position as St. Louis’ premier public research university.” [Read more.](#)



## University of Missouri–St. Louis alumni contribute \$13.4 billion to Missouri's economy

UMSL has more than 76,000 graduates living and working in Missouri, and a report completed by nationally recognized consulting firm Tripp Umbach found they contributed \$13.4 billion in in-state spending to Missouri's economy in Fiscal Year 2021. A previously released economic impact report of the University of Missouri System from Tripp Umbach found UMSL contributed more than \$429 million in both direct and indirect impact to Missouri's economy while supporting 5,485 full-time and part-time jobs throughout the state.

UMSL researchers have been expanding their research efforts and productivity. In 2021, UMSL realized a 32% increase in external grant proposals, which led to an increase in external awards of nearly 10%. UMSL's had \$32 million in grant-sponsored activities, including research. [Read more.](#)

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## Washington Park Cemetery volunteers vow to correct historic Black gravesite's neglect

St. Louis Public Radio, Emily Woodbury, Mar. 25, 2022

In north St. Louis County, near the southeast tip of St. Louis Lambert International Airport and mere steps from I-70, is a century-old Black cemetery. At one point, Washington Park Cemetery was the largest African American cemetery in the St. Louis region. After decades of desecration, flooding and overgrowth, volunteers are now working to bring Washington Park Cemetery back from the brink.

“Pretty much half of the cemetery now is overgrown into thick brush that makes the graves inaccessible to descendants,” said Aja Corrigan, founder of the Saving Washington Park initiative. She’s spent the past two years bringing awareness, organizing cleanups and trying to get local institutions involved at the cemetery. And, she said, it also offers educational opportunities for local youth. Corrigan wants to use the cemetery’s needs to create opportunities for young people to learn not just geospatial tech, but also trade skills such as specialized landscaping. [Read more.](#)

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## UMSL serving as educational partner with Generation USA on Verizon Skill Forward Initiative

The University of Missouri–St. Louis’ newly implemented and launched Office of Workforce Integration has established a new partnership with Generation USA to provide free training for students interested in starting careers as junior full stack java developers, made possible through the Verizon Skill Forward Initiative.

“We are excited to announce that UMSL is entering a new partnership with Verizon and Generation USA to serve the St Louis community and beyond by providing accessible opportunities for training while providing a nontraditional pathway into the technology field,” said Natissia Small, the vice provost for access, academic support, and workforce integration in Academic Affairs at UMSL. [Read more.](#)



# Advocates Professional Golf Association Tour Coming to St. Louis

Community News, Mar. 9, 2022

Ascension and the Advocates Professional Golf Association (APGA) Tour, in association with the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, have formed a three-year agreement to host a new professional golf tournament in St. Louis.

The APGA Tour St. Louis – Ascension Classic presented by Daugherty Business Solutions will debut Sept. 8-9, at Glen Echo Country Club in North St. Louis County. This announcement comes just six months after the final putt dropped at the inaugural Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, an official PGA TOUR Champions event that has raised more than \$1 million for St. Louis charities since its inception and drew record crowds in its first tournament... The region's newest sporting event will include practice rounds on Sept. 6, and Sept. 7, at Glen Echo, as well as a pro-am on Wednesday at the East Course at nearby Norwood Hills. General admission for the 36-hole stroke-play competition (Sept. 8-9) of this stand-alone APGA Tour event is free to the public and will provide area golf fans with another opportunity to enjoy thrilling tee-to-green action in St. Louis. [Read more](#) (p.3).

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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!

### UMSL Community Connection newsletter

Received this as a forward? [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 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 resources, services and programs at UMSL available to the community.

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## Events & Resources



### UMSL Summer Camps

Looking for summer programs for your school-aged children?  
Explore the Summer Opportunities at UMSL!

- [Acapellooza](#)
- [Bridge Summer Academy](#)
- [Bridge to the ACT](#)
- [OneCity Stories](#)
- [STARS program](#)
- [SUCCEED camp](#)
- [U-CREATE](#)

For more details and registration information for these and other university events, [click here](#).



### 2022 Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival

April 22 - 23, 8:00 p.m.  
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

UMSL is proud to present the 2022 Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival. Enjoy compositions and arrangements by Jazz luminaries and icons. The Greater Jazz STL Big Band, and the UMSL Jazz Orchestra directed by Adaron "Pops" Jackson will be featured. To purchase tickets, [click here](#).



**UMSL** Global  
University of Missouri–St. Louis



### International Performing Arts Series: From Ottoman Slavery to Greek Independence: A Greek Musical Journey

Saturday, April 30, 8:00 p.m.  
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

Professor Nikos Michalidis, UMSL (Pontic Lyra and Vocals) and the Utopia Music Project will perform. This concert is free. For more information, [click here](#).



### Flotsam and Jetsam: Works by Fr. John Nickolai April 2022

The current Good Shepherd Arts Center exhibit is works by Fr. John Nickolai. "Marbles, a ball of string, an electric torch, a magnet, a small cut-bolt, and of course a large pocket-knife . . . a

pair of nippers, a tool for punching holes in wood, and above all an instrument for taking stones out of a horse's hoof." For more information, [click here](#).

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**NCI 45th Annual Breakfast**  
Friday, May 6, 2022

At the North County Incorporated (NCI) Annual Breakfast, awards will be presented to those individuals who have shown a strong commitment to the North St. Louis County region through their business, civic and/or humanitarian acts. For more information, [click here](#).

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# FERGUSON TWILIGHT RUN 10m★5k★10k & 1 MILE FUN RUN

**Ferguson Twilight Run**  
Saturday, May 14, 2022

The in-person 2022 Ferguson Twilight Run is taking place in Downtown Ferguson! Virtual FTR activities will take place over the course of the Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15 weekend. In-person distances include one mile, 5k (3.1 miles), 10k (6.2 miles) and 10 mile. For more information and registration, [click here](#).

## Normandy Community Clean-Up

This is a community event ALL are welcome to join



**Normandy Community Clean-Up**  
Saturday, May 14, 2022  
8:00 a.m. - Noon  
7700 Natural Bridge Road

Normandy is looking for volunteers to help with park clean-up and the removal of trash from roads. Please bring gloves, rakes, shears, friends, and family. To register for this event, call 314-632-6603.



**Earthdance Summer Apprentice**

Cohort 1: May 18 or June 1

Cohort 2: June 26

In-person

This full-time 10-week apprenticeship is designed for those with a strong interest in farming who want to fully engage themselves in the day-to-day operations of an organic farm. For more information and registration, [click here.](#)

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