



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

R E P O R T

S E P T E M B E R 11 , 2026

DR. DEAN VAN GALEN

PRESIDENT

OPENING OF ROY BLUNT HEALTH SCIENCE INNOVATION CENTER

The Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center is open and is facilitating transformational educational opportunities for our students. The Welcome Center and Café Roar have quickly become a campus hub for conversation and connection. We are already highlighting the entire university by hosting external groups, including the Missouri Biotechnology Association Board of Directors and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce's Missouri Leadership program.

The university's grand opening garnered significant national and international media attention. A media release distributed through PR Newswire was picked up by 288 media outlets and reached audiences in 30 countries. The release also generated more than 21,000 traffic views, demonstrating a strong interest in the university and our mission.

Many people played an important role in bringing the vision for this facility to fruition. The work of our faculty and staff during this five-year process was extraordinary. There has been unprecedented investment from our community, including governmental entities and generous donors. Furthermore, the support of our Board of Governors has been strong and unwavering. The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony was, indeed, a celebration of many people working together to impact our students for decades to come.



STATE AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

With the state of Missouri needing to address a significant budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2028 and legislative interest in a funding formula for higher education, critical efforts are taking place to engage elected officials and leaders in the Department of Higher Education. As part of these efforts, State Representative Bill Owen visited campus in August to learn more about MSSU and discuss a potential higher education funding formula. Representative Owen is slated to be the new Chair of the House Budget Committee. During his visit, he learned about our university's strengths and vision, as well as our perspective on a possible new funding formula for higher education.



Presidents of institutions that comprise the Council on Public Higher Education (COPHE) are also actively engaging with officials at the Department of Higher Education, including Commissioner Dr. Ben Boggs,

regarding the funding formula. A meeting with the commissioner was held in on Aug. 25. Currently, we are impressing upon elected officials and the commissioner elements of a funding formula that would be important to COPHE institutions. For example, differential funding by program and type of student served, consideration of diseconomies of scale for smaller institutions, and a phased approach that would avoid dramatic, sudden shifts in state support.

Advocacy with members of our southwest Missouri legislative delegation is occurring and will be especially important as the 2027 legislative session begins. Our message is clear: Missouri Southern is a critical asset to the region and state—and needs strong support from the State of Missouri.

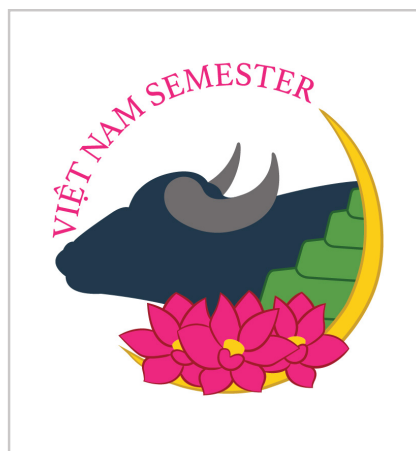
RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING FACULTY

On Aug. 20, we formally honored 22 faculty members whom the board approved for tenure or promotion at its June meeting. Special thanks to the board members who participated in the ceremony recognizing this important achievement in the professional lives of these educators. Missouri Southern is fortunate to have so many outstanding faculty members who demonstrate their commitment to students every day.



VIETNAM THEMED SEMESTER

MSSU has launched a Vietnam-themed semester highlighting the country's art and culture. As part of the semester, the Department of Art and Design presented *Arts, Crafts, and Culture of Vietnam*, an exhibition featuring artwork created by faculty and students following a Spring Break 2026 study-abroad experience in Vietnam. The semester will also feature a Vietnamese cooking demonstration on Sept. 15, led by an MSSU student, who will share the traditions and techniques behind a popular Vietnamese dessert. On Oct. 28, the semester will continue with a discussion of *The Mountains Sing*, an internationally acclaimed novel that provides a window into the history and enduring spirit of the Vietnamese people.



ITALY PARTNERSHIP

The university celebrated a new international partnership with the University of Milano-Bicocca (UNIMIB) during a special ceremony on Aug. 11. The event, held in front of the new Global Education Office in the Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center, marked an important step in expanding global learning opportunities. The agreement established a reciprocal summer exchange program in which six students from each institution will study at the partner university each year. Missouri Southern students will have the opportunity to conduct research in medical laboratories in Milan, while UNIMIB medical students will participate in a human dissection course in Joplin.



LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR

The university can look forward to an exciting year ahead, including the VietNam themed semester, successful conclusion of the Lions Forward Campaign, completion of important capital projects such as renovation of the Student Life Center, and an exciting year of Lion Athletics. Above all, we will continue to excel in providing students with high-quality, immersive learning experiences across campus that prepare them for meaningful and productive lives.



EXPLORE BOLDLY. CARE DEEPLY. IMPACT GLOBALLY.

DR. LISA TOMS

PROVOST / VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Department of **Social Sciences** participated in this year's International Summer School by offering History of Route 66, a four-week course designed and taught by Dr. Megan Bever for international and domestic students and faculty.



Also, the inaugural Faculty Recital Series—Southern at the Cornell event, *Kathy Nenadal + Friends: An Evening of Musical Theatre*, premiered on Sept. 1. Ms. Nenadal is a piano adjunct in the Department of **Performing Arts**.



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

Each year, hundreds of local high school students participate in MSSU's **Math League** competitions. Throughout the academic year, students compete individually and in teams at five meets, solving challenging problems in areas such as algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Since 2019–2020, when consistent data collection began, as many as 19 local high schools and 1,979 students have participated. The 2026–2027 academic year marks the 60th anniversary of the competition at MSSU.

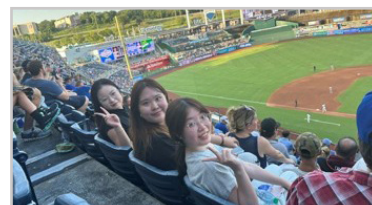


COLLEGE OF HEALTH, LIFE SCIENCES & EDUCATION

The **Diagnostic Medical Sonography** Program launched with 12 students, while the MRI program launched with seven students. Applications for the CT Certificate program open in November, with interest already established.

The Rural Health Transformation Program awarded \$248,600 to the **EMT** and **Paramedic** programs this academic year for student scholarships. Eligible students will be able to finish their training with minimal out of pocket cost (\$1,500 or less we anticipate) and serve rural Missourians.

The Kinesiology Department also participated in International Summer School by offering SRM 298, Global Sporting Events for Peace and Development: FIFA 2026. The course culminated in a trip to Kansas City, where students toured the Royals Stadium and Kansas City stadium, attended a Royals game, and experienced local barbecue.



The newly revised **Interprofessional Education Program (IPE)** was formally launched this fall with three new IPE courses (6 sections in total). Course offerings include:

- IPE 101 Introduction to Interprofessional Education
- IPE 298 Community Action Poverty Simulation
- IPE 298 Crisis Escalation Pandemic Storm

The first section of IPE 101 is already full with 50 students. The program brings together students from multiple disciplines to collaborate in real-life professional settings, including nursing, radiologic technology, respiratory therapy, EMT/paramedicine, exercise science, social work, biomedical sciences, and law enforcement. Additional IPE courses are planned for the spring semester.

Melinda Brown, director of the Gipson Center for Healthcare Leadership and chair of Healthcare Administration, participated in Freeman Health Academy in June, July, and August. She spoke with approximately 50 area high school students about healthcare careers and introduced them to MSSU's bachelor's and master's programs in Healthcare Administration.



The B.S. in **Environmental Health and Safety** program recently received affirmation of re-accreditation by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (NEHSPAC) for the next six years. The program was first accredited in 1996.

The **Teacher Education** program launched an inaugural "First-Year Teacher Resource Room" program this fall to help provide essential classroom supplies to first-year teachers. The room is in Taylor Hall and is supported through donations.



STUDENT LIFE

A new golf simulator area opened for student use on Aug. 17 on the lower level of the Beimdiek Recreation Center. The area features a Uneekor launch monitor and GSPro simulation software and has seen steady student use since opening.



The **Campus Activities Board** has had an active year, adding more than 20 new members and hosting several successful large-scale events. More than 375 students attended the Welcome Back Picnic, a 175% increase from last year. Student feedback on the welcome-back events was highly positive, with Color Wars being the most popular.



Esports added 19 new members for the 2026 fall season and is considering adding Valorant and Apex Legends as competitive titles due to student demand. Two teams, Marvel Rivals and Mario Kart, won national titles last



spring. Three students received Esports scholarships this semester.

Greek Life had its largest fall pledge class since before COVID-19, including 14 pledges for Zeta, its highest in years. Greek chapters have demonstrated strong collaboration and respect, and new chapter meeting spaces are being planned.



CAREER SERVICES

Career Services hosted its annual Community Day on Aug. 19 in the lower level of the Beimdiek Recreation Center. More than 120 employers from Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma attended, including 22 sponsors and 98 traditional participants. The event was well attended by students, faculty, and staff.



MSSU POLICE DEPARTMENT

MSSU Police began the fall semester fully staffed with the addition of **Sgt. Mark McCall**, a 30-year law enforcement veteran and retired police chief. His addition is expected to eliminate the routine use of outside deputies to cover patrol shifts. The department also completed substantial revisions to its policy manual, parking policy, and lost-and-found policy. Additional changes include the implementation of standardized shift pass-down procedures and daily building and parking lot checks, a change to the department's primary phone number (417-625-9800), and the addition of a student intern and student employee.



LINDA EIS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

AUDIT FISCAL YEAR 2026

The Fiscal Year 2026 audit is proceeding according to schedule. Auditors have completed on-site fieldwork for finance and compliance, including student financial aid and federal grants. In the next two months, schedules, report narrative, footnotes, and financial statements will be prepared. We remain on track to present the audit at the November Board meeting.

FACILITY SERVICES

Roy Blunt Health Science Innovation Center

Café Roar, strategically located on the first floor between the Welcome Center and the simulation hospital has opened to great excitement. The space encourages engagement among students, parents, employees, and community members. Daily, students gather in the seating areas enjoying one another over café drinks and food.



Leggett & Platt

Phase 2 of the Leggett & Platt project includes completion of the painting and restroom upgrades. Bids for the new videoboard and scorer tables have been received, and both are currently in production.



Chiller Webster/Taylor Performing Art Center/Fine Arts

The Board-approved Webster, Taylor Performing Arts Center, and Fine Arts large infrastructure project is progressing well. Phase 1 has been completed and included the relocation of an existing chiller and the purchase of a new chiller. Phase 2 will include the refurbishment of supporting equipment and the permanent installation of the chiller units.



Roof replacement Taylor Performing Art Center/Fine Arts

We are currently developing the scope of work in preparation for issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to contractors for the roof replacement work at the Taylor Performing Arts Center and Fine Arts building. This work is part of the Board-approved large infrastructure project and is anticipated to begin this fall.

Reseal Coating and Striping Roads and Parking Lots

Over the past year, we have worked to improve university roads and parking lots. The latest improvements included the two large pit parking lots along Newman Road, with additional work planned during the upcoming fall break.



Mayes Student Life Center

The Mayes Student Life Center project is nearing completion. The contractor punch list items are being finalized, and furniture installation is scheduled to begin Sept. 11.



OUR PEOPLE

Thank you to **Jeff Boman**, director of Facility Services, and his team; **Jimmie Collins**, chief information officer, and his team; and the many faculty and staff who accomplished tremendous work over the summer in a very short time to welcome our students for the fall semester.



Jeff Boman



Jimmie Collins

HUMAN RESOURCES

Director of Human Resources

MSSU has named Derek Collier director of Human Resources. He began his role August 24. He brings more than 20 years of experience in human resources, business operations, employee relations, recruitment, payroll and benefits, and policy development.

A Missouri Southern graduate, Collier holds a bachelor's degree in business management and human resources and an MBA from Fitchburg State University.



Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for annual insurance elections will begin in mid-October. Employees will select coverage for the 2027 calendar year. The Insurance Committee has worked diligently to limit cost increases through plan design changes and new reimbursement incentives, reflecting its commitment to preserving employee coverage options while responsibly managing rising insurance costs.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Bank Depository Services RFP

The request for proposals (RFP) was issued May 2026. The bid was sent to 14 vendors with four vendors submitting proposals. Two finalists were selected to come to campus for on-site presentations. The selection committee chose First Community Bank as MSSU's new depository services provider based on its fee structure and interest rates.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Presentation of the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2026.



EXPLORE BOLDLY. CARE DEEPLY. IMPACT GLOBALLY.

DR. SHELLIE HEWITT

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

ENROLLMENT

SUMMER RECRUITMENT INITIATIVES AND ON-CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

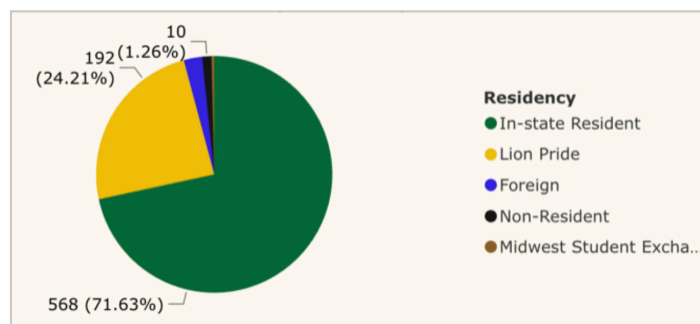
This past summer, Missouri Southern welcomed more than 500 prospective students and 150 guests through on-campus recruitment events. The new Welcome Center provided an impressive first point of contact for these visitors, serving as the front door to campus and creating a welcoming environment for students and families to begin their Missouri Southern experience.

Our recruitment efforts also extended beyond campus through participation in regional events such as the Bentonville Bike Fest. With attendees traveling from across the country and around the world, the event provided MSSU an opportunity to increase visibility, engage new audiences, and showcase the academic programs, student experiences, and opportunities available at Missouri Southern.

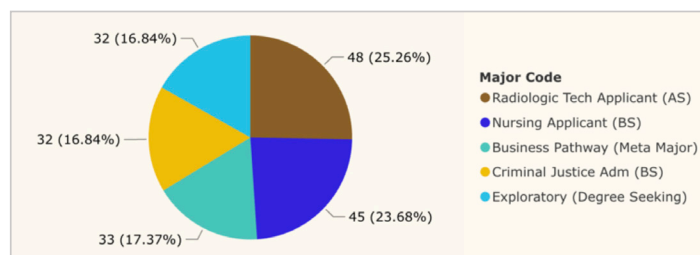


FALL 2026 NEW STUDENT PROFILE

New student enrollment, including first-time freshmen and transfer students, remains relatively flat at this point in the semester. Our newest Lions continue to come primarily from Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, reflecting the strength of MSSU's regional recruitment efforts.



Currently, 72% of new students are Missouri residents, while an additional 24% come from our Lion Pride states, demonstrating that MSSU continues to serve as a strong regional destination for students across the Four-State area.



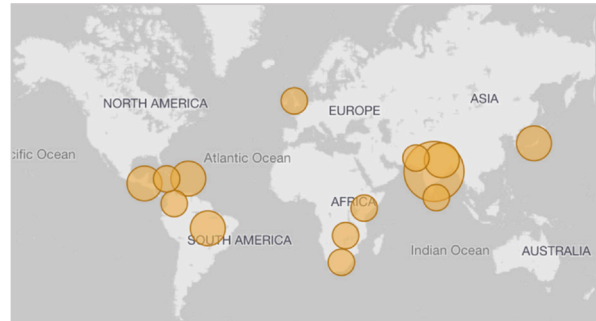
The top five majors among new students reflect a mix of strong career-focused programs and students who are still exploring their academic options. Radiologic Technology, Nursing, Business Pathway, Criminal Justice, and Exploratory currently represent the five most popular areas of study for our newest Lions.

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

This fall, Missouri Southern welcomed 39 new international students, further enriching our campus community and expanding MSSU's global reach.

The top academic programs among our new international students include Master of Science in Data Analytics, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Sport and Recreation Management, and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Management.

These new Lions represent 15 countries and territories from around the world: Japan, South Korea, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Colombia, the British Virgin Islands, Guatemala, and Jamaica. Their presence brings valuable global perspectives to the classroom and strengthens the international character of the Missouri.



DATA-INFORMED RECRUITMENT AND MARKETING

Admissions and University Relations and Marketing continue to collaborate in using institutional data and prospective student engagement metrics to assess, align, and strengthen marketing and recruitment efforts.

By analyzing prospective student interactions and communication effectiveness across marketing campaigns, the MSSU website, and our customer relationship management (CRM) system, the teams are refining outreach strategies to better engage and support students throughout the college decision-making process.

This data-informed approach has supported the launch of expanded fall recruitment campaigns, with an increased focus on driving prospective students to campus through individual visits and recruitment events in the coming months.

 **Missouri Southern State University** added 4 new photos.
Aug 27

Don't just imagine your future. Experience it.

Get an immersive, one-on-one look at your program, meet faculty, explore campus, and experience life as a Lion.

Find your Discovery Day below and register today: <https://bit.ly/4gTUUD8>

[Show Less](#)

 JUSTICE STUDIES DISCOVERY DAY OCTOBER 16	 TEACHER EDUCATION DISCOVERY DAY OCTOBER 21
 FINE, PERFORMING, AND MEDIA ARTS DISCOVERY DAY OCTOBER 23	 STEM DISCOVERY DAY OCTOBER 8

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ADVANCEMENT

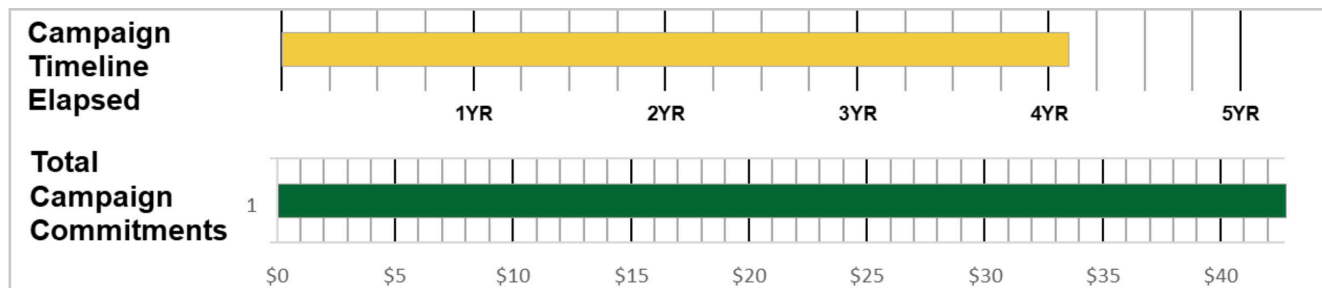
CAMPAIGN UPDATE — AS OF AUGUST 15, 2026

The working goal for the “Lions Forward” campaign is \$42.7 million.

Progress to date:

Pre-Campaign Counting Period	(July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022)	\$6,924,352
FY 2023	(July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)	\$16,415,217
FY 2024	(July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)	\$8,222,762
FY 2025	(July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)	\$7,992,004
FY 2026	(July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)	\$4,776,503
FY 2027 to date	(July 1, 2026 – August 15, 2026)	\$530,754

Total Dollars Committed to the Campaign as of August 15, 2026: \$ 44,861,592



Commitments include cash, pledges, stock, in-kind, real property and/or estate gifts.

ALUMNI AND DONOR RELATIONS

The Legacy Pinning Ceremony is a time for parents who have graduated from Missouri Southern to return to campus and celebrate their child beginning their higher education journey as a Lion. The ceremony was held at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center, where parents placed a pin on their student as a symbolic way of continuing their Lion Pride through the next generation.



**Legacy Pinning Ceremony
August 13**

The Alumni Coffee provided a wonderful opportunity for alumni to return to campus, reconnect with one another, and experience the excitement of a new academic year. President Van Galen shared a campus update, highlighting recent developments and what's ahead for the university.

Following the coffee, alumni joined faculty and staff for the Spirit Tunnel, a campus tradition that connects the tunnel from the lower parking lot to the Taylor Performing Arts Center with energy and celebration as the campus community welcomes incoming students.



Alumni Coffee & Spirit Tunnel
August 14

DIRECTOR ALUMNI AND DONOR RELATIONS UPDATE

Abi Almandinger's last day as Director of Alumni and Donor Relations was August 28, 2026. We thank Abi for her service to Missouri Southern and wish her all the best in her next chapter.

Beginning September 1, Kara Dixon began serving as Interim Director of Alumni and Donor Relations. Kara brings valuable institutional knowledge and experience to the role, and we are confident she will do an excellent job providing leadership and continuity for our alumni and donor engagement efforts during this transition.



WEB AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATION | ALUMNI MANE EVENTS

The Mane Event Alumni Edition is a monthly digital newsletter designed to keep alumni informed and engaged with Missouri Southern. The newsletter includes several segments with updates from the university, campus headlines, a featured "Alumni Spotlight" story, career and networking opportunities, and more. The August edition will also include a survey to gather alumni feedback regarding the types of content they wish to receive and their preferred communication channels.



ANNUAL GIVING | APPEALS SINCE MAY

Since May, Annual Giving has conducted 22 fundraising appeals reaching approximately 68,873 recipients through email and direct mail. An additional 21 engagement or event communications reached approximately 5,079 recipients, bringing total documented outreach during this period to nearly 74,000 recipients. Appeals have included general university, academic, and athletic fundraising, with communications targeted at specific alumni, donor, and constituent groups.

MAJOR GIVING | FUNDRAISING Q1 FY26

FY26 closed with strong fundraising income, significant growth in funds transferred, disciplined operating expenses, exceptional Board participation, and continued investment in student scholarships. While total dollars raised and donor counts declined year-over-year, the Foundation's financial position strengthened, with endowment fund balance growing to \$35.5 million with substantial pledge payments received during the quarter. The results also demonstrate the importance of evaluating fundraising performance across multiple measures, particularly given the timing and variability of major gifts.

LIONBACKER STEERING COMMITTEE

The Lionbacker Booster Club: The Lionbacker program is evolving to better reflect the needs of MSSU Athletics and the many ways alumni, parents, fans, and friends want to support Lion student-athletes. The Lionbacker Booster club will change structure to the Lionbacker annual fund.

New mission statement: The Missouri Southern Lionbackers serve as the primary philanthropic arm for all athletics giving, uniting donors, alumni, and fans to support every Lion program. Through collective giving, community engagement, and loyal fan involvement, Lionbackers provide essential resources that empower student-athletes to succeed academically, compete at a high level, and represent Missouri Southern with pride.



ROB MALLORY

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

PARTNERSHIP WITH OZARK CENTER

On Aug. 20, MSSU Athletics and Freeman Health System Ozark Center announced a partnership to establish an initiative designed to support the mental health, emotional well-being, and overall performance needs of MSSU student-athletes.

Through this partnership, the Performance Excellence Initiative, Ozark Center provides all student-athletes access to specialized resources, counseling services, performance support, and educational programming. These efforts are led by two certified mental health practitioners, Performance Coach Dr. Brett Miller and Performance Therapist Morgan Cristy.

Access to these resources within the department positions MSSU at the forefront of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II in providing services designed to meet the unique mental health and performance needs of student-athletes.



SOFTBALL PROGRAM RECOGNIZED FOR TEAM GPA

Coming off a record-setting season on the field, the MSSU Softball team was recognized by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association for having the second-best overall team GPA for the 2025-26 academic year. After finishing their season with a program-best 54-10 record and a trip to the Division II College World Series, the Lions earned this distinction with a 3.813 team GPA. These GPA ranked as 11th best across all divisions of college softball competition, which includes more than 1,500 total programs.

Additionally, 12 softball student-athletes earned Easton/NFCA All-American Scholar-Athlete honors. To qualify, a student-athlete had to achieve a 3.5 or better overall GPA for the 2025-26 academic year.



99 STUDENT-ATHLETES EARN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Division II Athletic Directors Association announced that 99 MSSU student-athletes earned their academic achievement award. In order to qualify for this honor, a student-athlete must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, have attended a minimum of two years (four semesters) of full-time collegiate enrollment, and have been an active member of an intercollegiate athletic team during the most recent academic year.

This is the largest number of Missouri Southern student-athletes to earn this honor in the 19-year history of the program. Every sport had at least one honoree with **Women's Cross Country/Track and Field** leading the way with 25.

MSSU ATHLETICS HOLDS ANNUAL ROD SMITH GOLF CLASSIC

On July 17, the Missouri Southern Athletic Department held its annual Rod Smith Golf Classic at Eagle Creek Golf Club in Loma Linda, MO. More than 100 golfers took part in the event. MSSU Football all-time great, and two-time Super Bowl Champion, Rod Smith came back for the event to interact with participants on the course. Golfers also enjoyed opportunities to participate in games with MSSU student-athletes and earn a variety of prizes. The event was a great success, generating more than \$37,000 for MSSU athletic programs.

