For Dr. Brad Hodson, joining Missouri Southern State University marked a homecoming. In February, the university announced that Hodson had been appointed Executive Vice President. He also serves as Executive Director of the Missouri Southern Foundation.

Hodson earned his bachelor of science degree in economics and finance from Missouri Southern in 1991. He and his family have remained involved with MSSU and the Missouri Southern Foundation, endowing a scholarship in his father’s name a few years ago.

“It has been a privilege to return to a university that has given so much to me and my family,” Hodson said. “When Dr. Marble first approached me about this opportunity, I was excited to be included in the vision for Missouri Southern’s future. After having not been on campus for 24 years, I’m looking forward to reconnecting with the faculty, staff, students and alumni, and helping to take this institution to a new level.”

He leads a newly formed division at Missouri Southern which, for the first time, aligns together offices responsible for the advancement of the university, as well as alumni and community outreach. In his new role as Executive Vice President, he oversees Admissions, University Relations and Marketing, Governmental Relations, Alumni Relations, Fundraising and Advertising Sales.

Hodson was very involved as a student at Missouri Southern, taking an active role in student government and Greek life. After graduating, he earned a master’s in business administration degree from Pittsburg State University in 1993 and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2005.

He served as Director of Development for the Eastern Michigan University College of Business from 2002-03 before becoming PSU’s Director of University Development. In 2006, he became PSU’s Vice President for University Advancement, providing oversight of fundraising, alumni relations, public relations and marketing, and career services, while also serving as president and CEO of the PSU Foundation.

Hodson has been an integral part of significant university fundraising campaigns. He led the successful completion of PSU’s $120 million capital campaign – at the time, the largest campaign at a regional public university in the nation. In 2012, PSU’s gift income rose to $15.5 million – double what it had but been upon his arrival 10 years earlier.

As President and CEO of the Pittsburg State University Foundation, Hodson oversaw the growth of the fund’s total assets from $36 million in 2006 to $91 million in 2014 – a 150% increase through a mix of success in major gift fundraising and endowment investment performance.

For his leadership in these accomplishments, PSU received two national CASE Circle of Excellence Awards for Fundraising.

In naming him to the new position, Missouri Southern President Dr. Alan Marble said Hodson is uniquely qualified to strengthen the university’s fundraising initiatives, its appeal to prospective students, and its alumni engagement.

“Dr. Hodson and I have been acquainted for many years, and I am a great fan of his work,” Marble said. “His list of accomplishments speaks for itself. We’re delighted to have another Missouri Southern alum rejoin the Lion family, and we’re looking forward to a very bright future.”

**Southern Match increases value of new, endowed scholarships**

A limited-time scholarship initiative has been launched by the Missouri Southern Foundation to help increase the value of new, endowed scholarships for students at the university.

Under the Southern Match program, the Foundation will place an additional $10,000 from its undesignated scholarship funds into each newly endowed scholarship created. The minimum principal amount under this initiative would be $20,000 – with half coming from the donor and half from the Foundation. The donor’s name would be placed on the entire $20,000 and the income distributed from the fund would be based on the same amount.

The program is limited to 20 new endowment scholarships. Having launched on April 1, the Foundation has, at press time, established nine new scholarships that have qualified for matching funds.

They are:
- The Dan Stengel Accounting Scholarship – established by a former student
- The Jim Gray Dean’s Scholarship – established by multiple contributors
- The Michael LaFerla Pre-Dental Scholarship – by Don and Gloria LaFerla
- The Matt and Tracy Flanigan International Study Scholarship
- The Keith and Dottie Williams Student Athlete Scholarship
- The Delores and Jim Honey Family Scholarship
- The Rod Anderson Baseball Scholarship Fund
- The Paul and Truda Shipman Family Scholarship
- The Pat C. Lipira Kinesiology Scholarship

For more information, contact Dr. Delores Honey at 417-625-9696 or Honey-D@mssu.edu.
To create your legacy, you'll need to do some planning. And you can start by asking yourself a couple of key questions:

- What are your goals? When you think about leaving a legacy, what comes to mind? First and foremost, you may want to think about your goals: leaving a meaningful legacy.

- How can you turn your goals into reality? If you have other things you’d like to accomplish. Perhaps you might want to use this particular month as a useful reminder to take action on what could be one of your most important financial goals: leaving a meaningful legacy.

A legacy isn’t simply a document or a bunch of numbers – it’s what you will be remembered for, and what you have left behind that will be remembered.

It’s essentially your chance to contribute positively to the future, whether that means providing financial resources for the next generation, helping those charitable organizations whose work you support, or a combination of both.

**You probably shouldn’t wait until you are deep into retirement to take action on your estate plan.**

- Developing the necessary documents and arrangements can take a fair amount of time – and you’ll want to make these preparations when you’re in good mental and physical health.
- Also, the longer you wait to set up your estate plan, the less likely it will be that you’ve communicated your wishes clearly to your family members, who may end up unsure about what you want and what their roles are in carrying out your plans – and that’s an outcome you certainly don’t want to see.

In fact, clear communications are essential to developing a successful estate plan. You should not only tell your family members – and anyone else affected by your estate plan – what you are thinking of doing but also inform them about the professionals with whom you are working and the locations in which you are storing any vital documents, such as your will.

By identifying your goals, working with the appropriate professionals to create an effective estate plan, and communicating regularly with your family members and other “key players” in your life, you can go a long way toward leaving the legacy you desire.

This column was submitted on behalf of Edward Jones by Donald Swanson, a financial advisor and member of the Foundation Board.

**GOV. NIXON ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR REYNOLDS HALL**

Gov. Jay Nixon announced $1.5 million in funding that will be made available for renovations to Reynolds Hall during a May 6 visit to campus.

The funds – which will be matched by $1.5 million in private donations – are critical for creating a learning environment that will prepare students for high-tech jobs after graduation.

Completed in May of 1967, Reynolds was the second building to be ready for occupancy on what was then the campus of Missouri Southern State College. An expansion demand, as it provides prerequisites to nursing and allied programs. The coursework offered in the building is in high demand, as it provides prerequisites to nursing and allied health students or is part of a major with a large number of students.

A Master Facility Plan in 2012 listed Reynolds Hall as the building in most critical need of renovation.

The funding will allow the university to renovate lab space as well as upgrades to classrooms and electrical systems.

“We don’t want tomorrow’s scientists training on old lab space as well as upgrades to classrooms and electrical systems.”