

MISSOURI SOUTHERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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MAR. 17, 2021 | REPORT





# DR. DEAN VAN GALEN

PRESIDENT

## GRATITUDE FOR OUTSTANDING FACULTY AND STAFF

There are many ways MSSU faculty and staff go “above and beyond” to support our students and connect with our community. Here are a few recent examples:



- Grant applications prepared by Becky Harshaw, a clinical instructor with the Dental Hygiene Department, have resulted in two major grants that will benefit our students and the oral health of area children and senior citizens.

The first of the two grants from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is for \$84,477 to help create a telendistry program – a mobile unit with chairs and X-ray units allowing our students to conduct sealant screenings and consult with a supervising dentist who can approve the sealants. The second grant is for \$94,992, which will go toward serving nursing home residents and area children.



- Dr. Bill Fischer, assistant professor of history, has been hard at work coordinating a virtual version of Missouri Southern’s annual History Day event. He jokes that History Day 2021 has turned into History Month.

This year, we have entries from 140 students from five area school districts – including two private schools – competing in the event with a theme of “Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.” Entries are currently being judged, with winners to be announced the week of March 15.

Both of these subjects are covered in recent podcasts which can be found at [mssu.edu/lions-together](https://mssu.edu/lions-together).

Friday, March 5, was national Employee Appreciation Day, and at Missouri Southern the President’s Cabinet personally thanked faculty and staff who stopped by the Biemdiek Recreation Center or Young Gym to pick up a MSSU-branded T-shirt (more than 360 have been distributed).

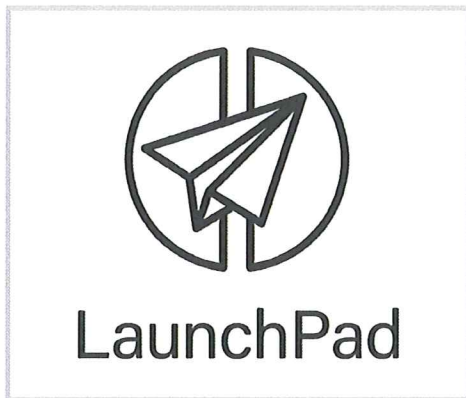
Great people are essential to building and sustaining great universities. Missouri Southern is fortunate to have so many outstanding, mission-centered faculty and staff.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As previously shared with the Board of Governors, MSSU priorities for the 2021 legislative session include an increase in core funding focused on STEM and related health science programs and a request for \$2.5 million to repair and reopen the Taylor Performing Arts Center (TPAC).

Since the January board meeting, numerous discussions have taken place with legislators both in Jefferson City and in their home districts. In late January, I delivered testimony on behalf of Missouri Southern to the House Subcommittee on Appropriations – Education.

## VISION FOR PROJECT LAUNCHPAD AND THE MSSU DOWNTOWN CENTER



The university has been working collaboratively with the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce (JACC), the City of Joplin and leadership of Joplin area school districts to develop an exciting vision for an innovative reuse of the former downtown Joplin Public Library building. Project LaunchPad has several components that include three culinary venues with indoor and outdoor seating, an entrepreneurial hub and economic development hub, and a remote/coworking resource center. On February 22, I joined Toby Teeter (President of the JAAC) and Dr. Melinda Moss (Superintendent of Joplin Schools) in presenting the

concept to the Joplin City Council. As proposed to the city, there would be a major renovation of the facility, with opening no earlier than spring of 2023.

The university would establish a Missouri Southern Downtown Center within the facility. The university's presence would include reception and welcome space that would serve as a new "front door" for Missouri Southern, providing information and access to university programs for prospective students and the community. The university would have three additional initiatives as part of Launchpad:

- The Small Business Development Center, currently located in Plaster Hall on our main campus, would be moved to the LaunchPad facility. This would increase the visibility and accessibility of the SBDC, and enable collaboration with other co-located economic and community development entities.
- Establish a Missouri Southern Downtown Internship Hub to increase the number and quality of internship opportunities for Missouri Southern students, especially with downtown Joplin businesses and non-profits. High-quality internships provide students a chance to "test drive" career options and provide employers with a pipeline of talent.

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- CAPS—the Center for Advanced Professional Studies. CAPS is a national model for connecting school districts, higher education and industry. In the CAPS program, high-school juniors and seniors would devote half of their school day to CAPS courses, working on projects at Joplin area business, industry and non-profit locations. Participating high-school students from Joplin, Webb City and Carl Junction (to begin with) would solve real-world problems and be mentored by Joplin area employers. The university would facilitate the program, and provide dual credit opportunities as appropriate.

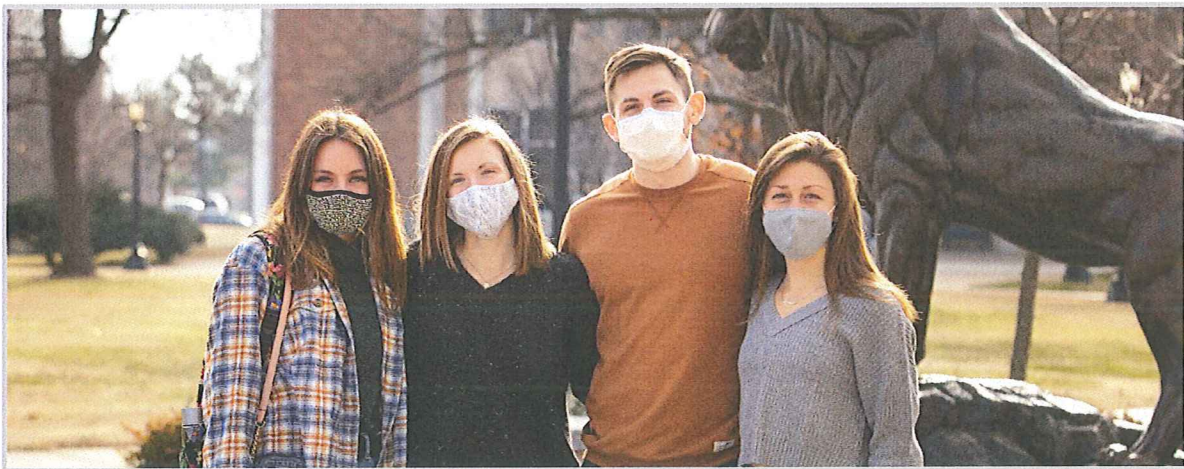
**"For our own success to be real, it must contribute to the success of others."**

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

## DR. BRAD HODSON

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

### VIRTUAL TOURS



With the changes in travel patterns due to COVID, requests for in-person campus tours are down. Therefore, Missouri Southern has significantly enhanced its virtual tour presence online by partnering with YouVisit.

Providing a campus tour, even a highly-interactive online/virtual tour, can often be the tipping point for a prospective student to apply for admission. In fact, data shows that prospects who engage in campus tours apply at a 73% higher rate than those who do not. YouVisit allows prospective students to immerse themselves in Missouri Southern's campus from the comfort of their tablet or mobile device.

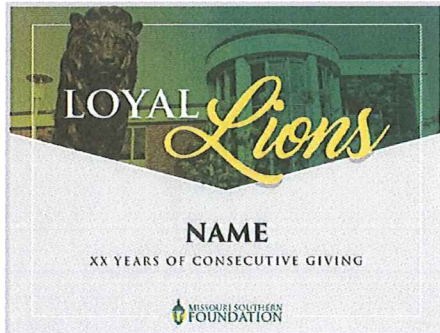
## ALUMNI NOTES

A partnership with the Office of Alumni Relations began in January that engages alumni in different geographic regions in the student recruitment process. Alumni volunteers are writing notes to students who have been admitted but have not yet enrolled, encouraging them to complete the process and become an MSSU Lion this fall.

## FUNDRAISING INCOME

More than 300 “break boxes” were delivered in December to MSSU alumni who are front-line healthcare workers at five local hospitals: Cox Health-Barton County (Lamar), Cox Health-Monett, Freeman Health System, Mercy-Carthage and Mercy-Joplin. Staff in Alumni Relations heard from healthcare alumni that because of the pandemic, they sometimes don’t have time for a break. The “break boxes” included a bag of chips, holiday candy, a big cookie, package of nuts, granola bar, a bottle of water, along with a note of support and some MSSU-branded items.

## LOYAL LIONS



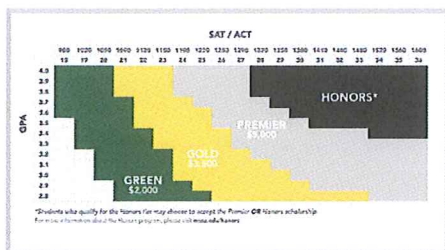
Personalized certificates were mailed to donors who have contributed to the Missouri Southern Foundation for three or more consecutive years. Five hundred and thirty-two (532) certificates were mailed in late February to Loyal Lions as a token of the Foundation’s appreciation. The average number of years of consecutive giving for 2021’s Loyal Lions was 8.28 years.

## HANOVER STUDY

Missouri Southern recently completed a study with Hanover Research, a national firm focused on helping universities analyze business problems and find best practice solutions. Launched in September, the Hanover study surveyed students who applied to Missouri Southern over the last three years, both those who ended up enrolling at MSSU and those who enrolled elsewhere. Based on their analysis of the data, Hanover had three recommendations. They were:

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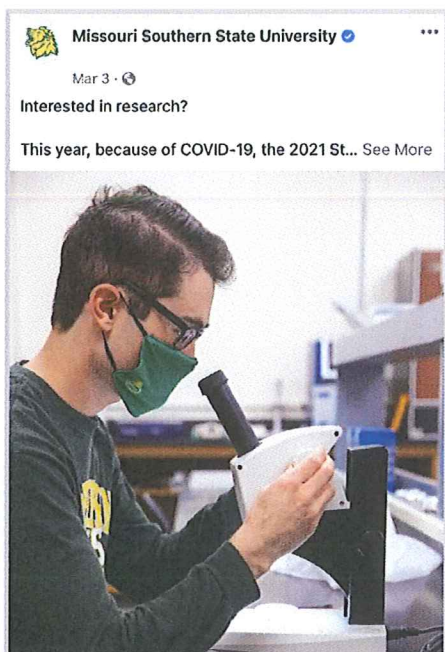


**1. Extend more competitive financial aid packages** – Many students enrolled elsewhere because of better financial aid offerings. This issue has been addressed when Missouri Southern recently expanded its institutional aid, known as MOSO Merit.

**2. Highlight program specific information to prospective students** – Both students who eventually enrolled and those who did not expressed an interest in hearing more about Southern's faculty, facilities, academic programs and campus life.

**3. Expand social media outreach** – While we knew today's prospective students had an insatiable appetite for social media, we heard it loud and clear from Hanover. Students want to hear more digitally about our great faculty, facilities, academic programs and campus life.

While the creation of MOSO Merit in November, addressed recommendation #1, staff in University Relations & Marketing have already begun to expand the information pushed out to prospective students, across both traditional and digital platforms, regarding the institution's programs and campus life.



## DR. PAULA CARSON

### VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

#### EARTH DAY

In celebration of 2021 Earth Day, the Environmental Health and Safety Program/Biology and EH&S Club are planning to host a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle-themed art/poster/product competition for area middle- and high-school students on April 15th. Additionally, we are organizing a campus trash pick-up on April 22nd (Earth Day). We are targeting the following locations on campus: the prairie, the cross-country course, and the riparian area of Turkey Creek. There will be the possibility of prizes (cash, gift cards, shirts, etc.) for participants in both events. We are really looking forward to being able to host these events as outreach to our community.

## 20-21 DUAL CREDIT UPDATES

During the 2020-21 academic year, Dual Credit partnered with 5 new schools and have 2 new schools that we have begun working with that will join us in the 21-22 academic year. We welcomed 6 new high-school instructors during the 20-21 and have 3 new high-school instructors set to join us in the new year. Spring 2021 students enrolled in 1.2% more credit hours than in 2020. The On the Move initiative, waiving up to 6 hours of concurrent enrollment tuition for students who are eligible for free/reduced lunch, has been available to students for 5 semesters, including summer. A total of 182 students have taken advantage of this initiative. Our newest program set to launch this summer, Get Ahead Together, will provide an accelerated concurrent enrollment summer experience to students. We will be creating a cohort of concurrent enrollment students who will take a designated group of courses together over the next 3 summers.

## RUN WITH THE PRIDE



The seventh annual "Run with the Pride 5k" will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 25, on the Missouri Southern campus. This run provides first-hand experience in coordinating an event for the KINE 395 practicum class. The goal of the event is to promote a healthy and active lifestyle by providing an opportunity for the MSSU community to participate in a race designed for all levels of runners and walkers. We honor Lori Pflug with this event. Lori majored in physical education and minored in athletic training at MSSU. After completing graduate studies, she became a nationally certified athletic trainer and had a successful athletic training career. She was hired by St. John's Hospital (which is now Mercy Hospital) and was the first athletic trainer employed by St. John's to develop their high-school outreach program. While working at St. John's, she was suddenly diagnosed with cancer and passed away unexpectedly a year after she was hired. Missouri Southern has set up the Lori Pflug Memorial Endowed Scholarship fund in her honor in partnership with Mercy Sports Medicine and each year a worthy student is chosen to receive that scholarship. The race helps to raise funds to help support students within the Kinesiology Department.





BETTER FIRE SERVICES THROUGH BETTER FIRE EDUCATION

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

### Tremendous Job Growth

Employment of firefighters is projected to grow 5% from 2018 to 2028



The Fire Service profession is ever changing. As the field advances through research and technology, practitioners must reexamine practices and redefine new ways to administer emergency services.

State of the art Fire Training Center located at Joplin Fire Department's Public Safety Training Facility.



## CERTIFICATES

### FIRE I/II

Escaping Violent Encounters  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Fire Fighter I  
Fire Fighter II

### AEMT

Advanced Emergency Medical Technician  
Essential Anatomy & Physiology

### PARAMEDIC

3 Semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer)



### START YOUR CAREER TODAY!

#### Ted Lee

Director / Associate Professor  
Emergency Medical Services  
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#### Erin Taber

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Emergency Medical Services  
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# DR. JULIE WENGERT

INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

## HEERF II – STUDENT GRANT FUNDS

MSSU received \$2,378,137 in HEERF II student grant funds. This is the second installment of student grants provided by the federal government during the global pandemic. In order to qualify for these funds, students must be a U.S citizen or national, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen; have a 2020-21 FAFSA on file with valid EFC (Expected Family Contribution) before June 30th; be enrolled during Spring 2021 semester as of March 2nd; and be a degree-seeking student enrolled in a certificate, associates, bachelor's or master's program.

MSSU is awarding "block grants" to students, with \$800 going to students with an EFC of 0-12000 and \$450 to students with an EFC >12000. We are prioritizing students with exceptional need by awarding them in the first distribution round. Students may use the HEERF II grant funds for any component of their cost of attendance or for emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus such as tuition, food, housing, health care (including mental health care), or childcare.

## DRESS TO IMPRESS, CAREER SERVICES



Career Services hosted their 7th annual Dress to Impress event in the Billingsly Student Center on March 3 – 5th. More than 320 individual students were served and 114 individual volunteers between the community and campus helped facilitate the event effectively. We are thankful for the strong partnership between the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce and Missouri Southern State University in equipping MSSU students with professional clothing.

## GLOBAL LEADERS



We are both proud and excited to welcome Mr. Ryan Orcutt as the Director of the newly established Global Leaders program. Mr. Orcutt joins us from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, where he has a multitude of responsibilities

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including the oversight of academic advising, testing services, transfer guidance, adult degree completion, student discipline and more. In 2019, he also served as the Centennial Chair and Director of Fundraising. He has earned an Associate of Arts in Music, a Bachelor of Arts in Music/Multicultural Studies, TESOL Certification, and a Master of Education. He is also very involved in the Miami, Okla., community. He will begin employment with us on April 1st.

Student applications for the Global Leaders program are due by April 1, 2021. Prospective students have been asked to submit a 2-3 minute video on the topic: What do you believe are the five most important characteristics of an effective leader during times of uncertainty, such as a global pandemic? At least 50 students will be selected for the program, which begins Fall 2021.

## **STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER TUTORING CERTIFICATION**

The Student Success Center has been approved for Stage Three, Level I certification of the International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC) through the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA). Certification is valid through Feb. 8, 2026. Five years is the maximum time a program can go without review. Reviewers found no concerns and noted that the "program exceeds the minimum number of topics for level 1." CRLA's website states that "CRLA's International Tutor Training Program Certification is proud to serve as a benchmark and standard for excellent tutor training programs around the globe. With over 1,200 certified programs, and a long history of recognizing learning assistance programs who improve the quality of tutoring as a profession, we welcome any program who meets our criteria to apply for certification and recognition."

## **ROB YUST**

VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS

## **RESIDENCE HALL**

The roof is complete on all sections. The HVAC and main water line connections are complete. Section C has all the walls complete up to the fourth floor. The glass storefronts have been installed on section B. The sheetrock is being installed on sections A and B. The residence hall will be an approximate 92,000-square-foot, four-story facility which will house approximately 300 students and is scheduled to be complete in summer 2021 with occupancy that fall.



## TRAIL PROJECT WITH CITY OF JOPLIN

We are waiting on the conveyance of property from the city to MSSU. We will install a piece of fitness equipment, purchased from wellness funds, when we are comfortable that driving a cement truck in the field would not create large ruts in the ground next to the trail. We are still planning a formal ribbon cutting in the upcoming months.

## HEERF II

- The Financial Aid office, in collaboration with the President's Cabinet, landed on an allocation method for distribution of the \$2.4M HEERF II funds allocated for students.
- The Department of Education has yet to provide guidance on what the Institutional portion of the HEERF II funds can be used for. We are still hopeful that we can offset lost revenue.

# CORI REID

INTERIM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

## MISSOURI SOUTHERN IN FIRST AFTER WINTER SPORTS MIAA COMMISSIONER'S CUP

The 2021 MIAA Commissioners Cup has had a standings update following the 2021 winter sports competitions and the Missouri Southern Athletic Department is in the lead.

The Commissioner's Cup is an all-sports award presented at the end of each academic year to the league's top performing school in conference play and is based on a point system, reflecting the finish of each team in conference play. The number of points awarded per sport is based on the number of schools that participate in that particular sport. Each institution's grand point total is then divided by the athletic programs it sponsors, giving an overall average finish for the school.

Southern finished fifth in the final standings last year and after a strong winter season that included the indoor track and field teams finishing in second place at the MIAA Championships, the Lions are atop the standings after the winter sports seasons.

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The complete standings are below.

### 2021 Standings

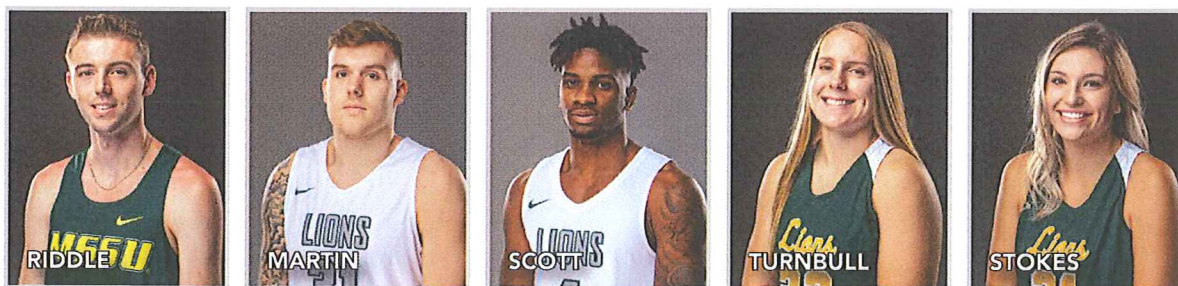
1. Missouri Southern – 11.1	5. Fort Hays State – 10.0	9. Lincoln – 7.1
2. Northwest Missouri – 10.8	6. Nebraska Kearney – 7.9	10. Emporia State – 6.5
T3. Central Missouri – 10.4	7. Washburn – 7.8	11. Missouri Western – 5.9
T3. Pittsburg State – 10.4	8. Central Oklahoma – 7.7	12. Northeastern State – 3.0

### WINTER SPORTS CONCLUDING

The track and field program sent 13 student-athletes to the NCAA Division II Indoor National Championships over March 11-13. The men are ranked 10th nationally and the women are ranked 11th. In addition, Ryan Riddle was named the Central Region Track Athlete of the Year.

The men's and women's basketball team completed their season by competing in the MIAA Tournament. Cam Martin was a unanimous first-team All-MIAA pick. Stan Scott also earned All-MIAA honors.

Carly Turnbull and Madi Stokes were also named All-MIAA.



### SPRING SEASON BEGINS

Baseball is up to No. 4 in the National Poll with 11-1 overall and 5-1 in the MIAA, leading the league standings. Will Bausinger became the MSSU All-Time Strikeout Leader last week. MSSU will host the 2021 MIAA Baseball Tournament at Warren Turner Field on May 20-23, 2021.

Football has opened up spring practice and will play at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at Southern Nazarene.

Softball is 6-6 overall and 1-3 in MIAA play. The Lions sit in fifth place in the MIAA standings.

Both golf programs have opened up the spring season. The men will host the 2021 MIAA Championships at Shangri-La Country Club in April.