

MISSOURI SOUTHERN
STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF
GOVERNORS

JAN. 14, 2022 | REPORT



DR. DEAN VAN GALEN

PRESIDENT

DR. LISA TOMS NAMED PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



As a result of a successful national search, Dr. Lisa Toms has been named as Missouri Southern's next Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Toms has served as a faculty member, department chair, academic dean and, in her current role at the University of Central Missouri, Vice Provost for Academic Programs, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and Professor of Marketing.

Her experience and strengths include strategic planning and budgeting, development of innovative academic programs, and understanding the importance of a university's external stakeholders. She will begin her duties at MSSU on Feb. 15.

On behalf of the university, I express my gratitude to the Search and Screen Committee, chaired by Dr. Crystal Lemmons, and to the faculty and staff who engaged in the process. Also, I convey appreciation to Ms. Lorinda Hackett for the outstanding service she has provided as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs since July 1, 2021.

MISSOURI SOUTHERN SELECTED TO HOST JUNE 2022 CBHE MEETING



At the December meeting of the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE), the board reviewed proposals and selected Missouri Southern to host its June meeting. This will provide an opportunity to highlight to the Coordinating Board, Commissioner Zora Mulligan, and other MDHEWD leaders the unique mission and opportunities that exist at Missouri Southern. Also, the event will enable our guests to better understand the dynamic nature of Joplin and our region. The meeting is scheduled for June 14-15, with a social event the evening of June 14 to which members of the Board of Governors will be invited.

MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

As previewed at the November meeting of the Board of Governors, on Dec. 10 we hosted our local legislative delegation on the MSSU campus. At the meeting, we expressed appreciation for their support, and discussed the upcoming legislative session including specific requests for support of core funding increases and capital projects.

CELEBRATING MSSU EMPLOYEES

On Dec. 22, the university hosted its traditional celebration brunch to express appreciation to employees and to recognize staff for their years of service. In total, 56 staff members were recognized for service ranging from five years to 35 years – equaling 595 years of combined service.

The 2021 Superior Service Award recipients were also announced, recognizing two staff members whose outstanding contributions have made a positive impact on the university. The 2021 recipients are:

- **Lisa Sweet**, Academic Advisor (Advising, Counseling, and Testing)
- **Kandee Behnke**, Administrative Assistant (English and Philosophy)



Marilyn Walton
35 years of service



Lisa Sweet



Kandee Behnke

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

DR. BRAD HODSON

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

NEW STUDENT ADMISSION

Admission of new freshman is **up 44% overall** compared to the same time last year with 1,013 freshmen currently admitted (*application completed, meets criteria for admission, eligible to enroll for fall classes*) compared to 704 a year ago (+309 admitted students). This growth in admitted freshmen is not only from Southwest Missouri high schools (+14 students), but also from Arkansas (+75), Springfield (+66), Tulsa (+57), Kansas City (+30), and St. Louis (+4).

Admitted transfer students are up **32% overall**, with NWACC and Crowder leading the way with an increase of 20 admitted students. The number of admitted international students is flat with a current increase of one admitted student. Depending on the spread of the Omicron variant this summer, international student enrollment in the fall could be challenging. Japan, for example, has already announced tightened travel restrictions running through December 2022.

NEW INITIATIVES ARE WORKING

The university's recent investment in new student recruitment initiatives is paying off, according to feedback from admissions recruiters in the field and the admitted student numbers described above. These new investments made over the last year include:

- **Increasing the value of MOSO Merit**, the university's automatic aid model. Recruiters report the "up to \$20,000 in scholarship aid" message is resonating with prospective students and their parents, and resulting in increased interest in Missouri Southern.
- **Additional funding for campus events** such as Lion Pride Visit Days, Discovery Days, and community college outreach has gotten more students on campus to meet faculty, tour facilities, apply, and become excited about being a Lion.
- **Additional marketing dollars** has expanded our outreach on social media, television, and radio. Prospective students and their parents are referencing these marketing initiatives when they visit with a recruiter.
- **Investing in the YouVisit virtual tour software** has made it possible for students outside Southwest Missouri to see what Missouri Southern has to offer without physically traveling to campus. This helps counterbalance the COVID impact.

SPRING STUDENT RECRUITMENT EVENTS

The success of the fall's Lion Pride Visit Days is being continued this spring with the following student recruitment events planned:

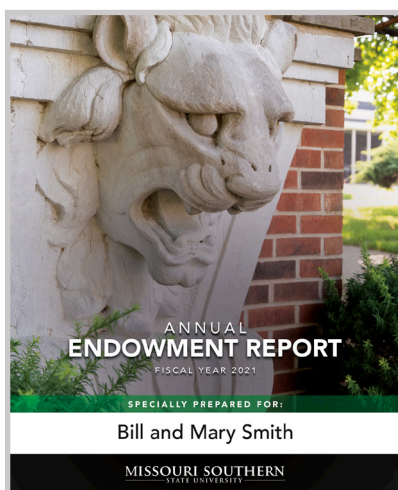
- **Jan. 6** Green and Gold Tour in Seneca
- **Feb. 11** Health Sciences Discovery Day
- **March 2** Business Discovery Day
- **March 4** STEM Discovery Day
- **March 18** Lion Pride Visit Day
- **April 1** Social Sciences and International Studies Discovery Day
- **April 8** Education Discovery Day
- **April 14** Transfer Discovery Day
- **April 20** Crowder Enrollment Cookout
- **April 23** Lion Pride Visit Day
- **April 27** NEO Enrollment Cookout
- **June 11** Lion Pride Visit Day
- **July 9** Lion Pride Visit Day

DEDICATION OF "THE RAZ"



Missouri Southern dedicated the Rasmussen Baseball and Softball Practice Facility on Nov. 6. This 6,300 square-foot facility was made possible entirely by private donors, who contributed \$240,000. Dick and April Rasmussen were the lead donors on the project, which features artificial turf and a state-of-the-art net system to create multiple practice areas for both programs. "The Raz" is located between Turner Field and the Lapira Softball Complex on land acquired by the Missouri Southern Foundation.

ENDOWMENT REPORTS



Personalized reports for each of the Foundation's 200+ endowments were sent out in December to donors or their representatives. The 11-page reports summarized the Foundation investment performance in FY 2021 as well as distributions from each endowment for student scholarships, program support, or other designations. This annual report back to donors is a **significant stewardship initiative to demonstrate the Foundation's fiscal responsibility** for major philanthropic investments in the institution.

MS. LORINDA HACKETT

INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, INC. (ABET)



The Industrial Engineering Technology (IET) program is one of only 10 ABET-accredited Industrial Engineering Technology Bachelor Degree programs in the U.S. The ABET accreditation provides assurance that a university program meets the quality standards of the profession for which that program prepares graduates. ABET accredits programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology. The Missouri Southern IET program focuses on industry-relevant applications so graduates enter the job market career-ready. Graduates accept a variety of positions including Industrial Engineers, Manufacturing Engineers, Quality Engineers, or Process Engineers. The request for the

evaluation visit was completed in December 2021, the self-study is due July 1, 2022, and the on-site visit will be scheduled between September and December 2022.

COUNCIL FOR ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION (CAEP)



The Teacher Education program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The accreditation process is based on evidence-based continuous improvement and quality assurance. CAEP accreditation was originally received in 2016 and MSSU was the first Missouri Teacher Education program to be recognized for this achievement. The next accreditation visit is Oct. 23-25, 2022, and the requisite self-study was submitted December 2021. The self-study requires a robust effort of all stakeholders at Missouri Southern State University, faculty and staff, as well the local school districts that partner with the program.

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION GRANT



TEACH Missouri is a new statewide initiative designed to improve the perception of the teaching profession to recruit and retain Missouri teachers. Through this effort, the Teacher Education program has been awarded \$30,000 for strategic enrollment initiatives. The department plan is to offer scholarships to transfer students who are interested in teaching in historically chronic shortage areas such as Math, Science, and Special Education and to transfer students of color interested in the teaching profession. As of Dec. 12, 2021, average Missouri teacher compensation ranked 45th in the nation, while salaries of beginning Missouri teachers are the lowest average in the country.

DR. JULIE WENGERT

INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

FALL 2021 DEGREES & CERTIFICATES



The Registrar's Office continues to award Fall 2021 degrees and certificates. As of last week, the following data were provided for student achievement during the Fall 2021 semester:

Undergraduate degrees awarded: **326**

Graduate degrees awarded: **32**

Certificates awarded: **136**

STUDENT AFFAIRS PROFESSIONALS YEARS OF SERVICE

Lisa Sweet, Academic Advisor, was awarded the 2021 Superior Service Award for professional staff.

Thirteen Student Affairs professionals celebrated their combined 135 years of service to MSSU during the 2021 Employee Appreciation and Years of Service Ceremony in December.

Five years of service – **Meghan Alberts**, Veteran Services Coordinator; **Vallie Cook**, Educational Talent Search Outreach Specialist; **Jessica Davis**, Project Stay Academic Support Specialist; and **Sonia Liston**, Educational Talent Search Outreach Specialist

10 years of service – **Steven Benfield**, Director of Campus Recreation; **Mariah Callari**, Academic Records Specialist; **Alex Gandy**, Director of Career Services; **Mayra Gonzalez**, Financial Aid Administrative Assistant; **Debra Swarengen**, Mental Health Counselor; and **Tina Tracy**, Records Assistant – Transcripts

15 years of service – **Faustina Abrahams**, Registrar

20 years of service – **Ken Kennedy**, Chief of Police; and **Julie Wengert**, Interim VP&A



UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM

The existing five-year grant for Upward Bound, a federal TRIO program, expires on Aug. 31, 2022. The director, Robin Hicklin, and his team are currently in the process of finalizing our application for grant renewal, due to the Department of Education in late February. The Upward Bound program works with high-school students to help prepare them for post-secondary education. Students in the program are involved in many activities including monthly workshops focusing on topics such as ACT preparation, career exploration, study skills, financing college, and leadership development; field trips to area college campuses and cultural sites; academic tutoring for current classes; and opportunities to shadow college students and professional mentors. Upward Bound serves students from five area school districts: Carl Junction, Carthage, East Newton, Joplin, and Webb City.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT & ENGAGEMENT



Student Affairs' departments rounded out the fall semester with additional student engagement opportunities. **FYE/ACTS** hosted a Trivia Night and an Ugly Sweater Contest. The **Residence Hall Association** put on a Gingerbread House/Movie Night and a Christmas Bingo event. **Student Activities** hosted the annual Southern Lights and Finals Madness events.

In an effort to meet the Divisional recruitment goal for this academic year, multiple departments are implementing new strategies to positively impact student recruitment and ultimately Fall 2022 enrollment.

The **Office of the Registrar** is collaborating with Admissions to introduce a Transfer Equivalences tool for prospective students, which will enable them see how their transfer credits will tentatively transfer to MSSU and meet their intended/interested degree using the Degree Works audit tool. **Residence Life** collaborated with the Foundation and Admissions to enhance their showrooms on the dorm tour. **Campus Recreation** is offering tours of the new Midwestern Esports Center and hosts an informational table about Esports at all Lion Pride Visit Days. **Student Activities** has collaborated with the Foundation and Admissions to provide an ample number of current students from a variety of student organizations at the Green & Gold Tours and Lion Pride Visit Days. **Financial Aid** enhanced the aesthetics of the Award Offer mailer and created a MOSO Merit certificate for Fall 2022 recipients. **ACTS/FYE** partnered with an ACT Prep/College Prep class at Carthage High School where they demystify the college application, admission, and enrollment process. **Global Leaders** has completed recruiting visits, hosted international virtual fairs, developed promotional videos, and translated promotional materials. The **TRIO** programs have presented college-prep information to many local school districts.

ROB YUST

VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS

CONSTRUCTION

Campus Improvements

Here are updates on the campus improvement projects which are being funded by the Federal Budget Stabilization Fund.

- **Pedestrian safety in the main parking lot** – Raised walking medians
 - Parking lot (with exception of landscaping) is completed.
- **Street replacement/crosswalks** – International Avenue from Newman Rd. to University Parkway
 - Completed.
- **Tunnel safety improvements** – Interior enhancements and new lighting
 - The tunnel is closed through late January. Work on each end of the tunnel continues as well as the interior upgrades.
- **Oval infrastructure** – New sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, and entrances to Hearnes, Spiva Library, Reynold’s Hall and Webster Hall
 - Revamping the entrance to Hearnes Hall from the east (first floor) is complete.
 - New pavers have been installed in front of Webster.
 - New pavers and a seat wall have been installed in front of Reynolds Hall. Seat wall cap will be installed this month.
 - The original concept for installing fountains at the entrances to Hearnes and Spiva Library off of the Oval became too expensive so we are now looking at new paver designs to the entrances of those two buildings.
 - Sidewalk replacement and tree removal on the Oval is complete.
 - The replacement of an old water line is complete.
 - Installation of new light poles on the Oval will occur in late January/early February pending shipment of the lights.

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The project should be complete around the first of April, depending on the weather and new paver designs.

Taylor Performing Arts Center (TPAC)

The contractor (RE Smith) began the remediation work in November and the block and MEP demo is approximately 60%-75% complete. Steel fabrication is in progress and the steel erection should begin by late February. The seating will be ordered in the next couple weeks. The project should be complete around this time next year.

ROB MALLORY

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Missouri Southern student-athletes continued their strong performance in the classroom during the Fall 2021 semester. During the term, 198 of 421 student-athletes (47%) earned a 3.0 GPA or better. Of those, 119 finished with a 3.5+, 80 earned Dean's List recognition (3.75+), and 50 recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA.

As we begin the Spring 2022 semester, the Athletic Department currently carries a cumulative GPA of 3.091 and has maintained at least a 3.0 GPA for seven consecutive semesters. At present, 10 different programs boast a team GPA of 3.0 or better. Leading the way are Women's Golf (3.596), Volleyball (3.505), Soccer (3.485), and Softball (3.451).

Also, on Dec. 2 the NCAA released its most recent Academic Success Rate and Federal Graduation Rate report for the 2011-2014 cohorts. The Federal Graduation Rate for Missouri Southern student-athletes in those cohorts was 51% compared to 33% for the overall student population.

AMOS SELECTED FOR NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL SAAC



Softball student-athlete Kara Amos has been selected to serve on the NCAA Division II National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). This is a three-year appointment, during which Kara will represent all student-athletes of the MIAA at the national level. The SAAC serves as the primary governance arm representing student-athlete interests in Division II affairs. SAAC members serve as student-athlete liaisons that monitor and discuss happenings on campuses, within conferences and at the national level.

Representatives are responsible for gathering feedback and reporting on behalf of their conference, as well as relaying important events, hot topics and educational information to both the campus and conference levels. In addition to relaying information across campuses and conferences, the committee speaks on behalf of the entire Division II student-athlete body throughout the NCAA governance structure.

Division II SAAC members serve as voting members on a number of Division II committees, including the Management Council. The SAAC also has voting authority during the Division II Business Session at the annual NCAA Convention.

Kara's appointment comes at a critical time, as the student-athlete voice continues to be amplified within the Division II governance structure.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY RECORDS TOP-15 FINISH

The Men's Cross Country team concluded a stellar season in November with a 13th place finish at the NCAA Division II National Championships in Tampa, Fla. The Lions posted a pair of All-American finishes, with JP Rutledge coming in 6th and Ryan Riddle finishing 20th overall.

The Lions qualified as a team for the national championship with a 2nd place finish at the Central Regional Championship, which was hosted at the Tom Rutledge Cross Country Course. Riddle was the meet champion and teammate Rutledge finished runner-up. Riley Simpson and Jared Ozee added All-Region finishes at 6th and 23rd respectively. Riddle was named the Central Region Athlete of the Year by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches of America.

SADÉ BOSWELL NAMED WOMEN'S SOCCER HEAD COACH



On Jan. 5, Sadé Boswell was announced as the next head coach of the women's soccer program. Sadé (pronounced "Shar-day") most recently spent two seasons as the top assistant at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. This past fall she helped that program to a 12-5-3 record and a bid to the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Sadé grew up in St. Robert, Mo., and attended Waynesville High School. She played college soccer first at Neosho County Community College (Kan.) and then at fellow MIAA school Northeastern State. She coached and received her Master's Degree at the University of Sioux Falls (S.D.). She was also previously an assistant coach at Drury University.

The hiring committee was impressed not only with her soccer acumen and knowledge of our conference and region, but even more so with her value system and leadership qualities.