

MOSO CAPS Insights



Issue #14 Winter 2026

A Message From Your MOSO CAPS Director

It is hard to believe that we are past the mid-point of the semester, but we are looking ahead to a strong finish to the 25-26 academic



year. Our students are incredible hard-working budding professionals. Their plates are full with many of them participating in extracurricular activities and working a part-time job. This year we will celebrate our Student Associates on Friday, May 8 at our year-end CAPS Celebration and we hope everyone can attend. Additional information will be shared in the coming weeks.

The application process for the 26-27 academic year is almost complete. Our program continues to grow. We will have approximately 98 students in the fall, which will be a great exclamation mark for Year 5! We will have several events celebrating the fifth year of the program.

Corporate Sponsorships are critical to the success of our program. Every sponsorship dollar goes to help offset the cost of a student's dual-enrollment coursework aligned to the program. Students are enrolled in a three-credit hour content course and a one-credit hour internship course each semester. The cost per credit hour is \$65 and even though \$260 per semester may not be a financial burden for some families, for others it could be a roadblock for their child to attend. Creating a level playing field is our priority, which is why the life-changing opportunities provided through the support of our Corporate Sponsors is detrimental and as our program continues to grow, so does our sponsorship needs. Please reach out if you would like to become a Corporate Sponsor or sponsor one or two students.

continued on page 2

The Industry Partner IMPACT

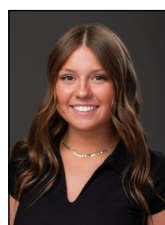
This semester, MOSO CAPS Student Associates are assigned to 5-, 7- or 15-week placements at Industry Partner locations, adding roughly 100 hours of profession-based learning to their resumes. Following are a few of the impact statements students have shared about their spring Industry Partner experiences.



"My rotation at Mercy OR has taught me how to network with a wide array of people. I've had to meet new people almost everyday and make conversation with them. It has also opened

my eyes to the careers in surgery and confirmed my interest in pursuing a career in that field." - *Kaedyn L., Health Sciences Strand*

"This rotation has greatly impacted my future career. I have really enjoyed this placement, and it has taught me a lot. I think I am enjoying this grade a lot more than I initially thought I would. I especially learned a lot about behavior management and I felt as though the teacher I was with was very good at teaching me, and handling the kids and the issues." - *Pressli C., Human Services Strand*



"My rotation experience at American Ramp Company is impacting my future by opening me up to the reality of the multiple opportunities in the field. Ameri-

can Ramp Company also provided me with an idea of the company culture I want to be a part of someday. I met a lot of amazing people that I could feel comfortable asking for advice in the future." - *Addie B., Business, Communication, and Technology Strand*

"Not only has this partnership [at the Carthage Police Department] given me great resources and connections, it has given me valuable experience that I will carry with me into any future career. I have learned what it truly looks like to enforce the law, serve the community, and protect people. In my job as a prosecutor I will value this experience when I remember the people I am working for are not just the victims but also the police officers who worked to put criminals in handcuffs." - *Abby M., Human Services Strand*



"During my rotation, I got to see many things including scanning pediatric patients, starting an IV and administering contrast. I loved everything I was able to see. Having this learning

opportunity has escalated my excitement about going into the radiology field. It will help me because I learned great bedside manner and how to accommodate for many different patients." - *Ella M., Health Sciences Strand*

MOSO CAPS ANNUAL Day of Giving

As a finale to the MOSO CAPS fall semester, student associates participate in a one-day “acts of service” project aimed at giving back to the Missouri Southern campus or an organization in the local community. This year students spent time at the Lion Cub Academy at Missouri Southern, helping clean their kitchen, indoor play area, multiple hallways and equipment spaces, and both outdoor playgrounds,



ABOVE: Morning student associates pose with staff from the Lion Cub Academy at Missouri Southern after spending the morning help clean the kitchen and indoor play areas of the facility.

RIGHT: Among the tasks completed by morning students were cleaning, sterilizing, and labeling the carts used by LCA teachers and staff to transport food and beverages to classrooms throughout the day.



ABOVE: Before heading outside to spruce-up the outdoor play areas, the afternoon student associates were all smiles with Lion Cub Academy Director, Nikki Tappana.



LEFT: The west outdoor area may not have many trees, but you would not have guessed it from the bags of leaves the students managed to collect! Pictured are students early in the sweeping and bagging process.

A Message (continued)

We also continue to be in awe of our incredible alumni! This year we hosted our first Cocoa and Cookies with CAPS event in early January welcoming back CAPS Alumni. We had a morning and afternoon alumni panel that met with our current CAPS Student Associates. Alums shared their CAPS journey, where they are now, and where they are headed in the future. It was fun listening to each of them respond to questions and the encouraging words they shared with our current students. Building a social network is key and the CAPS alumni will always be there for each other and those entering the next phase of their educational/career journey.

Please reach out if you have any questions about the program or would like to contribute as a Corporate Sponsor, Industry Partner, or as an Alumni. We appreciate the village we continue to build who supports the program in so many ways!

- FOURTH ANNUAL - Interviews & Expectations

Wednesday, April 8

~ TWO SESSIONS ~

8:30AM-10:30AM

& 12:30PM-2:30PM

MSSU Ballroom

MOSO CAPS and NEWcaps are joining efforts to host a 1-day mock interview event for our Student Associates!

If you're interested in volunteering to help build tomorrow's work force, sign-up to be a mock interviewer by clicking below!

[**SIGN-UP FORM**](#)



Where Are They Placed?

Every week from late January until early May, MOSO CAPS Student Associates are out in the community learning directly from industry experts. With more than 190 Industry Partners, students are exploring career pathways, building confidence, and gaining hands-on experience. Check out these student photos at a few of our Industry Partner locations.

If your business or organization would like to help shape the next generation of professionals, we'd love to connect. Become a MOSO CAPS Industry Partner by emailing mosocaps@mssu.edu or calling 417-625-9623.

BELOW: Jeffrey, a Human Services Strand student, gained valuable insight into how the Joplin Police Department operates and communicates with its officers during his first spring rotation. He especially enjoyed participating in ride-alongs.



ABOVE: Health Sciences Strand student, JaeLynn, completed her first spring rotation with the therapy team at SERC Physical Therapy, where she gained meaningful experience that will support her future medical career.



ABOVE: Business Strand student, Madison, spent the first half of the spring semester interning with Hardy Wrestler & Associates CPAs learning how to file tax returns, do payroll, and other tasks relating to accounting.



LEFT: Ellie, a Business Strand student, gained extensive hands-on experience during her internship at the Joplin Humane Society. She learned how to insert ET tubes, administer dewormer and flea/tick treatments, assist with post-surgery recovery, and much more.

BELOW: Juan, a Health Sciences student, explored the world of pediatric dentistry with Dr. Olson and the team at Joplin Children's Dentistry, where he learned about patient care, dental procedures, and the importance of creating a positive experience for young patients.

RIGHT: Maddison, a Human Services Strand student, rewrote press releases, conducted interviews, and wrote and edited several interesting stories during her internship at The Joplin Globe.



Special MOSO CAPS Alumni Event!

COCOA & COOKIES

with MOSO CAPS

As part of the spring CAPSPrep program, the Leadership Team hosted a special alumni event, *Cocoa & Cookies with MOSO CAPS*. Past graduates were invited to stop by for some sweet treats, reconnect with fellow CAPS alumni and staff, share where life has taken them since their time in the program, and relive some of those unforgettable CAPS memories.

We had alumni from every program year, and representing all three strands, in attendance. They each shared their stories with current CAPS students, offering their biggest takeaways from the program, tips for navigating college and early career life, and insights into the power and importance of networking.

It was a meaningful time filled with nostalgic moments for our alumni (and Leadership Team!) and excellent first-hand advice for our current CAPS students.

And with our five-year program milestone approaching, we're already working on a special celebration to bring our CAPS community together again.



LEFT: The morning session heard from MOSO CAPS alums (l-r): Nathan Roth ('24), Loweden Sill ('25), Kendal Weston ('25), Isabella Manes ('25), Sydney Strickland ('23), Maddox Studdard ('23), Gage Starbuck ('25), and Kaleb Belcher ('24).



LEFT: The afternoon session heard from MOSO CAPS alums (l-r): Zakk Gilbert ('23), Eden Pagan ('24), Kisa Rabel ('25), Brett Beecham ('24), Isabella Manes ('25), Kendal Weston ('25), and Nathan Roth ('24).

Let's Stay Connected!

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

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

(Click to connect!)



Exploring Future Student Career Interests

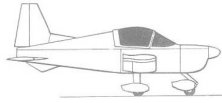
Following are some of the careers MOSO CAPS Student Associates will be exploring this fall. If you or your employer are interested in hosting a student for a profession-based experience for the 2026-27 academic year, the MOSO CAPS Leadership Team is always looking to expand our network! Give us a call at 417-625-9623 or email mosocaps@mssu.edu.

Allergist
Anesthesiologist
Architect
Auditor
Aviation/Commercial Pilot
Chiropractor
Daycare Owner
Dentist/Orthodontist
Financial Advisor
Forensics/Detective
Individualized Support Living (ISL)

Interior Design
Law (Criminal, Family, Corporate)
Microbiology
News Anchor/Sports Reporter
Neurologist
Pediatrician/Pediatric Therapist
Percussionist/Performer
Speech Therapist
Sports Medicine/Athletic Training
Veterinarian
Wildlife Management

Three Future Engineers and an Accountant

Build A Plane



Instead of heading to individual internships aligned with their specific career interests, four MOSO CAPS Business strand students chose to spend the second half of their semester working on a unique group project with members of the Freedom of Flight Museum board. Together, they are building a BD-17L—a single-seat, low-wing light aircraft originally designed for amateur builders.

First introduced in the 1970s, the BD-17L is constructed primarily from aluminum, offering a balance of lightweight structure and durability with an empty weight of roughly 600 pounds. The aircraft features a 22-foot wingspan and a 16-foot fuselage. While this particular build is not intended for flight, the model typically cruises at about 125 mph.

Students meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to work on the aircraft, and the project has already presented its fair share of challenges. But obstacles won't ground this team. With guidance from mentors, students are tackling each phase of the build—from constructing the fuselage and cockpit to assembling the wings and tail section, installing landing gear and controls, and completing the final assembly and review.

To learn more about the BD-17L, visit <https://jimbede.com/bd-17/>.



ABOVE: Students check out the fuselage of the BD-17L with museum president and project mentor, Darryl Coit.



LEFT: Meet the aircraft building team (l-r) Addie, Tom (mentor), Anna, Darryl (mentor), Jaylyn, and Wyatt.

Upcoming Events

Save the date and join us at our next MOSO CAPS event!

Wednesday, April 8 Interviews & Expectations

Roughly 100 MOSO CAPS and NEW-caps student associates will be attending. Volunteer interviewers are needed. [Sign-Up Now!](#)

Monday, April 27 Student/Parent Orientation

Hosted for incoming MOSO CAPS students and their parents, the Leadership Team will share important program information and meet with students one-on-one about their career interests.

Friday, May 8 End of Year Celebration and Senior Recognition

Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of our 2025-26 MOSO CAPS Student Associates! We will also recognize our Seniors. Light refreshments will be offered. Please [RSVP](#) by Wednesday, May 6.

Career Expo Fun

In mid-February, Student Associates in the Health Sciences Strand attended the 2026 Healthcare Career Expo organized by the Workforce Investment Board of Southwest Missouri. The event connected students with healthcare employers and educational institutions, offering insight into a wide range of medical careers, including nursing, therapy, and technical specialties. Students also explored interactive exhibits and engaged with representatives from postsecondary programs to learn about training pathways and certifications available after graduation.

BELOW (L-R): At the Healthcare Career Expo, students visited with healthcare professionals and education representatives at a variety of booths, toured *Mobile Sim*—the University of Missouri School of Medicine's Mobile Simulation Unit—and engaged in hands-on exhibits, including a walk-through colon!



THANK YOU

MOSO CAPS Industry Partners!

The MOSO CAPS program succeeds 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.

Every spring, MOSO CAPS Student Associates **add roughly 100 hours of internship experience to their resumes** through immersive, profession-based learning experiences hosted by MOSO CAPS Industry Partners. These longer placements provide students the opportunity to dive deeper into a specific career interest. **This spring over 215 Industry Partner placements were made.**

We are grateful for the following MOSO CAPS Industry Partners for supporting our program and providing these amazing career-building opportunities to our CAPS students this semester!

Access Family Care Dental
Access Family Care Pediatrics
Access Family Care Women's Health
American Ramp Company
Cardinal Valley Habitat Restoration Project (Webb City)
Carthage Police Department
City of Joplin Police Department
City of Joplin Engineering Department
Columbus Vet Clinic
Cornerstone Wealth Management
Downtown Imaging
The Essential Real Estate
Forrest Real Estate
Freedom of Flight Museum
Freeman Anesthesia
Freeman Dietary
Freeman ECHO
Freeman Gastroenterology
Freeman Hospitalist
Freeman ICU/NICU
Freeman Lab
Freeman Mother/Baby
Freeman Operating Room
Freeman Pediatrics
Freeman Pharmacy
Freeman Physical/Occupational Therapy
Freeman Radiation Oncology
Freeman Radiology
Freeman Respiratory Therapy
Freeman Sports Medicine
Freeman Urgent Care
Fyzical Therapy & Balance Centers
Hardy, Wrestler & Associates, CPAs
Jasper County Coroner's Officer

Jasper County Prosecutor's Office
Jasper County Sheriff's Office
Jasper County Treatment Court
Jon Bhend Law Office
Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce
Joplin Children's Dentistry
Joplin Dental Care
Joplin Early Childhood Center
The Joplin Globe
Joplin Humane Society
Keller Williams Realty Elevate
La Boussole
Liberty Utilities
Madison Pet Clinic
Mason Woodard Funeral Home
Mercy Behavioral Health
Mercy Cancer Center
Mercy Cardiology Clinic
Mercy Cardiac Catheterization Lab
Mercy Carthage Infusion Center
Mercy ECHO LAB
Mercy Dietary
Mercy Emergency Department
Mercy Engineering
Mercy Family Medicine
Mercy ICU/CVICU
Mercy Nuclear Medicine
Mercy Operating Room
Mercy Orthopedic Surgery
Mercy Pediatrics/Pediatric Clinic
Mercy Pharmacy
Mercy Physical/Occupational Therapy
Mercy Physical Therapy Galena
Mercy Podiatry
Mercy Radiology

Mercy Respiratory Therapy
Mercy Stone's Corner Clinic
Mercy Wound Care
METS Ambulance Service
MSSU Athletic Training Department
MSSU IT Department
Neosho National Fish Hatchery
Newton County Ambulance District
OWN Engineering
Outreach Therapy
Ozark Center
Pediatric Associates of SW Missouri
Ronald McDonald House of the 4-States
SERC Joplin/Webb City
Dr. Shah, MD
Smiles in Joplin
Smith Pet Care
Spiva Center of the Arts
Trinity Circle Horses Healing Hearts
TrueNorth Wealth & Impact
Twin Oaks Custom Cabinets
Uncommon Orthodontics
Unearth Potential
Webb City Dental
Webb City Fire Department
Webb City School Nurse
Webb City Webster Elementary
Webb City Police Department

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 to learn more.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025-26 CORPORATE SPONSORS

