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Dear friends, neighbors, and community members,

After a busy and enjoyable summer, UMSL is pleased to announce a return to campus for the fall semester while maintaining safety and health protocols for everyone's benefit.

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](#)

Fall is the most exciting time of the year for us and represents new beginnings. I am looking forward to welcoming more people back to campus in the coming weeks.

As we begin a new academic year, it is evident that the ambition and resilience of the surrounding communities continues to drive and influence our dedication to transforming lives. As you will see in feature articles this month, growth is coming to our area in North County. I am sure you are as excited as we are about the economic development and business opportunities that are blossoming around us! On that note, we invite you to take part in a [community survey](#) to provide input as we update our UMSL master plan for the campus. As our closest friends and neighbors, your voice is important as we consider possibilities for the future.

Wishing you well!

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St. Louis



CLIMB program internships take students into community gardens to study bees and their behavior

Students and aspiring scientists from four area high schools began a project this spring to study urban bee pollination through the Collaborative Laboratory Internship and Mentoring Blueprint program at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

The 10 students from Jennings, Ritenour, Riverview Gardens and University City high schools completed paid internships in which they conducted field work at community gardens in Florissant, Missouri, and midtown St. Louis as trees and other

Events & Resources



Registration Now Open for the Neighborhood Leadership Academy

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy connects resources at the University - Creating Whole Communities and University of Missouri Extension - with neighborhood leaders from across the state of Missouri to learn together through a virtual project-based curriculum, developing the skills and building the networks necessary to create healthy, vibrant and whole communities. [Click here](#) to learn more then be sure to [register](#) before the August 30 deadline.



St. Louis Shakespeare Festival Presents Othello

Tuesday, August 11
6:30PM
501 N. Florissant Road
Ferguson, MO 63135

Bringing the magic and artistry of Shakespeare in the Park to communities

plants were only starting to bloom beginning in April and continuing into the summer.

“They got to learn about pollination biology, why it’s important and how it happens,” said Patricia Parker, the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor in Zoological Studies in UMSL’s Department of Biology. “In the process, they were exposed to the diversity of bees that are in our area, as well as the diversity of plants and how to identify all of the above.” [Read more.](#)



Mercy Opens New Clinic in Ferguson

St. Louis Business Journal, by Vinita Rizvic, July 21, 2021

Mercy has opened its new Mercy Clinic Primary Care and Women’s Health facility in Ferguson at 9180 W. Florissant Ave., which is part of the previously announced Health & Homes WestFlo District.

The facility will begin serving adult, pediatric and women’s health patients Monday in its 5,500-square-foot space. The new space will offer a nutrition center with an on-site nutritionist one day a week to assist community members with nutrition in disease management, as well as nutrition for wellness.

In addition, the care team at the Ferguson facility will include a licensed clinical social worker to ensure timely care in coordination with behavioral health providers, officials said. Parenting classes, smoking cessation and grief counseling services also will be offered. [Read more.](#)

throughout the bi-state region, TourCo’s inaugural production of Othello will visit 24 parks and gathering spaces across Missouri and Illinois in August. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Mental Health First Aid Course

Virtual Adult Sessions:
August 13, 19, 26, and
September 9
8:30AM to 3:30PM

Virtual Youth Courses:
August 18
9:00AM to 3:00PM
August 31
8:00AM to 1:00PM
September 10
8:00AM to 1:00PM
September 15
9:00AM to 3:00PM

Learn how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Free for MO residents. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Virtual Programs

Book Discussion: African American Experience

August 17, 2:00PM



\$6.5 Million development in north St. Louis County is named after former Pagedale mayor

Fox2News, by Elliott Davis, July 31, 2021

A brand new project was dedicated to the north St. Louis County community of Pagedale. The \$6.5 million development called Carter Commons is named after former Pagedale Mayor Mary Carter. The building houses six minority-owned businesses, as well as a community kitchen where youngsters can learn skills to help them succeed.

A large crowd turned out for a special dedication. The project was spearheaded by the community development organization Beyond Housing. The president and CEO says this is a way to tackle the big challenges that the North County community is facing. It's part of the second phase of a project that brought a cinema, health center, bank, and other facilities to the north county city that's seeing a rebirth. [Watch and read more.](#)



This month attendees are reading "Black Buck" by Mateo Askaripour. Digital copies are available through Hoopla or Overdrive and print copies can be requested through the library's catalog.

Registration required. [Click here](#) for more information.

Tech Talk: Explore Missouri Outdoors

August 26, 10:00AM

Discover Missouri's great outdoors through mobile apps and websites for activities, trails and planning a trip. [Click here](#) for more information.

Federal Contracting Certification for Woman-Owned Small Businesses.

August 31, 10:00AM

Presented by the Small Business Administration.

Learn about the new certification process launched by the U.S. Small Business Administration and get resources to help certify your business. [Click here](#) for more information.

North St. Louis project among several set to receive federal money requested by Rep. Cori Bush

St. Louis Post Dispatch, by Rachel Rice, July 15, 2021

U.S. Rep. Cori Bush has obtained \$9 million in Community Project Funding for 10 nonprofit projects in her St. Louis-area district, including the Wellston Loop project. The money is earmarked in the U.S. House's fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills, which will be considered on the House floor before they cross President Joe Biden's desk to be signed into law.

Bush visited three organizations set to benefit from the money and encouraged staff to continue their work. "Each of the organizations we visited today are dedicated to improving the lives of the people in our communities that have been underserved, under-resourced, underfunded for too long," Bush said. "These are the type of organizations that we must support if we want to build a St. Louis where everyone can live a joyous and prosperous life."

Bush also is seeking \$15.5 million for four infrastructure projects in her district, including \$10 million for improvements to a 1.6-mile stretch of West Florissant Avenue in Dellwood, Ferguson and Jennings. The project includes sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stop improvements and bike lanes. About 8.2% of residents in the area don't have access to a vehicle to commute to work, and about 14% commutes by bus. Bush also is seeking \$15.5 million for four infrastructure projects in her district, including \$10 million for improvements to a 1.6-mile stretch of West Florissant Avenue in Dellwood, Ferguson and Jennings. The project includes sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stop improvements and bike lanes. About 8.2% of residents in the area don't have access to a vehicle to commute to work, and about 14% commutes by bus. [Read more.](#)



Ferguson Farmer's Market

Saturdays
8:00AM to 12:00PM

PLAZA at 501
501 S. Florissant Rd.,
Ferguson MO 63135

Enjoy live music and special events in a festive family atmosphere, and discover a wide variety of edible delights, including homemade jelly, farm fresh eggs, honey, spices, and meats. Attendees will find an ever-changing array of gift and specialty vendors, selling everything from cut flowers and bedding plants to hand-painted artwork and small-batch soaps.



"Pay What You Can" Farm Stand

July through November
Fridays
3:00 to 7:00PM
Sundays
11:00AM to 3:00PM

This photograph taken by UMSL photographer August Jennewein is featured in [Eye on UMSL](#).

Community Conversation held at UMSL

Missouri Sen. [Brian Williams](#) (at left) and Rep. [Kevin Windham](#) took questions from the audience recently in a [town hall meeting](#) in the Ward E. Barnes Building at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. The meeting was intended to start a conversation about how to best leverage federal COVID-19 relief funds, matched with support at the state and local levels, to boost community and economic development in north St. Louis County.



Education alumna Paula D. Knight beginning new role as Jennings Superintendent

As a young girl, Paula D. Knight went to school six days a week. Five of those days, she was the pupil. Then on Saturdays, she was the teacher, and her stuffed animals and dolls were the students. “I would get up early, have breakfast, and I wanted to play school,” she said. “I would line up the dolls and the stuffed animals, and I would talk, and they would talk back. My grandfather saw me playing and bought me my first chalkboard. It was utopia when I got that chalkboard for Christmas. I’ve been a teacher ever since.”

Knight went from playing teacher to living her dream as one of the most accomplished educators in St. Louis for nearly three decades. A master’s and doctoral graduate of the University of Missouri–St. Louis College of Education, she begins a new role as the superintendent of the Jennings School District this month. The Jennings School Board unanimously approved the hiring in February, and Knight will take over for fellow UMSL

EarthDance Organic Farm
233 S Dade Ave.
Ferguson MO, 63135

Earth Dance Farm’s new [Pay What You Can Farm Stand](#) is now available for people to take home summer favorites, fresh from the fields. [Click here](#) for more information.



Cake Walk

Saturday, September 25
12:00 to 3:00PM

St. Vincent Park
7335 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, MO 63133

Grab some goodies along the trail in St. Vincent Park during the 1st Annual Cake Walk. Participants will enjoy music and tasty treats as they leisurely stroll the 1.2 mile, paved St. Vincent Greenway Trail. [Click here](#) for more information.

graduate Art McCoy, who had been the superintendent since 2016. [Read more.](#)



Your Input is Needed for the New UMSL Master Plan

As you may know, the University of Missouri–St. Louis is creating a new [campus plan](#) to shape the campus environment for the next five years and beyond. Since May, the campus plan team has been studying our campus, learning about our existing efforts and priorities, and identifying opportunities for spaces in and around our campus to serve our shared vision. The plan will seek to respond to large, longer-term opportunities as well as smaller, shorter-term ways to improve the campus experience for our community and guests.

Earlier this summer, we received feedback from hundreds of individuals on the campus and in the surrounding communities. (Thank you again!) Now, we want to hear in a bit more detail about the kinds of physical spaces and amenities you want to see on and around campus, and why.

Please take a moment to complete this quick (20 minute) survey by August 19.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts!

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 Alumni 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, October 16
8:00AM

UMSL Campus
One University Blvd.,
St. Louis, MO 63121

Everyone is welcome to participate in the inaugural UMSL Alumni Association 5K Run & Walk. See old friends, meet new ones, enjoy the beautiful surroundings and make strides towards a healthier life. All participants will receive a dri-fit event shirt, the opportunity to win a medal, plus other Triton treats and surprises. [Click here](#) for more information

A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit the UMSL Triton Food Pantry.

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

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