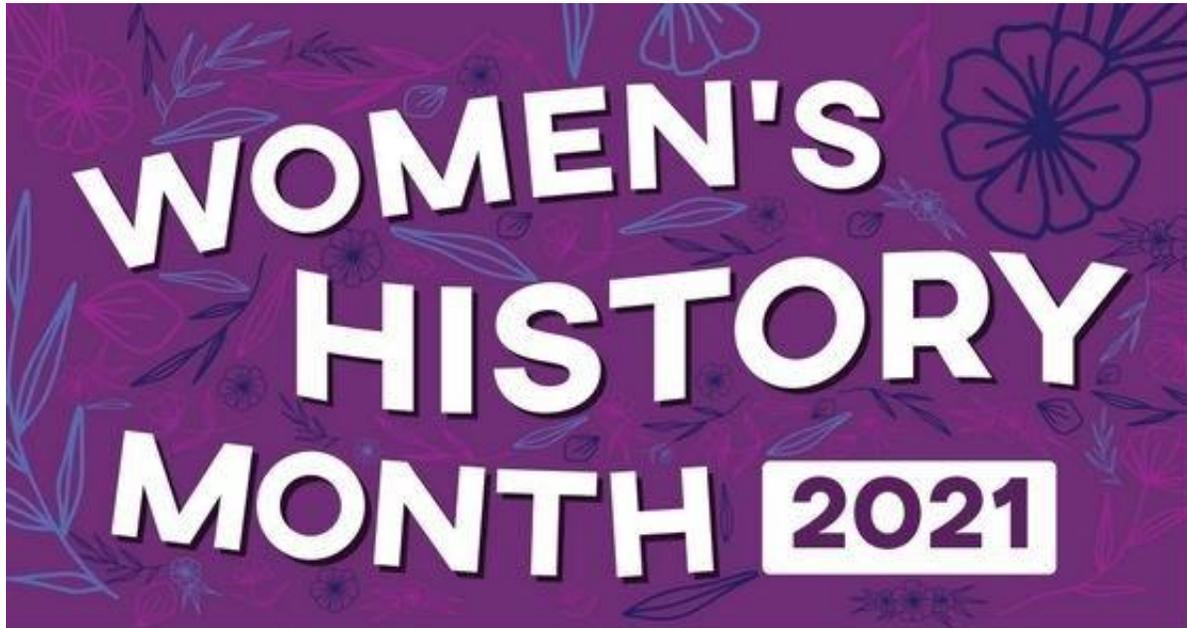


[View this email in a webpage.](#)



Friends, neighbors, and community partners,

March is Women's History month, and, as with every year, there are so many women in our community to recognize and celebrate. Our March newsletter highlights a few of the UMSL alumni, faculty and staff members who are making a difference in our community. We also note the hope we have for the future as we are now looking back at one full year since COVID-19 changed the way we live and interact with one another. Vaccination events are currently taking place across the nation, and UMSL is pleased to be able to help in these efforts. Our nursing students are administering shots and we held a mass vaccination event on campus recently and plan for another this month. As we move forward with vaccinations, we recognize the long-term consequences of the pandemic, and continue to provide needed mental health resources

to support people coping with the effects of COVID-19. I remain heartened by the many ways the UMSL and St. Louis communities have come together to support each other through this past year, and look forward to better days ahead!

Be well!

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri–St. Louis

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*Dr. Paula Knight, St. Louis American- February 17, 2021 - By Sophie Hurwitz*

## Jennings names Knight as district superintendent

The Jennings School District Board of Education on Tuesday, gave unanimous approval to Paula D. Knight to serve as the north St. Louis County district's next superintendent.

Knight will replace Art McCoy, who announced last fall that this would be his last year leading the district after over five years as superintendent. Knight's start date will be July 1, according to a Jennings news release.

After McCoy announced his retirement from Jennings, he was tapped to lead the Regional Business Council's workforce development program, a job he started on Jan. 4. He will be ending his tenure as superintendent on June 30. "I'm retiring from the system, not the mission," he said in a letter to the community in late 2020. "The work continues in a different way, being a worker outside the system supporting the system inside."

Regarding Knight's appointment, McCoy said, "Selecting a strong successor is the most critical step to sustain success. Our amazing Board of Education has done just that with Dr. Paula Knight. She is an amazing education leader with whom I have had the pleasure of serving side-by-side for over two decades. Now, I am proud to pass this torch to Dr. Knight on July 1st."

[Read more](#) about this UMSL alumna.

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## 4 areas where UMSL women lead the charge

In recognition of Women's History Month, UMSL Daily took a retrospective look through the archives of the last 12 months and noticed synergy among certain subject areas. Learn more where UMSL women have been making strides, taking charge and changing lives. [Read more.](#)



## UMSL alumnae well represented in Business Journal C-Suite Awards

A quartet of University of Missouri–St. Louis alumnae were honored with St. Louis Business Journal's C-Suite Awards, a celebration of business leadership in the St. Louis area. The awardees were highlighted in a special issue released Feb. 19.

Stephanie Cernicek, a 2011 BS, 2013 MS and 2017 PhD chemistry graduate and chief science officer of BeLeaf Co.; Susan Cutler, a 1984 accounting graduate and recently retired chief financial officer of Boone Center, Inc.; Sara Foster, a 1983 communication graduate and the executive vice president, talent and corporate administration of Commerce Bank; and Opal

Jones, a 2000 BSBA and 2017 PMBA graduate and president and CEO of DOORWAYS, were among the 15 leaders profiled by the publication. [Read more.](#)

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Criminology and Criminal Justice Professor Beth Huebner (center) and St. Louis County Executive Sam Page (left) take part in a panel discussion about criminal justice reform efforts in St. Louis County during a recording of "St. Louis on the Air" in front of members of the Pierre Laclède Society last February at the Millennium Student Center. (Photo by August Jennewein)

## MacArthur Foundation awards \$1.3 million to St. Louis County, UMSL to continue local justice system reforms

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is awarding \$1.3 million to Saint Louis County and the University of Missouri–St. Louis to continue building on their collaborative efforts to rethink the local criminal justice system, safely reduce St. Louis County's jail population and eliminate racial inequities.

The new grant brings the foundation's total investment in St. Louis County to \$5.8 million to date, and is part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, a \$246 million national initiative to reduce over-incarceration and advance racial equity in local criminal justice systems by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

The Safety and Justice Challenge is supporting local leaders, individuals directly and most impacted by the justice system and the broader community in St. Louis County and across the country who are determined to address one of the greatest drivers of over-incarceration in America – the misuse and overuse of jails. St. Louis County, partnering with UMSL's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, was first selected to join the Safety and Justice Challenge Network in 2016 and has since used the resources and funding provided by the initiative to implement evidence-based solutions. Criminology and Criminal Justice Professor Beth Huebner has been leading those efforts. [Read more.](#)

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## UMSL literacy grant brings \$5.1 million in services to 40 St. Louis area

Educators and students at 40 St. Louis area schools are set to receive \$5.1 million in services aimed at improving literacy education in the region.

Shea Kerkhoff, assistant professor of literacy at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, and two co-principal investigators in the Department of Educator Preparation and Leadership – Katie O’Daniels, assistant teaching professor of literacy and director of the Gateway Writing Project, and Nancy Singer, associate professor of English education – secured the funds as part of larger grant to the state of Missouri in September....“UMSL is excited to work with 40 schools in St. Louis and surrounding areas,” Kerkhoff said. “We will be collaborating on literacy professional development that is evidence based and culturally responsive and supporting teachers with the difficult task of teaching reading and writing. We hope that our work together will be impactful for young people across the region.”

The following local school districts are included on the list of those to receive services as part of the Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant:

### **Jennings School District**

Hanrahan Elementary School  
 Woodland Elementary School  
 Normandy Schools Collaborative  
 Barack Obama Elemiddle (elementary and middle)  
 Jefferson Elemiddle (elementary and middle)  
 Lucas Crossing Elemiddle (elementary and middle)

### **Normandy High Schools Collaborative**

Barack Obama Elemiddle (elementary and middle)  
 Jefferson Elemiddle (elementary and middle)  
 Lucas Crossing Elemiddle (elementary and middle)  
 Normandy High School  
 Washington Elemiddle (elementary and middle)

### **The School District of University City**

Brittany Woods Middle School  
 Pershing Elementary School  
 University City High School

[Read more.](#)

# COMMUNITY

## PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE

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University of Missouri—St. Louis

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The Community Psychological Service is offering several options, including individual services and support group meetings, to assist patients dealing with the lingering effects of COVID-19.

### UMSL's Community Psychological Service adapting services to treat COVID-19 'long-haulers'

Almost a year has passed since the World Health Organization began characterizing the outbreak of COVID-19 as a global pandemic. The health care community's understanding of how the virus is spread and which individuals are most at risk has grown tremendously during that time, as has its knowledge of how to treat people who've contracted a disease that still has no cure.

Treatments aren't limited to therapeutics delivered while individuals are fighting off the infection. There's been increasing recognition of so-called "long-haulers," individuals who have been coping with the effects of COVID-19 for months after they've been infected and who often require mental as well as physical rehabilitation.

The Community Psychological Service at the University of Missouri—St. Louis continues to provide treatment to adults recovering from COVID-19 and has adapted its approach to better meet patient needs. [Read more.](#)



## UMSL student nurses begin administering vaccines across greater St. Louis area

Janssen Blackmon and Emma Melton both felt a wave of nerves when they walked into BJC Health Christian Hospital last week and realized they'd actually be administering COVID-19 vaccinations that day. The two University of Missouri–St. Louis College of Nursing students had been stunned to learn just a week prior that they'd be helping with the vaccine rollout efforts. Even taking and passing an educational module and quiz comprised of materials from the Centers for Disease Control hadn't quite make it sink in.

"I probably was nervous up until I had the first person come to my station," Blackmon said. "I remember talking to them and how excited they were that this vaccine was here. I believe they were the first person in their family as well to get it. "It put me in the moment. I'm like, 'This is huge. We're here. Now you're administering this to this person, something that's huge and life changing for them.' Then it was like, 'Now I'm just excited.'"

The two aren't the only UMSL student nurses participating in the fight against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. On Feb. 1, all the BSN students began administering vaccines at sites across the greater St. Louis area. [Read more.](#)

## 'Woohoo!' Thousands get first COVID-19 shot at vaccination event at UMSL

St. Louis Post Dispatch, February 21, 2021

A mass immunization event Saturday (Feb. 20) drew thousands to the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus to receive their first of two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. As of about 6:30 p.m., more than 2,200 of the 2,340 people who registered to get the vaccine had received a shot of the Pfizer vaccine, said Capt. Jeremy Idleman, a spokesman for the National Guard, which partnered with the St. Louis County Health Department to run the clinic. [Read more.](#)

UMSL will host another vaccination event in March for those registered to receive the second dose.

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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!

### 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](#)

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## Upcoming Events



**Don't Forget to Vote!!!**

**General Municipal Election  
April, 6, 2021**

To view ballot content for the St. Louis area communities, [click here](#).

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**COVID-19 VACCINATION SIGN-UPS in the St. Louis region**

The combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

Local healthcare providers are taking registrations for the COVID-19 vaccination. To register, click one of the links listed below.

- [SSM Health](#)
- [BJC HealthCare](#)
- [Mercy](#)
- [St. Louis County](#)

Those without internet access can call 314-615-2660 to register with the St. Louis Co. Dept. of Health.

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St. Louis County **Library**

**"Extraordinary Black Missourians: Pioneers, Leaders, Performers, Athletes, and Other Notables"**

Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 PM  
Facebook Video Premiere

Historians and father-and-son writing team, John A Wright Sr. and John A. Wright Jr. present the second edition of "Extraordinary Black Missourians," which profiles more than 100 notable citizens who have contributed to Missouri's African American legacy. Learn how their lives and accomplishments have played a major role in shaping the history and culture of the state and nation.

To register, [click here](#).

**Jazz Funk Dance Presented by CKDC**

Tuesday, March 16 from 4:00 - 5:00 PM  
Zoom

For teens and adults, this Jazz funk class aims to build confidence, agility, and musicality with energetic and powerful dance moves.

Registration is required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering. To register, [click here](#).

**Tools for your Job Search**

Wednesday, March 17 from 3:00 - 4:00 PM  
Zoom

Use library databases to search for and create lists of relevant companies, discover industry profiles and find interview questions.

Adults.

Registration required. Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering. To register, [click here](#).

**Victoria Woodhull and Women's Suffrage**

Thursday, March 18 from 10:00 - 11:00 AM  
Zoom

National Park Service Park Guide Evan Meyer will discuss the life of Victoria Woodhull, the first U.S. female presidential candidate in 1872.

Participants will receive zoom information via email immediately after registering.

To register, [click here](#).

**Enjoy library programs from home!**

St. Louis County Library provides kids and their caregivers with 24/7 access to storytimes, STEAM, arts and crafts, and other great activities on our YouTube page. For more information, [click here](#).

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**UMSL Succeed presents Work It Girl: Women with disabilities making the mark!**

Wednesday, March 17 from 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Zoom

Join the UMSL community for a discussion about the intersectionality of gender and disability. Guests, Letisha Wexstten and Ivy Kennedy, will share their experiences as women with disabilities!

Open to the public. Teachers who register for the event will be sent supplemental materials for students. To register, [click here](#).

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**Self Defense Class - as part of Women's History Month**

Wednesday, March 17 at

3:00 PM

Zoom

Learn some basic self-defense techniques from Officer Smith with the UMSL Police Department!

To join Zoom online, [click here](#).

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### A Red Circle Turns Four!

Wednesday, March 17 at Noon on Microsoft Teams (requires [RSVP](#)) or [Facebook Live](#)

The community is invited to celebrate A Red Circle's 4th anniversary at a Virtual Open House. Meet the staff, learn about current programming, and plans for the future in North St. Louis County.



### Clothing Ethics: What We Wear Is as Important as What We Eat

Wednesday, March 24 at 12:30 PM on Zoom

Ramona Ilea, Professor of Philosophy at Pacific University, will speak about clothing ethics as part of the UMSL Engaged Philosophy series. [Click here](#) for information.



### Volunteer work day at NCAEC!

Saturday, April 10,  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

North County Agricultural Education Center (NCAEC), 4521 Hamilton Ave, St. Louis, MO 63120

Join A Red Circle, Custom Foodscaping, Earthday 365, and others for a day of fresh air, breathing, and work!

This is another expansion initiative that began in 2020 in Pine Lawn, Missouri. The plans are to move soil, form garden beds and paths, plant potatoes, decorate stones, and more!

To register, [click here](#).



**Ferguson Twilight Run 10M/5K/10K**  
Saturday, May 15

Make plans now to take part in this annual community event. Enjoy a USATF- certified course through Ferguson's beautiful historic neighborhoods in the 12th annual Ferguson Twilight Run managed under Live Well Events. The 2021 event includes a 10-mile, 5K, 10K, and 1-mile race options. (Note: the event is scheduled to be in person, but plans will be modified and changes made based on state, county, and city safety guidelines related to covid-19 at the time of the event.) For more information, [click here](#).

# BODY U

**Do you want to reduce anxiety? Do you want better eating habits? Do you want to feel better about your body?**

Body U may be for you! Body U is a free online interactive program that promotes health and wellness, which is available to the UMSL community and all Missourians!

To take a brief survey to find out if Body U is for you, take the 5 minute survey and for more information, [click here](#). (e.g., Select the University of Missouri-St. Louis.)

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314-516-5267 | [www.umsl.edu/collaborations](http://www.umsl.edu/collaborations)

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