

5-6-2015

Tom George Remarks – AB Hall Announcement

Good morning. I am Tom George, chancellor of the University of Missouri–St. Louis, and it's my good fortune to kick off today's very exciting announcement.

As many of you know, UMSL has one of the largest and best colleges of business in Missouri and the nation. It regularly receives accolades from publications such as U.S. News and World Report, Forbes and the Princeton Review. UMSL business is the only such college in St. Louis to have accreditation for both business and accounting from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

UMSL business has produced nearly 28,000 alumni – many of whom are CEOs or CFOs of companies and organizations locally and nationally. In fact, UMSL is one of only two universities nationally with CEOs of Fortune 20 companies:

- Joe Gorder of Valero Energy in San Antonio Texas.
- George Paz of Express Scripts – right here on our campus.
- Collectively – these two companies have revenue exceeding \$250 Billion a year. Now that big.

I also want to acknowledge Warner Baxter – UMSL graduate and CEO of Ameren who is with us today. We certainly value Warner’s support of the campus and community. [Applause]

Today’s announcement culminates a multi-year effort to consolidate our 2,700 business students and faculty into a central location that will foster learning experiences that current facilities cannot provide. It will enable us to go from good to great – to better ensure that UMSL recruits and retains the best students and the best faculty and fosters world-class business partnerships.

I want to thank Anheuser-Busch for its gift to this project and its many other contributions to UMSL and its students. The campaign for Anheuser -Busch Hall represents the very best in what a public-private partnership can be when dedicated people come together to invest in people and communities.

UMSL received hundreds of contributions to this building – large and small. There were 28 companies and individuals who contributed \$100,000 or more to this building campaign. I want to thank them and everyone who stepped forward to support this initiative.

Last week at the Chancellor’s Report to the Community, I mentioned that we have outstanding elected officials working to support this campus and higher education in general. Certainly we have no greater champion than Gov. Jay Nixon.

Gov. Nixon stepped into office during one of this nation's toughest economic crises. To his credit, Gov. Nixon has guided this state through those dire times – keeping us out of debt and now we're seeing the wisdom of his leadership with new investments in performance funding and infrastructure.

So ... it is with great pleasure that I introduce and turn over this microphone to our governor ... Jay Nixon.