

# MOSO CAPS Insights



Issue #13 Fall 2025

## A Message From Your MOSO CAPS Director

We welcomed the 4<sup>th</sup> Class of MOSO CAPS students in August. This year we have a total of 83 Student Associates. Health Sciences has 53 students as it continues to be the fastest growing Strand that created a need for two Health Sciences Strand Coordinators. Look for the article about our two new team members in this newsletter.



Keeping in touch with our alumni is something we cherish. Over the past several months, we have had the opportunity to see and/or hear from so many of our alumni. Whether it is a text message, seeing them on campus, on social media, or in person – keeping these CAPS connections are both meaningful and an important validation of the “Why” of our program. Most recently, I had the opportunity for a quick photo with alumnus,



Dan Hodson. Dan is in his second year of college at the University of Missouri majoring in accounting. He spent this past summer in Washington, D.C. as an intern for a Missouri Congressman. Dan is one of many alums that points to the CAPS experience as a catalyst to securing scholarships, internships, and having a clear vision to a career path. We are so

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Morning MOSO CAPS Student Associates

Introducing the 2025-26 Cohort of  
**MOSO CAPS**  
**Student Associates**  
*(Eighty-three and Growing!)*



Afternoon MOSO CAPS Student Associates



# Meet our MOSO CAPS 2nd Year Ambassadors

Thirteen students returned as 2nd-year MOSO CAPS Ambassadors for this year. These young professionals are mentors within their strands, help lead discussions in group settings, and participate in extended Industry Partner placements during the fall semester. Following is an introduction of each 2026 Student Ambassador.



**Addie Adkins**, Health Sciences Strand, is continuing to explore a future in pediatric therapy, gaining experience in both hospital and private practice environments.



**Madeline Barchak**, Health Sciences Strand, is interested in becoming a surgeon or anesthesiologist and is spending this year enhancing her medical skills and network.



**Austin Dye**, Business Strand, continues to explore a future in journalism, adding sports play-by-play and athletic media relations experience to his resume.



**Addie Eaker**, Business Strand, is focusing on her future as a civil engineer, expanding her experiences and network to include construction management and planning.



**Carly Friel**, Health Sciences Strand, wants to become a nurse and is spending this year enhancing her medical skills and increasing her professional network.



**Lana Ghoneim**, Health Sciences Strand, returned eager to add to her medical and patient care experiences, helping reach her career goal of becoming a pediatrician.



**Jenna Golden**, Human Services Strand, explored careers in law and law enforcement before discovering her passion for fire science, which is her focus this year.



**Hailey Hunter**, Health Sciences Strand, continues to explore a future in dentistry, adding experiences in orthodontic care and dental implant procedures.



**Shelby Karr**, Health Sciences Strand, is spending this year expanding her experiences to include trauma care while building her network and professional capital.



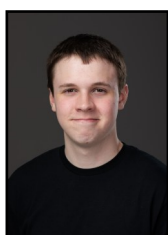
**Alyssa Moreno**, Health Sciences Strand, will be spending most of her year in intensive care units as she continues to explore becoming a flight nurse.



**Alex Schneickert**, Health Sciences Strand, continues to gain valuable experiences in the dental field and is using this year to enhance his core clinical skills.



**Evie Weibel**, Human Services Strand, is taking the opportunity to explore nursing after looking at careers in psychiatry and mortuary science last year.



**Brody Wilkins**, Human Services Strand, looked at careers in law, law enforcement, and physical education and plans to explore computer programming to help identify his passion.

Be sure to follow MOSO CAPS social pages and catch our MOSO CAPS Senior Shout Out series next spring featuring program highlights and quotes from each of our graduating Seniors!

## A Message (continued)

proud of each of our alums and are always excited to see them! We are excited to host our first Cocoa and Cookies with CAPS in January to connect our current students with CAPS alumni. Please look for more information about this event in the coming weeks. We would love for MOSO CAPS graduates to stop by, say "Hello", and warm up with some cocoa and cookies.

MOSO CAPS Science to Jobs (S2J) Summer Academies hosted 149 high school and middle school students on the MSSU campus the first two weeks of June 2025. Mrs. Kwolek and the faculty and staff at MSSU worked collaboratively to ensure students had a plethora of engaging science-related opportunities. This year we will pivot and focus only on middle school age students currently in grades 5-7. More information will be available in the coming months. Our partnership with the Missouri Biotechnology Association in Jefferson City also participates in the academies. They offer FREE student-centered opportunities to school districts across the State of Missouri. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

In closing, I want to thank our industry partners and corporate sponsors. Our students would not have the opportunity to participate in MOSO CAPS without your support. As we continue to grow (we expect to hit our cap of 90 students during the 2026-27 academic year and are looking for ways to expand to at least 100 students if not more) developing the future workforce for the industry partner pipeline is critical to help supply those areas of the workforce that are in crisis due to a shortage of applicants in the Joplin metro area.

The MOSO CAPS team is proud to be a part of a growing program that allows students to test drive careers with our incredible industry partners and help shape the next generation of professionals. Thank you for your continued support and sharing our story with others!

# A CAPSPrep Recap

*Five weeks of fun, fast-paced professional learning!*

Each fall, the MOSO CAPS program kicks-off with a five-week CAPSPrep professional learning course for first-year Student Associates that starts with a handshake and campus tour, and ends with student career presentations and a well deserved CAPSPrep mini-celebration.

As part of their responsibilities, second-year Student Associates—also known as MOSO CAPS Ambassadors—participated in the first three weeks of CAPSPrep, where they led a variety of activities before beginning their fall internships with Industry Partners.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from August 18 thru September 19, first-year Associates met to explore and expand their professional skills. During the fourteen 2.5 hour CAPSPrep sessions, students:

- Discussed and set class norms
- Wrote and practiced their 30-second elevator pitches
- Attended MSSU's Community Day and networked with dozens of participants
- Went on a behind-the-scenes tour of MOSO CAPS Corporate Sponsor Mercy Hospital and learned about the medical provider's services and the cutting-



ABOVE: After learning about the power of networking, afternoon students took the opportunity to snap a photo with guest speaker and MOSO CAPS supporter, Doug Hunt.

RIGHT: During CAPSPrep students learn every day is an interview, which makes practicing interviewing skills a necessity, especially on sunny days!

edge technology that went into the design of the facility

- Learned about resume writing techniques and created professional resumes, then explored LinkedIn and how to use the social media platform to build their professional network with the help of Alex Gandy, Southern's Career Services Director
- Created professional email signatures
- Took professional headshots in the



University Relations & Marketing studio with Curtis Almeter, MSSU Multimedia Production Coordinator

- Gained insight about the resources available at the Spiva Library and how to conduct research with the guidance of Dr. James Capeci, Library Director
- Explored the power of networking and learned a few pro tips from Doug Hunt, previous Director of Entrepreneurship at the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce
- Reviewed and practiced interviewing skills by first discussing interviewing dos and don'ts, then pairing up to conduct mock interviews with peers
- Went on a facilities tour of MOSO CAPS Corporate Sponsor Liberty Utilities and learned about the safety measures the utility provider takes to protect personnel, property, and patrons of the utility company



ABOVE: Morning MOSO CAPS Student Associates paused for a group photo during their tour of Liberty Utilities where they learned about the utility company and their various career opportunities.

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## ReCAP (continued)

- Took the student version of the Clifton Strengths Assessment and learned about their top five strengths with StrengthsFinder Coach Dr. Lynn Coffey
- Completed a small group Design Sprint Challenge using random items each student brought to their group
- Learned about project management with staff members from OWN Engineering by completing interactive activities that included building challenges and hands-on exercises designed to simulate real-world engineering tasks



ABOVE: A group of morning students work on their client project during the project management session led by OWN Engineering.

- Participated in etiquette training hosted by the MOSO CAPS Leadership Team
- Participated in strand-specific activities including industry tours, orientation events, and Freeman Health System's mini-MASH Camp (see inset).

CAPSPrep helped ensure first-year MOSO CAPS Student Associates had the core competencies needed to succeed as they began their fall Industry Partner rotations on September 22nd. The prep also provided students the opportunity to form relationships with peers and their strand coordinators, enabling them to begin building social capital within their professional network.

## CAPSPREP SPECIAL FEATURE

# MASH Camp Was A Hit

During this year's CAPSPrep course, Freeman Health System hosted a mini-MASH camp for Health Sciences students.

Designed to provide high school students exposure to careers in the healthcare industry, MASH camp offered MOSO CAPS Student Associates the opportunity to learn proper surgical aseptic technique, operating room protocols, and the importance of maintaining a sterile field. Student Associates also practiced both their intubation and basic suturing skills while at the Freeman mini-MASH camp.



# Careers of Interest

When applying for the MOSO CAPS program, students are asked to identify a career of interest, or at least a career field they would like to explore. Following are the careers MOSO CAPS Student Associates are interested in pursuing and are currently learning about at their Industry Partner experiences.

Accountant  
Athletic/Personal Trainer  
Anesthetist/Anesthesiology  
Computer Programming/Coding  
Conservation Agent/Game Warden  
Crime Scene Investigator/Detective  
Dentist/Dental Hygienist/Orthodontist  
Dietician  
Engineer (Civil/Electrical/Robotics)  
Esthetician  
Finance/Investments  
Fire Science  
Forensic Toxicologist  
Gynecologist/OBGYN/Midwife  
Journalist/Sports Broadcaster  
Law Enforcement

Lawyer/Pre-Law  
Marine Biology  
Nurse/Neonatal Nurse/Pediatric Nurse  
Orthopedics  
Paramedic/Flight Paramedic  
Pediatrics/Pediatrician  
Physical/Occupational Therapist  
Physician/ER Physician  
Psychiatry  
Psychologist/Child Psychologist  
Radiology/Ultrasound Technician  
Real Estate/Property Development  
Social Worker  
Sports Medicine  
Surgeon/Neurosurgeon  
Veterinarian/Vet Technician



# Where Are They Placed?

MOSO CAPS Student Associates are gaining real-world experience from area professionals across a diverse array of careers! Check out these student photos at a few of our 180+ Industry Partner locations. Interested in becoming a MOSO CAPS Industry Partner? The MOSO CAPS Leadership Team is always looking to expand our network. Email [mosocaps@mssu.edu](mailto:mosocaps@mssu.edu) or call 417-625-9623.



LEFT: Allie, Human Services strand student, was happy to take a photo with her new friend during her rotation at the Ronald McDonald House of the 4-States where she learned “how the people at the RMH positively impact the community.”

BELOW: Business Strand Ambassador, Austin, spent his first placement with KGCS-TV interviewing, shooting footage, editing, and producing a variety of shows and segments for the station. He also helped announce a home MSSU football game.



BELOW: Human Services strand student, Halli, said her rotation with Mercy Behavioral Health was, “a pivotal experience that greatly enhanced my understanding of the mental health field and reaffirmed my commitment to a career in social work or therapy. By shadowing professionals and observing their interactions with patients, I gained very valuable insights into the complexities and rewards of working in behavioral health.”



ABOVE: Carly, a Health Sciences Strand Ambassador, shadowed the surgical team at Mercy Galena during her first fall rotation, gaining valuable experience for her future career in nursing.

LEFT: While exploring career opportunities with the Liberty Utilities engineering department, Jaylyn, a Business strand student associate, joined a tour of a Liberty wind farm. During the visit, Jaylyn had the rare opportunity to climb inside a replacement wind blade and observe its internal mechanics before final installation.



ABOVE: Diana, Business strand associate, was excited to explore the world of real estate and its various career pathways during her rotation with Realty ONE Group, leaving the 3-week experience with several connections to add to her professional network.



LEFT: Health Sciences strand associate, Rylan, started his fall experiences shadowing staff at SERC Physical Therapy in Webb City. Throughout the year, Rylan will explore careers in physical therapy, athletic and personal training, and those associated with a flight medic.

# MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS

The MOSO CAPS Leadership Team is excited to welcome two new educators to its ranks for the 2025 academic year. Mrs. Peyton Struble and Mrs. Megan Twarog, RRT, have joined the program as Health Sciences Strand Coordinators and Science To Jobs (S2J) Summer Academy Co-Directors, bringing a wealth of experience in education, healthcare, and student services.



Mrs. Struble holds a Bachelor of Science in Education with an emphasis in Family and Consumer Sciences Education from Pittsburg State University. Her career spans seven

years as a junior high teacher followed by a role in higher education as a financial aid counselor. Her passion for student development makes her a valuable asset to the MOSO CAPS team.



Mrs. Twarog earned her Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in Respiratory Care from Missouri Southern State University. She brings nearly a decade of healthcare experience, including

three years as a Registered Respiratory Therapist. Her clinical background and dedication to mentoring future healthcare professionals enrich the Health Sciences strand with real-world insight.

In their roles as Strand Coordinators, Mrs. Struble and Mrs. Twarog have been guiding students through career exploration. They focus on helping students

build durable skills, foster creative thinking, and cultivate relationships with peers and professionals. They have also helped expand the MOSO CAPS Industry Partner network, increasing placement opportunities in medical and dental settings for both fall and spring semesters.

As S2J Academy Co-Directors, the duo is working with committee members to design and host summer school academies for middle schools, offering hands-on activities that spark curiosity in science-related fields.

Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Struble and Mrs. Twarog to the MOSO CAPS Leadership Team!

## Special MOSO CAPS Alumni Event!

# COCOA & COOKIES

with MOSO CAPS



**Wednesday, January 7**

**8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.**

**MOSO CAPS Office (Plaster Hall)**

**We're whipping up something sweet—  
and we want YOU to be part of it!**

Swing by for an informal gathering filled with cozy vibes, delicious made-from-scratch cookies (courtesy of a talented MOSO CAPS baker!), and hot cocoa topped just the way you like it.

Reconnect with fellow CAPS alumni and staff, share where life has taken you since your time in the program, and relive some of those unforgettable CAPS memories.

Wherever your journey after CAPS has taken you—stop in, grab a treat, and catch up. **We can't wait to see you!**

No RSVP needed.

## Stay Connected with MOSO CAPS!

Follow us on **LinkedIn**, **Facebook**, and **Instagram** to catch program highlights, student spotlights, shout-outs, and behind-the-scenes moments.

From inspiring images to engaging videos, our social channels are the perfect way to see how professional-based learning is empowering students to lead with purpose.

*(Click to connect!)*





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# THANK YOU

## MOSO CAPS Industry Partners!

The MOSO CAPS program thrives thanks to the invaluable support of our Industry Partners. These experts in their fields offer guidance to student associates, helping them explore career options related to each student's identified career interest.

Each fall, first-year MOSO CAPS Student Associates rotate through four different Industry Partner locations. Second-year MOSO CAPS Ambassadors receive 1–3 placements, depending on their strand focus. **This fall over 300 Industry Partner placements were made.** Thank you to the following MOSO CAPS Industry Partners for providing these immersive, profession-based, learning experiences for our CAPS students!

Academy Animal Hospital  
Animal Clinic of the 4 States  
Access Family Care Dental  
Access Family Care Pediatrics  
Access Family Care Women's Health  
American Ramp Company  
Aspen Dental  
Baker Davis Roderique CPAs  
Cardinal Valley Habitat Restoration  
Project (Webb City)  
Carl Junction Primary School  
Carl Junction School Nurse Office  
Carthage Police Department  
City of Joplin, Planning, Development &  
Neighborhood Services  
City of Joplin Police Department  
City of Joplin Public Works  
Cornerstone Wealth Management  
Dirks Heavy Contractors  
Downtown Imaging  
Dyno Nobel  
The Essential Group  
Forrest Real Estate  
Freeman Anesthesia  
Freeman ECHO  
Freeman Emergency Department  
Freeman General Surgery  
Freeman Hospitalist  
Freeman ICU/NICU  
Freeman Mother/Baby  
Freeman Nursing (Ortho/Neuro)  
Freeman Operating Room  
Freeman Orthopedics  
Freeman Pediatrics  
Freeman Pharmacy  
Freeman Physical/Occupational Therapy  
Freeman Radiation Oncology

Freeman Radiology  
Freeman Respiratory Therapy  
Freeman Sports Medicine  
Freeman Social Services  
Freeman Wound Care  
Fyzical Therapy & Balance Centers  
Grand Falls Center for Recovery  
Hardy, Wrestler & Associates, CPAs  
Hiland Dairy  
KGCS-TV (MSSU)  
Jasper County Prosecutor's Office  
Jasper County Sheriff's Office  
Jasper County Treatment Court  
Joplin Humane Society  
Joplin NALA Read  
La Boussole  
Leggett & Platt  
Liberty Utilities  
Madison Pet Clinic  
Mason Woodard Funeral Home  
Mercy Behavioral Health  
Mercy Cardiac Surgery  
Mercy Care Management  
Mercy ECHO LAB  
Mercy Dietary  
Mercy Emergency Department  
Mercy Engineering  
Mercy Family Medicine  
Mercy General Surgery  
Mercy ICU/CVICU  
Mercy Neuro Surgery  
Mercy Operating Room  
Mercy Pediatrics/Pediatric Clinic  
Mercy Physical/Occupational Therapy  
Mercy Physical Therapy Galena  
Mercy Radiology  
Mercy Respiratory Therapy

Mercy Wound Care  
METS Ambulance Service  
MSSU Athletic Media Relations  
MSSU Athletic Training Department  
MSSU Ecotoxicology Lab  
MSSU Human Resources Department  
MSSU IT Department  
Neosho National Fish Hatchery  
Olsson Engineering  
OWN Engineering  
Ozark Center  
Realty ONE Group  
Ronald McDonald House of the 4-States  
SERC Joplin/Webb City  
Dr. Shah Office  
Southwest Missouri Bank  
Smith Pet Care  
Stevenson Law Office  
Stokes Robotics  
Trinity Circle Horses Healing Hearts  
Twin Oaks Custom Cabinets  
Tyler Green, Missouri Department of  
Conservation Agent, Jasper County  
Uncommon Orthodontics  
Unearth Potential  
Webb City Dental  
Webb City Fire Department  
Webb City Heritage Preschool Nurse  
Webb City Police Department  
Wildcat Glades Education Center

Interested in becoming a MOSO CAPS Industry Partner? The MOSO CAPS Leadership Team is always looking to expand our network! Give us a call at 417-625-9623 or email [mosocaps@mssu.edu](mailto:mosocaps@mssu.edu) to learn more.

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2025-26 CORPORATE SPONSORS

