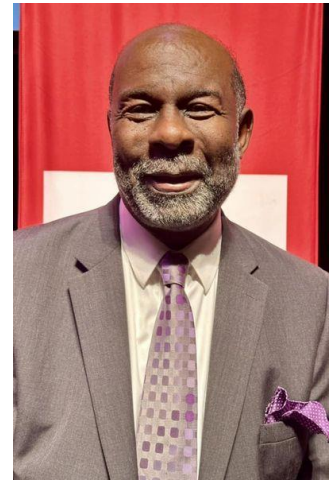


Benard Diggs (now Dr. Diggs)- Staff awardee

Benard started his career with UMSL in 1973 on the ground floor, in floor maintenance and in his 40 plus years finished his service as Director of Millennium Student Center. During his climb up the ladder Benard managed to obtain a four-year degree in 1995, his master's degree in 2007 and begin his pursuit of his Doctorate degree before his retirement in 2016. Benard completed his Doctorate in fall of 2023. Benard has been a wonderful example to us all but especially to his nieces and nephews, proving that they can do whatever they put their minds and efforts to.

Since his retirement, Benard has been active in his Neighborhood block unit organization, volunteering with the St Louis Dream Center, helping tutor young children and organizing the annual school supply drives for students. He has worked with former students as a mentor. Benard also has volunteered and contributed to online Doctoral Research Group. Finally, Benard has worked with the senior organization AAACE American Association for Adult and Continuing Education. Because of Benard's passion to teach and his eagerness to be involved with the betterment of his community, especially the youth, he is a more than worthy recipient of this honor.



Professor David R. Ganz- Faculty awardee

Known by many as “Mr. UMSL,” Dave Ganz has continually contributed to the university post-retirement. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award and the UMSL Alumni Association's “You



Make a Difference Award, among many other honors. As well, Dave has been active with multiple social and civic organizations in the St. Louis area. His broad commitment to theater and the arts in St Louis is evidenced support of the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, Fox Theater, Opera Theater of St. Louis, the Muny, the St. Louis Ballet and Forest Park Forever. As a Heritage Society member Ganz has contributed time and effort to the St. Louis Zoo Museum District, Missouri Botanical Garden, Missouri Historical Society and Museum, St. Louis Art Museum and St. Louis Science Center.

Additionally, since retirement this honoree has held positions on the UMSL retirement board since 2004 to present including serving as vice-president, the UMSL Alumni Association Board since 2010 to present, the UMSL College of Business Dean's Leadership Council (2002 to present) , and the UML St. Louis Community College Accounting Advisory Board to name a few of his overall contributions to organizations in the St. Louis area. Dave also participates in his parish in as a member of the School Board and Finance Committee.

Dave Ganz's presence and guidance in all of these organizations, and more, has had a deep and lasting very positive effect throughout the entire area and region on all those fortunate to have benefited from his leadership and guidance.