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Community Connection



Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

Fall is just around the corner and we are back in full swing at UMSL! It's wonderful to be part of such an exciting time in our community. Planning is underway for the changes that are coming to campus and it was great to share some of the highlights at my State of the University report earlier this month. We are also thrilled to see approval for the Transit Stop Transformation to take place at the North Hanley Transit Center and hear about the plans for the St. Louis Zoo Wildcare Park which will be opening up in North County.

There is so much to see and do in the coming weeks on and around campus. Be sure to check out the murals created by area students that welcomed spectators and golfers for the recently held Ascension Golf Tournament. The Touhill Performing Arts Center at UMSL is open featuring [a full list of events and performances](#). An array of local festivals and outdoor gatherings invite us to continue to connect and build community. As always, I hope to see you out and about and look forward to continuing our work together to lift up our university, local community and region.

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis



UMSL Community Connection newsletter

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[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

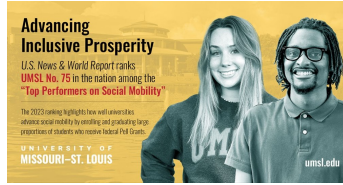
Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?
[Procurement Bids](#)
[Construction Bids](#)

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.



UMSL makes another big jump in US News 'Best Colleges' rankings, earning high marks for social mobility, value

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is continuing its dramatic climb up the annual U.S. News & World Report “Best Colleges” rankings. UMSL, which had already made one of the nation’s biggest improvements, jumping a combined 42 places over the previous two years, climbed 27 more spots in the latest rankings released on Monday. UMSL now ranks No. 212 among national research universities on the 2023 list out of more than 1,800 colleges and universities nationwide. UMSL also improved 11 places to rank No. 107 on the list of top public universities.

“The University of Missouri–St. Louis is truly on the rise, and we are proud the U.S. News & World Report rankings are reflective of our progress,” Chancellor Kristin Sobolik said....UMSL continues to get high marks for helping students boost their economic future through a college degree. The university was again ranked on the U.S. News list of “Top Performers on Social Mobility,” ranking first in the state and No. 75 nationally – an improvement of 25 places from last year’s rankings. The ranking is meant to highlight how well universities graduate students who receive federal Pell Grants. [Read more.](#)



Chancellor Kristin Sobolik highlights transformational changes coming to UMSL campus during State of the University Address

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is taking the first steps toward a historic transformation of its campus as the university moves into its 60th year. Chancellor Kristin Sobolik used her annual State of the University Address to share the vision for the changes to come over the next four years as UMSL consolidates its academic core, revitalizes its library and begins construction of the Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center, among other projects.

Events & Resources



UMSL Chancellor's Certificate in Planning & Zoning

Wednesdays,
Oct. 12–Nov. 30, 2022
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
UMSL JCPenney Building,
Room 202

Registration is now open. The P&Z certificate has long been a sought-after professional development program for:

- Municipal and county planning and zoning commissioners
- Elected officials including mayors and city council members
- Municipal staff members
- Citizens seeking to become involved in local planning and decision-making processes

For more information about the 7 modules in this program and how to register, click [here.](#)



Young at Heart: Free Walking for Seniors

M - F ongoing
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
St. Vincent Community Center
7335 St. Charles Rock Road,
St. Louis, MO 63133

Seniors age 65+ are invited to enjoy an early morning stroll in a safe and secure environment. No pre-registration required.
For more information call:
(314) 615-8STV



“This consolidation will build a more cohesive academic experience while connecting campus assets and creating a collaborative environment for learning, research and innovation,” Sobolik told the audience. [Read more.](#)

TRANSIT PLAZA PROPOSAL
Featuring - Enhanced Seating, Shade Structures, Sidewalk Art, Fence Art, & Freestanding Interactive Art



Final design concept has been approved for the “Transit Stop Transformation” project at the North Hanley Transit Center

CMT, August 9, 2022

After getting input from transit riders, area residents, elected officials and stakeholders through a series of in-person and virtual opportunities, a finalized design concept has been approved for the “Transit Stop Transformation Project” at the North Hanley Transit Center, located at 4300 North Hanley Road. The project – being completed in conjunction with Citizens for Modern Transit, AARP in St. Louis and Metro Transit and through a partnership with St. Louis REALTORS® – will transform the concrete area between the bus bays and MetroLink entrance into an interactive, playful and engaging space. [Read more.](#)



Arianna String Quartet: Transported

Friday, September 16, 2022
7:30 p.m.

UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

The ASQ kicks off the 2022-23 season with a journey through three works guaranteed to inspire and transport your imagination and emotions. The evening opens with the genius of Mozart, on resplendent display in his Quartet in G Major, K.387, a piece full of youthful brilliance and compositional prowess. For more information, click [here.](#)



Brunch at the Garden

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022

10:00 a.m. - Noon
North County Agricultural Center, 4521 Hamilton Ave, Pine Lawn, MO 63120

Indulge in brunch! The meal will be prepared with locally sourced ingredients, farm fresh produce and includes conversations about the garden, food justice and how you can join the movement! For information, click [here.](#)



Ferguson StreetFest

September 23 & 24, 2022

501 S Florissant Rd.
Ferguson, MO 63135

Ferguson StreetFest is North St. Louis County’s largest annual outdoor music festival that draws thousands of visitors each September. Renowned for its great live music, crazy fun events and mouthwatering food vendors, the event has hosted some of the Midwest’s top musicians and performers. For information, click [here.](#)

North County goes wild: Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park at the zoo's North County Campus will provide visitors with up-close-and-personal experiences with wildlife

Wendy Todd, St. Louis County Community News, August 3, 2022

If an African safari has been on your bucket list but you haven't been able to make it to the continent, you're in luck. Because in a few years, the safari will come to you. The St. Louis Zoo North County Campus is working on an expansion called the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park that will include four different safari experiences along with a host of other attractions. [Read more on page 1.](#)



Q&A with Loudbank Garden Supplies owner Andre C. Burgess, a Small Business Monthly 2022 Future50 Business Awardee

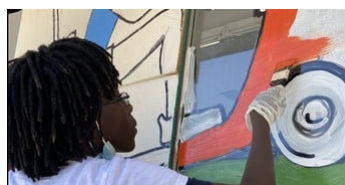
Loudbank Garden Supplies at 8445 Natural Bridge Road is being noticed. Small Business Monthly featured this new business in their recent publication.

What have been the keys to success for the business?

One of the keys to success for Loudbank Garden Supplies has been our ability to collaborate with knowledgeable organizations that provide excellent guidance to business-minded minorities. Through these organizations, opportunities to network were developed, business training curricula were made available, and strategies to brand, market and advertise our business were put into place.

What is your best advice for other business owners to find success in business?

The best advice I can provide for someone who wants to succeed is to learn your business and be mentally prepared to solve meaningful problems. NO EXCUSES. [Read more.](#)



Neighborfest at New Awakening

September 30, 2022
6:00 p.m.
8000 Natural Bridge Rd.

The community is invited to join a walking parade through the neighborhood with a band leaving New Awakening parking lot at 6 p.m. Then enjoy outside activities with food, music and games as you meet and greet neighbors and friends. Everyone is welcome!



Blacktoberfest

Saturday, October 1
2:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Twilight Run at 5:00 p.m.
The Page at the corner of Page and Ferguson

The inaugural Blacktoberfest St. Louis is equal parts beer festival and community entertainment, with live music and a Twilight Run featuring one mile and 5K courses. Sample beer, grab a bite to eat, shop from local vendors and enjoy. Multiple ticket types are available. For information on tickets and registration for the race, [click here.](#)



Of Note: Within the Golden Hour and Romantic
Saint Louis Ballet
October 1-2, 2022,
UMLS Touhill Performing Arts Center

This rarely performed ballet pairs with the sounds of a live chamber orchestra. Inspired by the gold and shimmering hues of Gustav Klimt's paintings, Christopher



Photo by Laurie Skrivan, lskrivan@post-dispatch.com

Mural by Normandy Students Puts Talent on Display

One stretch of Normandy is a little brighter, thanks to the artistic talent of NSC students and teachers. Their mural now graces the side of the Value Village Thrift Store building on Natural Bridge Road. Normandy Mayor Mark Beckmann and Councilman David Hoang reached out to the district about doing something to welcome spectators to the neighborhood as they [would] make their way to the Ascension Golf Tournament. With just seven days to execute the beautification project, Jefferson Art Teacher Theresa Hopkins and her fellow art teachers made the golf-themed mural happen. Over two days, about fifty students added their touch to the masterpiece, which features the Normandy Viking and Anandra Chaney, the only golfer for Normandy High School. [Read more.](#)

[See the feature photos](#) in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of these murals.



E. Desmond Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative connects St. Louis students with local arts agencies

From building a guitar amp to learning ballroom dancing to receiving a free piano, St. Louis-area students have plenty of unique ways to get engaged with the arts. And the E. Desmond Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative wants to make sure both students and educators are fully aware of those opportunities. The Des Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative is dedicated to enhancing the quality, influence, attitudes and accessibility of fine arts by connecting educators, artists and performers with students in the St. Louis area, with a special emphasis on underserved populations.

In addition to providing educational fine arts programs, concerts, clinics, master classes and other educational experiences for participating schools and providing support for music and fine arts educators, the Collaborative aims to increase and enhance arts education programming for an ethnically and culturally diverse population where most students qualify for free and reduced-cost meals.

[Read more.](#)

Share with Us

Wheeldon created Within the Golden Hour for 14 dancers, and set it to music by Vivaldi (score by Bosso). For more information, click [here](#).



**UniverCities Exchange:
Combating Missouri's
Urban Food Deserts**
Monday, October 10, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Online

What does it mean to have food deserts in St. Louis and Kansas City? In this session, a panel of experts and practitioners will explore the current state of resource availability and historical events that led to the current food justice issues followed by a call to action detailing how people can join the creative ways communities are addressing the challenges. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



UMSL Alumni 5K 2022
Saturday, October 15, 2022
Start at 8 a.m.
UMSL Campus

See old friends, meet new ones, enjoy the beautiful surroundings and make strides towards a healthier life at the UMSL Alumni Association 5K Run & Walk. All are welcome to sign up! For more information, click [here](#).

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!

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