



MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 2023



MSU receives multi-million-dollar estate gift for construction management

The MSU Foundation received an estate gift valued at nearly \$3 million dollars, the largest estate gift in the school's 135-year history. The donation is from the estate of Dr. Staley F. Adams and his wife, Grace Adams.

Dr. Adams, professor emeritus in the civil engineering department at the University of Kentucky, passed away in July 2016 at the age of 95. Beloved by his former students who called him brilliant in his field, Adams left behind his wife, Grace, who passed away in 2022. After her death, the couple's estate informed the MSU Foundation of the planned gift.

"Planned giving is such an important, impactful and everlasting gift," said Rick Hesterberg, CEO of the MSU Foundation. "We are honored to be the recipient of the Adams' generosity and the support it will give MSU students for generations to come."

The gift will establish the Dr. Staley F. Adams and Grace C. Adams Memorial Scholarship. The fund provides scholarships to Eastern Kentucky students majoring in engineering. Recipients must be full-time undergraduate students from MSU's 22-county service region majoring in engineering technology with an emphasis on construction management.

Scholarship preference includes students who demonstrate a personal commitment to helping fund their education by holding a part-time job during college. A committee of faculty members from the Department of Engineering and Technology Management selects recipients, and scholarship renewal is possible from year to year.

MSU's Department of Engineering and Technology Management provides hands-on learning opportunities for students in construction management, automation, robotics, manufacturing, electronics, systems engineering and industrial education.



Office of the President

202 Howell-McDowell Admin. Bldg. | Morehead, KY 40351

Phone: 606-783-2022 | president@moreheadstate.edu

www.moreheadstate.edu/president

MSU recognized for affordability

Morehead State has received a new accolade recognizing its affordable programming in relation to its peers. The award comes from Colleges of Distinction, a resource whose cohort of schools is selected based on the quality and breadth of hands-on experiences in lieu of the popular rankings model.

Following a nationwide conversation about college tuition and student debt, the Affordable Colleges of Distinction award aims to guide cost-conscious students and parents through college financing.

Fewer than 150 institutions have been selected as Affordable Colleges of Distinction. Last year, MSU was named a 2022-2023 College of Distinction, Kentucky College of Distinction, and Public College of Distinction.

The Colleges of Distinction selection process comprises a sequence of in-depth research and detailed interviews with schools, accepting only those that adhere to the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes.

Business professor receives ARC grant for service-learning

Students enrolled in Business Plan Development (BBA 350) have gained real-world experience this semester thanks to a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

The \$5,000 Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP) grant paid for a service-learning component of the course, qualifying it as a Level UP course. Level UP: Experience Your Future is a campus-wide program developed to help students improve specific student learning and student success outcomes. The program also helps students prepare for their future by using hands-on experiences to foster critical career skills.

The course is taught by Dr. Janet Ratliff, associate professor of management and entrepreneurship and endowed professor of entrepreneurship, who applied for the grant. She and several students presented at the 22nd Annual Appalachian Teaching Project National Conference in December in Washington, D.C.

Agriculture professor awarded USDA grant

Dr. Amy Collick, assistant professor of precision agriculture/agritech at Morehead State, has been awarded a research grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Collick has received a three-year research award of \$74,694 for her research into phosphorus build-up on agricultural sites. The grant will pay for a work-study and software for the project, which is expected to last for three years. Collick explained that high levels of phosphorus in soil can pollute nearby waterways, causing a dense growth of plant life and death of animal life from lack of oxygen.

MSU recognizes graduates at commencement ceremony

Morehead State University honored nearly 500 graduates at ceremonies on Dec. 10.

Graduates celebrated their academic accomplishments with family, friends, loved ones and the MSU community. It included congratulations from MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan.

The ceremony honored graduates of the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology, the College of Science, and the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education.

Heather L. Randolph (Class of 2022) of Sandy Hook served as the commencement speaker representing the College of Science. MSU ROTC commissioned Randolph as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Reserves Nursing Corps. Randolph's immediate goal after graduation is to become an intensive care unit (ICU) nurse with long-term career aspirations to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA).



Office of the President

202 Howell-McDowell Admin. Bldg. | Morehead, KY 40351

Phone: 606-783-2022 | president@moreheadstate.edu

www.moreheadstate.edu/president