

Welcome to the 39th annual Chancellor's Report to the Community

- Thank you for being here today.
- Your support makes possible all the things I'm about to talk about.

Thank you Joanne and Mieko for that wonderful performance.

- It's easy to understand why Joanne wins so many competitions and accolades.

Thank you Kevin for your nice introduction and your role in the community as an award-winning journalist.

- UMSL has thousands of successful alumni, like Kevin, living in this region.
- Dozens of them have helped promote the campus by lending their images to our marketing campaign – including billboards.
- I, too, have noticed that Kevin was not among those on our billboards.
- So ... our concept team came up with this.

Talkers Choose UMSL

- No one ... and I mean no one ... talks better than Kevin Killeen.
- I might point out also that Kevin provided us with this photo for our program – I think it's a selfie.
- Kevin ... I hope you like it.

This past fall ... student enrollment exceeded 17,000 – setting a new campus record

- Particularly exciting was a 6% increase in incoming freshmen as well as a bump in the percentage of minority students attending UMSL.
- And ... for the first time ever ... our university-owned housing was not only full – it was over sold.

We also set records for the quality of our incoming students – for the second consecutive year

- 24 average ACT for freshmen – well above state and national averages.
- Record for GPAs of incoming freshmen and transfer students.
- This bodes well for first-year retention statistics which reached 80% this past fall for the first time.

Especially exciting to us was that 25% of our freshmen came through UMSL's Advanced Credit Program and Bridge Program

- UMSL has over 4,000 high school students enrolled in our courses.
- And the Bridge Program is probably the best precollegiate program in the country – sending 100% of its graduates to college.
- Collectively, students in these programs are the best the region has to offer.

Our big investment in a new Veterans Center and support services is working out well for everyone

- UMSL has experienced a 17% increase in veteran enrollment.
- And the campus received “A Best for Vets” designation from Military Times.

Optometry students continue to excel – with a 100% pass rate on national board exams

- The national pass rate is around 90%.
- I also want to mention that our optometry graduates have maintained a 100% job placement rate for the past five years.

The work of UMSL student artists has been acquired by and is now on display at the Cartoon Museum of London

- This is the second museum to add UMSL student-created art to its collection.
- The work was produced by students of Art Professor Dan Younger in his course ... Comics and Cartoon Illustrations.

I continue to be amazed at the quality of our student athletes – in and out of the classroom

- Our student athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general student body.
- I expect 80 of our students will receive academic honors from the GLVC by year's end.
- For this academic year, UMSL's 13 teams have to date a combined record of 158-85-3 ... which is an outstanding .640 winning percentage.

Our spring teams are performing exceedingly well.

- Women's softball is ranked 2nd in the nation – with 40 wins and just 6 losses.
- Pitcher Hannah Perryman has tossed five perfect games this season, in addition to one last year. Only a junior, she holds two NCAA records.
- And we have four teams headed to post-team NCAA competition: softball, men's and women's golf, and men's tennis (with possibly baseball as well, and I should mention this week Kyle Wilson pitched baseball's first no-hitter in 15 years).

Great students make great alumni – and UMSL now has more than 90,000 graduates – amazing for an institution only 52 years old

- UMSL graduates can be found in all 50 states and 68 foreign countries.
- They can be found in a wide range of professions ... the arts, business, education, engineering, health care, government, law enforcement. You name it.

When the NY Times spot-lights your university for producing great alumni – you get a lot of calls, as we did

- This spring, NY Times writer Frank Bruni debunked the myth that all great business leaders come from Ivy League schools.
- Bruni listed the colleges attended by the CEOs of the 10 largest US companies – and only one Ivy school made it.
- But there was UMSL with 1979 graduate Joe Gorder heading Valero Energy.
- Only UMSL and Cornell have two grads in the top 20 – ours with Joe Gorder and George Paz of Express Scripts.

A dozen UMSL graduates this year received an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award

- Among those singled out was UMSL Associate Professor of Nursing Wilma Calvert – who received her UMSL PhD in 2002.
- These awards pay tribute to area educators – from kindergarten teachers to college professors – for their achievements and dedication to the field of education.

Five UMSL graduates made the St. Louis Business Journal's prestigious list of Influential Business Women

- Kathy Boyd-Fenger, head of Logos School
- Cheryle Dyle-Palmer, COO of Parents as Teachers
- Jennifer Ehlen, vice president of Thompson Street Capital Partners
- Sara Foster, executive vice president of Commerce Bancshares
- Sandra Marks, principal of Marks and Associates

This year Mark Pope of education and Susan Feigenbaum of economics became Curators' Professors

- These appointments bring to 14 the number of Curators' Professors at UMSL.
- This title is awarded to faculty who have demonstrated outstanding scholarship and teaching – with well-established international reputations in their fields.

Four UMSL faculty members are receiving awards from the UM System in June

- Mary Troy of English is the recipient of the UM System President's Award for Leadership.
- Wendy Saul of Education earned the UM System President's Award for Cross-Cultural Engagement.
- Sharon Johnson and Lois Pierce of Social Work will receive the President's Intercampus Collaboration Award.
- They collectively demonstrate the quality of our faculty.

Jim Henry's barbershop quartet, Crossroads, was featured on a national broadcast of Fox and Friends.

- Serving as chair of our Department of Music, Jim is a member of the National Barbershop Quartet Hall of Fame and one of our most popular instructors.

Finn-Aage Esbensen was named an American Society of Criminology Fellow

- ASC is an international organization whose members pursue scholarly, scientific, and professional knowledge concerning the measurement, consequences, prevention, control, and treatment of crime and delinquency.
- We now have five faculty as ASC fellows – an amazing feat considering many universities with criminology programs have no members.

Angela Coker of education received a Group Practice Award from the National Association of Specialists in Group Work

- Angela received the award for her development of the innovative SistersScholars in Training program for African American women seeking college degrees, many for the first time in their families.
- SisterScholars meets weekly and is an open support group where students come together to work on academic and personal goals as they move toward degree attainment.

Academic Analytics

UMSL faculty ranks 15th nationally in productivity for universities with “high research activity”

- Other schools in that top group include William and Mary, Boston College, Syracuse and Wake Forest.
- UMSL ranks first in Missouri in the “High Research Activity” – a category which includes Missouri S&T, UMKC and SLU.
- Not many people can say they beat Auburn and Alabama once – but UMSL has done it two years in a row, even without a football team.

Academic Analytics

13 individual programs among Top 50 in their respective fields

- Educational Counseling 5th.
- Criminology & Criminal Justice 6th
- Clinical Psychology 10th.
- Psychology 11th.
- Information Systems 13th.
- Social Work 17th.
- Communication 19th.
- Applied Math 28th.
- Accounting 28th.
- Finance 31st.
- Evolutional Biology 36th.
- Philosophy 38th.
- Educational Psychology 41st.

U.S. News & World Report

International Business ranked 16th nationally

- 12th consecutive year in publication's Top 20.
- Our College of Business Administration went through a successful accreditation process this year.
- 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.

U.S. News & World Report

Graduate criminology program continues to be ranked 4th nationally

- Year in and year out our criminologists win accolades for their classroom, research and outreach contributions.
- I couldn't be more proud of our faculty, students and alumni in this increasingly popular and important program.

Eight additional graduate programs made *U.S. News & World Report* “Best” list

- Biology
- Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Clinical Psychology
- Education
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Public Policy Administration
- Social Work

U.S. News & World Report

UMSL online programs have received exceptional ratings

- 1st among Missouri universities for master's in education – 25th nationally.
- 2st among Missouri universities for overall bachelor's programs – 50th nationally.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Pierre Laclède Honors College

- Started in a classroom ... the honors college now enrolls nearly 600 students.
- There have been two deans since its inception
 - Fred Fausz – now in the history department
 - And Bob Bliss - who will retire this spring but is with us today
- Bob ... please stand so we can show our appreciation for your years of dedication.

For the second year running, UMSL has received a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award

- Given out by Insights into Diversity magazine, this award recognizes universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to **diversity** and **inclusion**.
- Indeed, our campus serves as a model for diversity and inclusion.
- I want to thank the entire UMSL community for your commitment to civility, diversity and quality.

The new Recreation and Wellness Center is set to open in late August – to the delight of students who are funding it

- As you might recall, our students passed a fee referendum, and the curators approved bonding for the \$36M structure
- 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

Construction on the Science Learning Building is well under way – probably set to open next spring

- This self-funded, \$32M building will include
 - state-of-the-art teaching laboratories
 - solarium/town center [crossroad within the science complex]

We broke ground on the Optometry Patient Care Center this winter – with a 2-year construction time line

- The 48,000 SF facility will greatly enhance our optometry education as well as better serve the area's eye-care needs.
- The funding for this \$17M building is coming from optometry college funds and a student-approved fee.

The Missouri Legislature last year approved \$10M for our new Business Administration Building as a match to privately raised funds

- We are hopeful that Gov. Nixon will release those funds before June 30 – when the appropriation will expire.
- The business college badly needs this facility to maintain and enhance its educational programs and to continue providing Missouri with great business leaders.

The transformation of Natural Bridge into a Great Street is well under way and on schedule for completion in December

- That last fact is especially pleasing to those of us who drive this street everyday.
- A historic fountain from the Central West End has been installed at the Florissant Road-Natural Bridge intersection, and underground cabling has begun.
- When completed, this project will greatly benefit the campus and community.

Following the advice of our Chancellor's Council, UMSL has purchased the historic Normandie Golf Course

- Not only did council members advise us to secure the 117-acre tract of land – they gave us the money to do it.
- Three members secured the purchase option and one stepped forward with a gift of \$1.5M to make this possible.
- We've leased the property to Walters Golf Management for 10 years.
- Discount for alumni, students, employees & retirees. So ... please play golf.

Those of you who have attended past Chancellor's Reports know that I usually see the glass three-quarters full. I love good news.

- Today, though, I am diverting somewhat to talk about some of the challenges we have and continue to face.
- Specifically ... I am speaking of activities associated with the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson and state funding.

The ongoing drama since last August has been a challenge to us all.

- While there were no acts of violence on our campus, the proximity of Ferguson negatively affected our enrollment – both in the fall and the spring.
- Students, alumni and employees were distracted and often fearful.
- Having said that, we remain one of the safest campuses in the region, and our enrollment is getting back on track.
- I credit much of this to our commitment to diversity, where 30% of our students are classified as minorities, and our ability to work with students, faculty and staff in a positive manner when issues and crises arise.

Our collective response to Ferguson has been amazing ...

- Students, faculty, staff and alumni have engaged in a myriad efforts to promote positive change.
- We have hosted debates and forums ... collected food and medical supplies ... provided hundreds of hours of counseling services ... cleaned streets ... helped with business and community improvement plans
- The response has been such that I can't keep up with it – mostly top-up projects by talented, caring people.

There also have been institutional responses ...

- For example, we joined with the St. Louis Regional Business Council on a business development fund for Ferguson-area companies.
- And we hosted numerous forums and guests, including Gov. Jay Nixon, Atty. Gen. Chris Koster and the Ferguson Commission, as they have discussed plans for progress.

Our station – St. Louis Public Radio – provided us with superb coverage of events and issues during this time

- I've been praising STLPR coverage for months. Others are now jumping on board.
- Last week, the station received six *Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards* from the Radio and Television News Directors Association for stories related to Ferguson.
- The awards recognize excellence in radio and web production for large market stations in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri.

UMSL also became a major component of Emerson's "Ferguson Forward" initiative

- This St. Louis-based company has committed \$1.5M in scholarships to UMSL students from the Ferguson-Florissant, Normandy, Jennings, Hazelwood, Riverview Gardens and Ritenour school districts.
- We thank CEO David Farr and his colleagues for their commitment to the region and faith in UMSL.

So struck by Emerson's gesture ...
President Wolfe and I today are
announcing another joint initiative

- The UM System and UMSL are jointly funding what we are calling the “North County Scholars” Program – a \$500,000 effort that will mirror the benefits of the Emerson Community Scholarship Program.
- President Wolfe ... thank you for the important role being played by the UM System.

On the state side, we have great elected officials, but the truth is our funding from the state has declined since FY2010

- UMSL's state allocation has fluctuated from over \$63M to as little as \$53M a year.
- And UMSL has received virtually no state funds for facilities since 2001 – only \$1.1M total in 13 years.
- The result has been a long deterioration of buildings and operational cuts totaling about \$20M since 2010.
- The good news is we're seeing some improvement, but lack of funding is hurting us badly as it is other state institutions.

Let me end with what is called The Missouri Promise

- This is a movement to amend the state Constitution to provide scholarships that would eliminate or substantially reduce the cost of tuition and fees for Missouri residents who perform well in high school ... say a 3.0 GPA or better.
- Funding would come from an increase in the tobacco tax.
- Similar to the Hope Scholarships in Georgia, this concept is driven by our alum State Treasurer Clint Zweifel and President Tim Wolfe.
- The Missouri Promise is picking up support across the state.
- I hope we can count on you when the appropriate time comes.

So, that's my report ...

- We have challenges ... but great opportunities to move forward in a direction that benefits our students and community.
- Together ... we can remold our region and secure funding to ensure UMSL excels even further as an anchor institution.
- I thank each of you for being here today and for helping make UMSL a better place, which in turn helps the St. Louis region, the state and beyond.