

MISSOURI SOUTHERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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JUNE 8, 2023 • REPORT

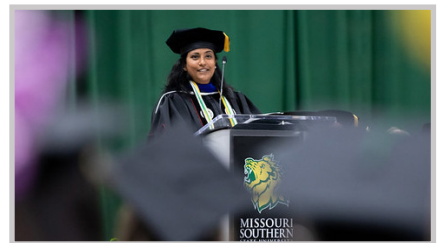
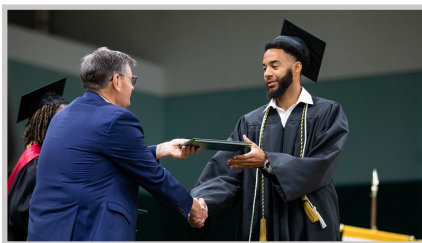


# DR. DEAN VAN GALEN

## PRESIDENT

### COMMENCEMENT

Missouri Southern celebrated student achievement by awarding over 600 associates, baccalaureate, and masters degrees at two commencement ceremonies on May 13. Also, 34 Golden Graduates from the graduating class of 1973 and before, returned to campus with many participating in the morning commencement ceremony. The commencement address was delivered by Dr. Monicca Shanthanelson. Monicca is a 2003 MSSU graduate who is currently at AbbVie where she is a Portfolio Strategy Director for the Oncology Portfolio. Thanks are extended to the many faculty and staff who planned or carried out the commencement events, and to those members of the Board able to participate.



### STRONG STATE SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION



The 2023 legislative session resulted in strong support for higher education and Missouri Southern. We are grateful to the Missouri legislature, with particular thanks to our local legislative delegation, for their continued support. Key legislative budget actions (that still require approval by Governor Parson) include:

- For fiscal year 2024 (beginning July 1, 2023), a 7% core funding increase for all public higher education institutions (this would translate to approximately \$2 million being added to the MSSU budget). The budget approved by the legislature also includes an additional 2% increase tied to a new performance-based funding model (under development).
- Additional one-time funding equivalent to 25% of the match requirement for capital projects that were approved as part of the fiscal year 2023 budget. This would provide MSSU with an additional \$7.5 million in state support for the Health Science Innovation Center.

## ACADEMIC YEAR HIGHLIGHTS: PROGRESS AND SUCCESS

The 2022-2023 academic year at Missouri Southern was characterized by change, progress, and many successes. Here are five major highlights:

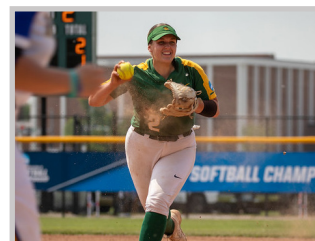
**Student Success:** It was a year of strong focus on the recruitment, engagement, and success of our students. For the fall of 2022, the university saw a 4.7% increase in the number of new students compared to fall of 2021. The fall to spring semester retention rate of our first-time full-time freshmen rose to 86%—a 6% increase over the previous year. New campus events created a vibrant and welcoming environment for students and community.

**Lions Forward Campaign:** The *Lions Forward* Campaign is off to a strong start, thanks to the generous support of the university's alumni and friends. In the first 10 months of the campaign, there were 72 gifts of \$25,000 or more, including five gift commitments of \$1 million or greater.

**Health Science Innovation Center:** This transformational project continues to generate excitement and strong community support, including a \$1.5 million commitment of City of Joplin ARPA funds. Corner Greer was selected through a competitive process to provide architectural/design services and has had initial meetings with key campus faculty, staff, and other leaders.

**Partnerships and New Initiatives:** The university strengthened key partnerships, including with Crowder College, Kansas City University, the City of Joplin, and the Missouri Southern Foundation. Also, new university initiatives include MOSO CAPS, the Adult Degree Completion program, and new academic offerings such as the Master of Science degree in Data Analytics.

**Lion Athletics:** It was a banner year for Lion Athletics with respect to competitive success and community engagement. Eight of our 15 athletic teams were nationally ranked during their seasons. Our student athletes provided 5,239 volunteer hours this academic year, and for the fall semester finished first in the MIAA and 5th in the nation in the Division 2 TeamWorks Challenge.



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

There are exciting opportunities on the horizon. The university's new strategic plan—*Lions Forward. Lions Together.*—will guide the university over the next five years. The university is seeking to expand its statewide mission to further distinguish Missouri Southern within Missouri and the nation. All these successes and opportunities are only possible through the work of our employees, the efforts of our students, and the support of our alumni, friends, and the Board of Governors. I am grateful.

# DR. BRAD HODSON

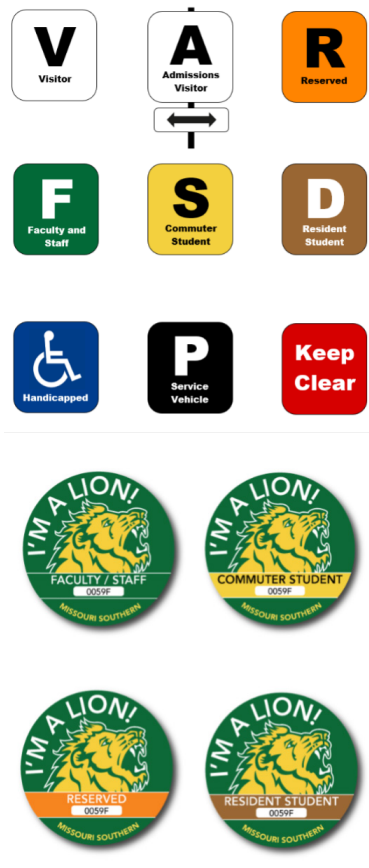
## EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

### CAMPAIGN UPDATE



The “Lions Forward” fundraising campaign continues to go very well ten months into the first of a five-year initiative. In addition to cash gifts and pledges, 17 estate gifts have been codified to date as part of the campaign. A major component of the campaign goal is the \$9 million philanthropic component for matching funds for the Health Science Innovation Center. As of May 31, 2023, about 40% of that goal has been realized. Fundraising continues on the remaining six priorities. The campaign leadership committee will meet later this summer to review year one progress and recommend ideas for continuing to move the campaign forward boldly.

### NEW SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING



Beginning this summer, Missouri Southern will implement a new exterior signage and wayfinding system to improve accuracy, consistency, ease of use, and aesthetics. The new system will be aimed at both visitors to campus and current students, faculty, and staff. New wayfinding signs will be designed to convey quickly to visitors where to find often-sought locations such as Admissions, Billingsly Student Center, Cornell Auditorium, and Leggett & Platt Gym. Exterior building signs will be simplified to include the name of the building alone, rather than a complete list of all tenants. In addition, both opportunities will reflect current university branding. Finally, the university’s long-standing parking system will be revamped to include a small number of broad categories. This is intended to simplify parking decisions and to dramatically reduce the number of parking signs on campus (currently counted at several hundred). Related, new parking stickers will be distributed to all students, faculty, and staff. Designed to be placed on the outside of the rear windshield, these stickers will serve a dual purpose: parking identification and as a roving billboard promoting Missouri Southern.



## LANTERN SOCIETY DINNER

The Missouri Southern Foundation celebrated philanthropy on the evening of Friday, May 12th when it hosted its annual Lantern Society Dinner. The Lantern Society is the giving club for donors with cumulative lifetime giving of \$25,000 or more. Over 150 guests attended the event at the Silver Spoon Event Center in Joplin, which was the first such dinner to be hosted since 2019 due to the pandemic. After an hors d'oeuvres reception, dinner was served and students from the MSSU music department entertained guests with a series of popular songs from the 1950s and 1960s. The program consisted of two parts. First was the "Voices of Impact" – a series of ten short remarks that captured how philanthropy has impacted students, faculty, and programs at Missouri Southern. Finally, the annual Spirit of Philanthropy Awards were given. The organizational award was presented to the Dorthea B. Hoover AAUW Chapter, who has consistently supported student scholarships. The individual award was presented to Bill and Tracy Gipson for their leadership gifts to support new academic programs. It was a beautiful evening that perfectly captured the impact private giving has on Missouri Southern State University, its students, faculty, and programs.



# DR. LISA TOMS

PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## TESTING SERVICES



KCU is partnering with Missouri Southern's Testing Services in June & July by making a Pearson Vue certified learning specialist available to:

- Help ensure COMLEX dates/times/seats are available for student doctors
- Provide proctor support during high volume COMLEX testing
- Administer COMLEX exams
- Provide proctor support for student doctors needing accommodations at MSSU

## GEORGE A. SPIVA LIBRARY



**Ms. Amber Carr**, Assistant Library Director and Marketing & Outreach Librarian, was appointed to the Missouri Secretary of State's Council on Library Development. Her three year term will begin on July 1, 2023, with the possibility of a second three year term appointment. She is only one of two academic librarian representatives to serve on the Council.

## HONORS PROGRAM



For this upcoming academic year, we accepted 43 new students, which is our highest incoming class since before the pandemic. Here are some other statistics related to our new cohort:

- 7 are current MSSU students
- 8 are transfers from another college
- 28 are first time freshmen
- 4 are valedictorians of their senior class
- 13 have 4.0 GPA's
- 16 are in the top 10% of their class
- 15 are from out of state
- 2 have an ACT of 30 or higher

The Honors Program continues to use the Suitable platform to foster campus vibrancy. This year we enjoyed a 99% engagement rate with our students, and over the past twelve months our Honors students have completed a total of 2,563 campus activities. Due to its high rate of student engagement, the MSSU Honors Program was recognized nationally in 2022.

## HIGHLIGHTS



### Empty Bowls

On April 11, 2023 the MSSU Lion Co-op and Art Department held the 2nd Empty Bowls Event. The event served 150 people and raised \$3000 for the Lion Co-op Groceries 2 Graduate Program. This program provides scholarships for junior and senior MSSU students that have financial needs in the form of tokens to be used for food at the Webb City Farmers Market. This program has provided over 50 scholarships.

### Kinesiology

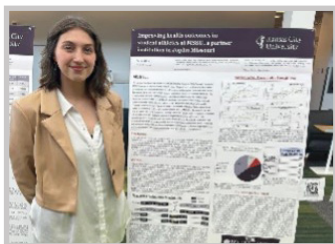
The Kinesiology Department held the 9th annual Lori Pflug 5k, this years theme was "Puppy Glow Run." 100 runners participated and 24 dogs. Money raised from this event goes toward the Lori Pflug Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

### MSSU + Crowder

On May 4, 2023, Missouri Southern State University and Crowder College signed two memorandums of understanding. The agreements create 2+2 programs for healthcare administration students and social work students.

### Healthcare Administration

On May 9, 2023, the MSSU Bachelors of Healthcare Administration students were celebrated after their Healthcare Leadership course final. They all received a Gipson Center Lapel pin to wear as they go out into the workforce. Twenty students graduated on May 13, 2023.



### CA&S

Dylann Beck, who recently graduated with a BSW, presented "Improving health outcomes in student athletes at MSSU, a partner institution in Joplin Missouri" at the KCU Research Symposium in April. This project features a team of student researchers from MSSU and KCU. MSSU Social Work students assess student athletes who participate in yoga exercises to adjust their cortisol levels.

### History

History students, Kay Ellis and Madelyn Enlow, and History faculty members, Steve Wagner and Megan Bever, presented at the Missouri Conference on History in Springfield (March 2023). Kay Ellis won the award for best student paper for her interpretation of Eisenhower's handling of the McCarthy hearings.



### Law Enforcement Academy

The Law Enforcement Academy had 25 spring graduates, and 100% of those passed the POST exam on the first attempt.





## TEDxMSSU

Two Missouri Southern faculty members were chosen to present at the TEDxMSSU event on May 4th. **Dr. David Locher**, Professor of Sociology and former Faculty Senate President is an author of a textbook on collective behavior and a winner of two outstanding teaching awards. **Dr. Christine Bentley**, Professor of Art and Gallery Director is currently doing research on the relationship between art and medicine and preservation challenges within small university collections. Both Missouri Southern faculty joined 10 other speakers in Missouri Southern's first TEDx event.

## CBCT

The Plaster School of Business received notification from ACBSP that it has received reaffirmation of accreditation, which is effective until 2033.

## Global Leaders

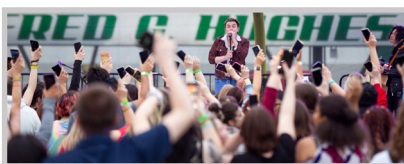
In 2022-23, Global Leaders were active and engaged on campus and off. The group had six site visits to area corporations and non-profits, participated and/or helped organize eight service projects with various nonprofits, and hosted 12 featured speakers' events on campus – with seven of those being MSSU alum and two featured speaker events. Through the Program, twelve students studied abroad, six students received internships, and two Global Leaders were selected to participate in the Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum.

## Project Stay

Project Stay is a federally-funded TRIO program with a mission to provide comprehensive resources for students as they complete their bachelor's degrees and transition to graduate school and professional life.

Project Stay by the Numbers:

Goal/Expectation	Goal/Approved Rate	Actual Rate
Students in the Program	175	178 served
Students in Good academic standing	88%	99%
Persistence fall to fall	65%	94%
Bachelor's Degree	36%	63%



## Student Activities + CAB

Student Activities and the Campus Activities Board hosted the MOSO 2000's Concert at Fred G. Hughes Stadium with Jesse McCartney as the main act. Over 1,200 individuals attended.

## Joplin Metro Corporate Challenge

MSSU was named the Presenting Sponsor of the Joplin Metro Corporate Challenge. Also, we are doing quite well in the early stages of the event, taking home the maximum points for the Walking Event, winning the Womens Doubles in Pickleball and winning both Men's and Women's Cornhole event.



# LINDA EIS

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

### STRATEGIC EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ANALYSIS (SERRA)



We began the project in fall 2022 by engaging CBIZ to conduct a compensation market analysis of our employees. The next few months were spent providing information to CBIZ and time for their subsequent analysis. In April, we received the CBIZ report and provided the information to campus. We reaffirmed that the information is one data point/one tool that would be used to inform the strategic employee recruitment and retention analysis (SERRA). Implementation of decisions made will be a multi-year process beginning with the fiscal year 2024 budget and based on the availability of budget funding.

### BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2024

The fiscal year 2024 budget was reviewed with the Board Budget Audit Committee. The Board will be asked to formally approve the budget at the Board meeting. The budget reflects tuition rate increases, changes in enrolled credit hours, incorporates the anticipated base appropriation allocation as well as compensation, MOSERS retirement increase, additional utility expense and other expenditure costs or savings.

### AUDIT FISCAL YEAR 2023



We are in the final month of fiscal year 2023 and audit preparation is moving along at a fast pace as we prepare for the annual external audit. FORVIS (formerly BKD) will be on site in late June to begin the compliance fieldwork that primarily centers around student financial aid and federal grants. In addition, they will begin the walkthrough of finance processes. The auditors will return to campus again for two weeks in August for additional fieldwork that focuses on the university's fiscal year financial transactions. The actual audit data gathering, fieldwork, writing the narrative, producing the financials and supporting tables will encompass the next five to six months with the results expected to be presented at the November 2023 Board meeting.

## INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The insurance committee did a tremendous amount of work last year to review proposals and to transition us to a new carrier in January 2023. This year, their work includes reviewing claims data, rates, trends, plan design, etc. in order to set rates for calendar year 2024.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Presentation of the financial statements for the period ending May 31, 2023.

Lions **Forward**. Lions **Together**.



# DR. SHELLIE HEWITT

DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECRUITMENT INITIATIVES



Missouri Southern is making great strides with international recruitment. For the upcoming fall 2023 semester we have received more than 750 international student applications from 49 different countries. Currently the top six countries include Nepal, Nigeria, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Ghana, and Ethiopia.

Recruitment initiatives contributing to the 177% increase in applications include the creation of several freshman and transfer scholarships. Additionally, Missouri Southern has increased partnerships with local community colleges and several organizations across the globe to grow our international student population.

We are looking forward to having many new degree-seeking international students on campus this fall.

## NEW STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT

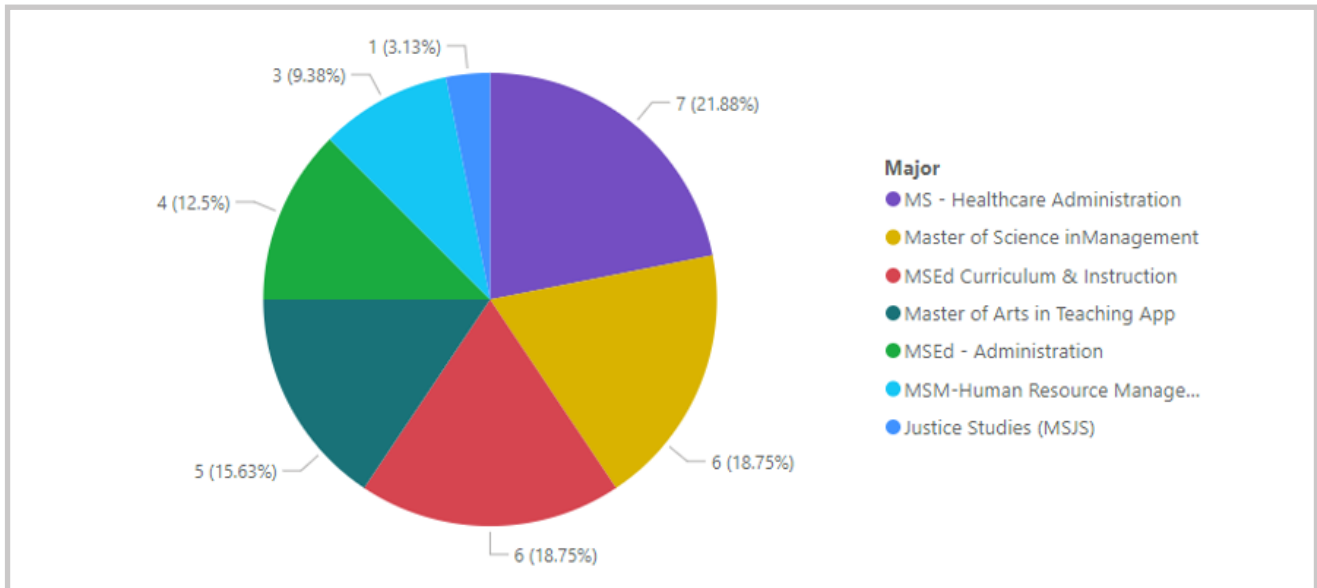
This year, staff from Financial Aid, Student Success, Global Leaders, and the Bursar Office assisted Admissions with recruitment events at the local high schools including lunch visits, classroom visits, academic signings, College 101 sessions, and high school fairs. Their efforts helped Missouri Southern increase our presence in the schools and contributed to the Lions Together culture we are growing here at MSSU.



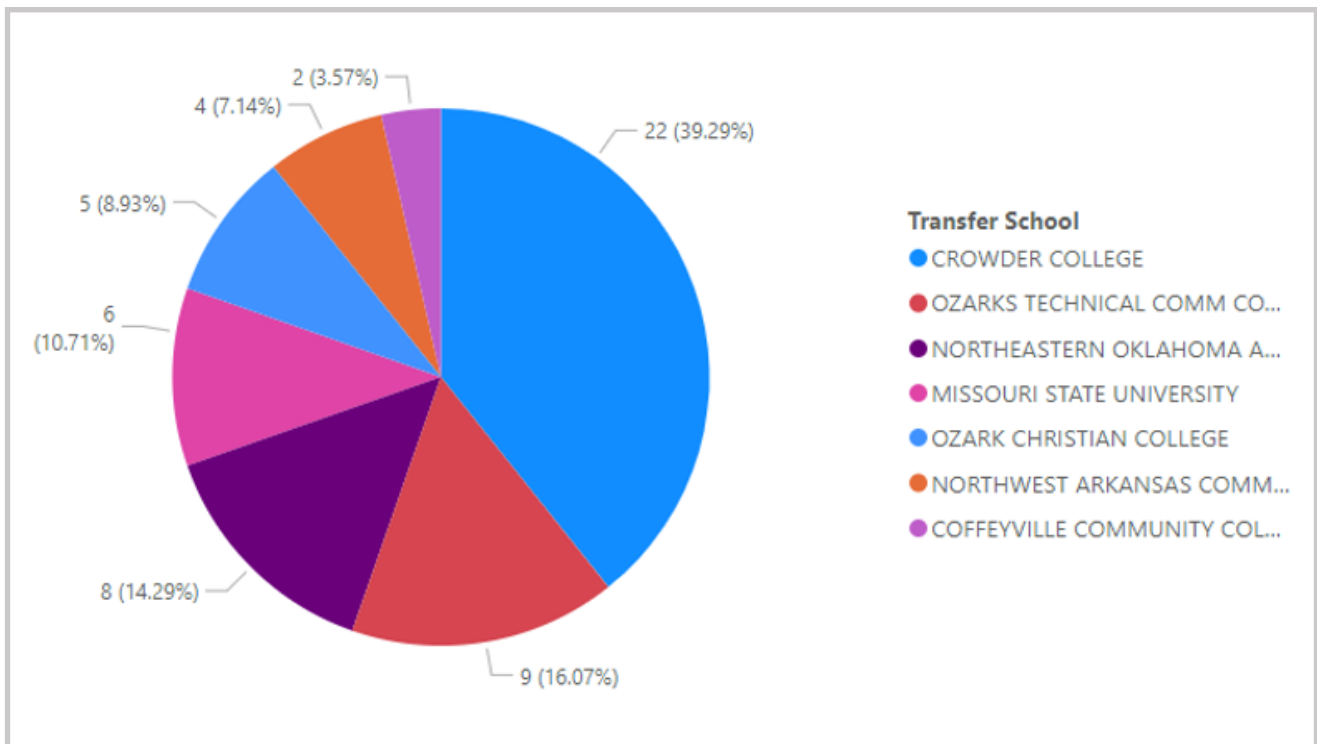
Additionally, staff and faculty visited 11 high schools over the past several weeks welcoming our new Lions and helping them create their course schedules for the upcoming year. These students were excited to be able to get enrolled early and were grateful Missouri Southern came to their school.

## FALL NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Currently, new graduate student enrollment is up considerably. The breakdown by major is below:



Furthermore, new transfer student enrollment is on the rise. One key factor contributing to increased enrollment is the new transfer scholarship model that has been implemented for the fall semester. Below are the top transfer institutions where our students come from.





# ROB MALLORY

## DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

### SPRING SPORTS SUCCESS



It has been a fantastic spring for Lion Athletics!

The **Men's Golf** team captured both the MIAA regular season and tournament championships at Silo Ridge Golf Course in Bolivar. Trae McCrae was named MIAA Golfer of the Year. The team advanced to the NCAA Regional in Winona, MN where they finished 18th. The women's golf team hosted the MIAA tournament championship at Eagle Creek Golf Course in Loma Linda and finished a program-best 5th place.



The **Softball** team ended a successful season with a record of 41-15, finishing second in both the MIAA regular season and tournament championship. The team qualified for the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2001, and as the #2 seed in the Central Region hosted an NCAA Regional for the first time since 1993. The Lions were ranked as high as 13th in the national polls during the season.



The **Baseball** team also finished second in both the MIAA regular season and tournament championship. After ranking as high as 4th in the national polls, the Lions earned the #2 seed in the Central Region and earned the opportunity to host an NCAA Regional. The Lions enter the Regional with a record of 42-15.



The **Outdoor Track & Field** teams finished 2nd (men) and 5th (women) in the MIAA Championship Meet. The Lions earned 14 All-MIAA honors and took home 6 MIAA individual titles. 15 student-athletes qualified in 18 events for the NCAA Outdoor National Championship meet, which took place May 25-27 in Pueblo, CO.

## LIONS 3RD IN MIAA COMMISSIONERS CUP



Missouri Southern finished third in the MIAA Commissioners Cup, the highest ever finish for the department in a year in which all sports seasons were completed. Schools earn points based on their regular season finish in the MIAA standings. Each institution's grand point total is then divided by the number of sports the school sponsors in order to attain an average overall finish. Missouri Southern won conference championships in **Men's Cross Country** and **Men's Golf**, as well as runner-up finishes in **Men's Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field**, **Baseball**, and **Softball**. That gave the Lions an average of 10.4 points earned per season, missing out on second place by just 0.2 points to Northwest Missouri St.

## LIONS EXCEL IN THE CLASSROOM

The spring semester was another strong academic performance for MSSU student-athletes, as they collectively earned a 3.14 GPA. That makes the overall athletic department GPA a 3.21, marking the 10th consecutive semester the department GPA has been above a 3.0.

132 student-athletes earned a 3.5 GPA or better for the spring, while 63 finished with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Leading the way in the classroom for the Spring 2023 term were **Women's Golf** (3.77), **Soccer** (3.68), **Women's Basketball** (3.64), **Men's Golf** (3.59), and **Women's Cross Country/Track & Field** (3.52).

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

MSSU student-athletes finished the 2022-23 academic year with 5,239 hours of community service and an 82% participation rate. The top 5 programs in service hours were:

1. **Soccer:** 1,011 hours
2. **Football:** 937 hours
3. **Women's Track & Field:** 793 hours
4. **Men's Track & Field:** 746 hours
5. **Softball:** 623 hours

After finishing fifth in Division 2 during the fall semester's NCAA Teamworks Challenge, Missouri Southern ended the academic year seventh overall in Division 2. Seven programs ended the year in the top ten nationally for their sport.

## STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDS BANQUET



On Monday, May 9th the athletic department celebrated the accomplishments of the year at the annual Student-Athlete awards banquet. After dinner in Young Gymnasium, student-athletes, coaches, and staff made their way to Leggett & Platt Athletic Center for the awards ceremony.

The awards format was changed this year from each team giving out specific awards to incorporate more department-wide recognition. Major award winners from the event can be found below.

- Female Newcomer of the Year: **Keilee Johnson** (Outdoor Track & Field)
- Male Newcomer of the Year: **Kyle Moore** (Baseball)
- SAAC Mentor of the Year: **Cori Reid** (Associate AD – Internal Operations)
- Community Service Award: **Maya Greenquist** (Soccer)
- Scholar-Athlete of the Year: **JP Rutledge** (Cross Country/Track & Field)
- Female Athlete of the Year: **Kiara Smith** (Track & Field)
- Male Athlete of the Year: **Peyton Barton** (Track & Field)
- Career Achievement Award: **Matt Miller** (Baseball)
- E.O. and Virginia Humphrey Award: **Josie Tofpi** (Softball)



Keilee Johnson



Kyle Moore



Cori Reid



Maya Greenquist



JP Rutledge



Kiara Smith



Peyton Barton



Matt Miller



Josie Tofpi