Welcome to the annual State of the University Address

• Thank you Glen.
• Begin by congratulating all of the award winners who will follow me to the stage.
• Also want to welcome all of our new faculty members to campus.
• We’re glad that you’re here and know you’ll do great things as instructors and researchers.
I’m really exciting about this academic year – one of the primary reasons being of course the great foundation set last year
Last fall … at 16,809 … UMSL tied its record for total student enrollment

• Several other records or firsts included …
  – 24 average ACT for freshmen – well above state and national averages.
  – Record for GPAs of incoming freshmen and transfer students.
  – For the first time ever … university-owned housing was full.
Student highlights included Tracy Mulderig’s 2-year appointment to represent students on Board of Curators

• Tracy is a doctoral student in industrial/organizational psychology and is interning at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health.
• Bachelor’s degree from Truman State University and master’s from UMSL.
• She’s insightful and just a joy to work with.
UMSL’s student athletes performed exceedingly well in and out of the classroom

• UMSL’s 11 teams have a combined 170 – 100 – 4 record, which is an outstanding .635 winning percentage!
• To put that in perspective – that’s like the Cardinals winning 104 games. Last year they won the National League Championship with 97 wins.
And a record 84 student athletes received Academic All-GLVC honors

- Can you imagine that … 45 percent of our student athletes are performing at the highest level possible athletically and academically.
- Commend coaches and entire athletics department staff for focusing on academics and recruiting students who are also great athletes.
UMSL granted nearly 3,100 degrees and certificates last year

• UMSL now has more than 88,000 graduates who can be found in all 50 states and 68 foreign countries.

• But their greatest impact – 63,000 strong – is being felt right here in Missouri.

• Indeed, we educate and provide the workforce for the St. Louis region.
UMSL faculty ranked 14th nationally in productivity for universities with “high research activity”

• Other schools in that top group include William and Mary, Boston College, Syracuse, Wake Forest and Texas Tech.

• UMSL ranks first in Missouri in the “High Research Activity” – the second highest category which includes Missouri S&T, UMKC and SLU.
Academic Analytics

12 individual programs ranked among Top 50 in their respective fields

- Counselor Education 2\textsuperscript{nd}.
- Information Systems 4\textsuperscript{th}.
- Criminology & Criminal Justice 9\textsuperscript{th}.
- Social Work 15\textsuperscript{th}.
- Philosophy 33\textsuperscript{rd}.
- Finance 36\textsuperscript{th}.
- Accounting 37\textsuperscript{th}.
- Educational Psychology 38\textsuperscript{th}.
- Communication 44\textsuperscript{th}.
- Logistics and Operations Management 47\textsuperscript{th}.
- Applied Mathematics 50\textsuperscript{th}.
- Anthropology 50\textsuperscript{th}. 
STL Public Radio gained listeners and clickers after adding STL Beacon journalists into its operation

• KWMU is broadcasting and posting more and better news content that is reaching record on-air and online audiences.

• Monthly audiences have grown to 400,000 listeners and 150,000 unique website visitors.

• St. Louis Public Radio is a great community asset and helps extend the UMSL brand.
At $31.2M … UMSL set a record for private gifts and pledges

• Donors were outstanding in their support of scholarships, buildings and the mercantile library.

• We now have five endowed positions associated with the library –
  – 3 in the library itself
  – And 1 each in the Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Business Administration.
One of the first questions asked when I meet potential donors is … “Do you invest in yourself?”

• Because of you … the answer is a resounding YES.

• Last year more than 400 of our faculty and staff donated a collective $1.8M to help our students excel.

• This is outstanding, and I thank you.
UMSL broke ground on a Recreation and Wellness Center

• Construction of the $36M center is on schedule to open in fall of 2015.

• The 99,000 SF building will include
  – 3-court gym
  – 3-lane elevated running track
  – 4 fitness rooms
  – fitness/recreation pool
  – climbing wall
  – juice bar

• Funded primarily through a student-approved fee.
Also started construction on the Science Learning Building

• The badly needed 75,000 SF building will include
  – state-of-the-art teaching laboratories
  – solarium/town center
• Funded by a $32M bond we’re paying off through internal reallocation.
• We expect to open this facility in 2015 as well.
So what do we expect this academic year?

- More records.
- More student and faculty accolades.
- And more construction.
There’s a real possibility that total enrollment can reach 17,000 students

• First-day, on-campus enrollment was up 1% at the undergraduate level and 2.5% at the graduate level.

• Off-campus enrollment – including our ACP students – is trending better than that.

• So, I’m looking forward to Oct. 1 official enrollment report.
And it’s not just quantity … the quality of our incoming freshmen class is again outstanding

- 541 freshmen – a 7% increase from last year.
- Class has highest average ACT ever.
- Helped UMSL achieve a 6% increase of students in campus-owned housing.
- We actually had to kick people out of offices to house students.
US News & World Report ranked our International Business program the best in Missouri and 16th overall nationally earlier this month

• 12th consecutive year in publication’s Top 20.
• Program was 14th last year; as high as 8th in past editions.
• Great news for our business college and speaks well of the overall academic quality of UMSL.
For 2\textsuperscript{nd} straight year, UMSL has received a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from \textit{Insights into Diversity} magazine

- Recognizes universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to \textit{diversity} and \textit{inclusion}.
- I want to thank each of you for your commitment to civility, diversity and quality.
As if you hadn’t noticed … MoDOT started the transformation of Natural Bridge into a Great Street this summer

- $14M project will reformat Natural Bridge between Lucas & Hunt and North Hanley.
- While disruptive now … we expect this project will greatly enhance the connection between our North and South campuses.
- It also should generally enhance the social and economic environment around campus.
- Completion by late 2015.
Begin construction of the Optometry Patient Care Center in January

• The $17M, 48,000 SF building will be located along Natural Bridge Road.
• 13,000 SF of leasable shell space
  – Primary health care and dental care
• 1st phase of the proposed Nursing-Optometry Complex.
• Funding coming from the college and student-approved fee.
We fully expect to break ground this academic year on a new Business Building

- Our faculty and alumni are excited by the way in which this 46,000 SF structure will enhance the academic experience of students – and so am I.
- Legislature has approved a $10M match of private gifts UMSL has received for the facility.
- We’re currently consulting with Gov. Jay Nixon to secure the release of those matching funds.
Speaking of the governor … last week he released 5% performance funding for the University of Missouri System

• According to President Wolfe … this translates into $2.4M for UMSL – targeted primarily for scholarships.

• With the help of state Rep. Rick Stream … the legislature had also included our final equity adjustment of $1.4M into its budget.

• That measure did not emerge from the veto session last week.
We’re celebrating two anniversaries this year of importance to our students and alumni

• First … the Newman Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary here at UMSL.
• The Newman Center is the oldest student organization on campus.
• Literally, thousands of UMSL students have met and created life-long friends [and marriages] at the Newman Center.
• We wish our friends in the Newman Center a happy birthday.
The Pierre Laclede Honors College is celebrating its 25th anniversary

• Started as an academic unit in Arts & Sciences … the Honors College today enrolls nearly 600 students and is offering 48 honors seminars this semester.

• Many people have contributed to its success – none more so than Bob Bliss and Nancy Gleason. Both are retiring – Nancy soon and Bob at the end of this academic year. Please stand to be recognized.
The tragedy and incidents started in Ferguson have affected and changed us all

• I want to thank you – the UMSL community – for the way in which you have led this campus to respond.

• Collectively, reaching out to those most in need providing
  – counseling services.
  – food and other supplies.
  – a forum for civil and thoughtful manner.
  – faculty expertise to media, governments and organizations
Gov. Nixon appreciated this campus’ response ... using UMSL as a temporary headquarters

• UMSL will continue to be involved in the rebuilding process with state, local and business partners.

• I’ve asked Patricia Zahn to help coordinate our external partnerships related to Ferguson ... with help from Rob Paul at MIMH.

• What we have done so far is just a beginning.
In closing today … let me say that this is the 12\textsuperscript{th} time that I’ve had privilege to give the State of the University Address

• Together, we’ve faced challenges and celebrated successes.
• And today … because of you… we continue to excel as we provide the very best in education and service to our community and beyond.
• Thank you for all you do!