

Murray State University names task force members to examine development of School of Veterinary Medicine



The Murray State University Board of Regents adopted a resolution of support at its Aug. 25 meeting to create a task force and begin a feasibility study to examine the statewide shortage of veterinarians and work toward the development of a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University.

The state of Kentucky currently does not have a School of Veterinary Medicine, and approximately 70 students from Kentucky are accepted each year to out-of-state veterinary schools. In the United States, there are only 32 veterinary colleges accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

The members of the School of Veterinary Medicine task force include:

- Mr. David Beck, President and CEO, Kentucky Venues
- Mr. Jeremy Buchanan, Executive Director, Purchase Area Development District
- Dr. Johanna Choate, Assistant Professor, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University
- Mr. Seth Clark, Pre-Veterinarian Student, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University
- Ms. Sarah Coleman, Executive Director, Kentucky Horse Council
- Ms. Niki Ellis, Executive Director, Kentucky Pork Producers Association
- Dr. Renee Fister, Associate Provost, Murray State University
- Dr. Claire Fuller, Dean, Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Murray State University
- Ms. Sharon Furches, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau
- Mr. Jerry Gilliam, Christian County Judge Executive
- Mr. Jamie Guffey, Executive Director, Kentucky Poultry Federation
- Mr. Daniel Hayden, Program Coordinator, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
- Representative Richard Heath, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee
- Ms. Yesenia Hernandez, Pre-Veterinarian Student, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University
- Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman, Associate Professor, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University
- Senator Jason Howell, Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee
- Mr. Stan Humphries, Trigg County Judge Executive
- Ms. Tara Joiner, Licensed Veterinary Technologist, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University

- Mr. Nathaniel Keith, Production Manager, Cal Maine Foods
- Dr. Brittany Kirby, Assistant Professor, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University
- Dr. John Laster, Veterinarian and Executive Board, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
- Mr. Doug Lawson, President/COO, Field and Main Bank
- Dr. Brent Mayabb, Global Chief Medical Officer, Royal Canin
- Ms. Theresa Nichol, Garnett Farms
- Dr. Shea Porr, Associate Dean, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University
- Mr. Ronny Pryor, Representative, Tyson Foods
- Dr. Debbie Reed, Director, Breathitt Veterinary Center, Murray State University
- Representative Steven Rudy, House Majority Floor Leader
- Ms. Joanna Shake, Executive Director, Green River Area Development District
- Ms. Krista Stewart, Agriculture Coordinator, Hopkinsville Community College, KCTCS
- Dr. Jared Tapp, Veterinarian, Pennyrile Animal Clinic
- Mr. Jason Vincent, Executive Director, Pennyrile Area Development District

Co-Chairs:

- Dr. Brian Parr, Dean, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University
- Mr. Jordan Smith, Executive Director of Governmental and Institutional Relations, Murray State University

Ex-Officio:

- Dr. Robert L Jackson, President, Murray State University
- Dr. Tim Todd, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Murray State University
- Ms. Jackie Dudley, Senior Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services, Murray State University

"I am very pleased to appoint this important task force of leading agricultural professionals as we study the many critical needs in this area and advance a School of Veterinary Medicine in Kentucky at Murray State University," said Murray State University President Dr. Bob Jackson. "We have a growing shortage of veterinarians in Kentucky and we are excited to advance the important work of addressing this need. We are extremely grateful to the members of this group for their assistance and wise counsel as we move forward."

Murray State's Hutson School of Agriculture has the largest estimated pre-veterinary medicine/veterinary technology enrollment of any university in Kentucky, and is just one of three programs in Kentucky that is fully accredited by the AVMA.

Psychology professor recognized nationally by Research.com

Murray State University psychology professor Dr. Dan Wann was recently noted in the 2023 edition of the ranking of top scientists in the field of psychology by Research.com.

The report contains the list of leading scholars and is intended to offer the academic community more visibility and exposure to the influential research contributions made by those at the forefront of psychology.

Wann, a nationally-recognized sports psychology expert, has been interviewed by numerous news organizations throughout the world including ESPN, The New York Times, The Huffington Post, HBO's Real Sports news magazine and others.





School of Nursing and Health Professions receives \$1.5 million grant

Murray State University's School of Nursing and Health Professions has received a significant grant for the development of a Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Simulation Education Training Program in partnership with Baptist Health Paducah.

The grant includes approximately \$500,000 in funding for 2023-24, with recommendations by the Health Resources and Services Administration for future support with similar funding in 2024-25 and 2025-26, potentially totaling nearly \$1.5 million.

Funding from the grant will be used to purchase simulation equipment for a dedicated collaborative educational unit in conjunction with Baptist Health Paducah and provide clinical practice opportunities for Murray State nursing students.

The project has four objectives:

- Expand simulation technology in nursing education to address critical skill gaps to improve patient outcomes
- Recruit and retain nursing students from rural and underserved populations
- Create experiential learning opportunities through an academic clinical partnership with Baptist Health Paducah
- Develop and implement a sustainability plan for ongoing clinical experiences for student nurses from Murray State

Murray State is expected to break ground soon on the construction of a new School of Nursing and Health Professions building on the Murray campus. The new facility will include expansive spaces for clinical learning, classrooms and offices, and will assist with addressing a projected shortage in nurses and other health profession needs in Kentucky.

Statewide Program of Distinction in Cybersecurity and Network Management reports record freshmen enrollment

Murray State University's statewide Program of Distinction in Cybersecurity and Network Management has welcomed its largest freshman class in program history and reports a 30% increase in overall program enrollment from last fall.

In 1997, Kentucky House Bill 1 created Programs of Distinction through the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education at public postsecondary institutions, including Murray State University's cybersecurity program. Murray State offers a bachelor's degree in Cybersecurity and Network Management, along with an accelerated master's degree (available online) in Cybersecurity Management that can be completed in 12-18 months and certificates at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Murray State has a Cyber Education and Research Center that provides education, research, development and outreach support for the University's cyber-related programs.

Graduates join a global network of alumni who are employed at Google, Microsoft and Amazon Web Services, among others.

Additional information is available at murraystate.edu/cyber.

Murray State University recognized nationally by U.S. News & World Report for 33rd consecutive year

Murray State University has again been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top universities in the country in multiple categories, marking the institution's 33rd consecutive year of top-tier rankings by the national college guide.

Murray State ranks first in the state of Kentucky among public, comprehensive universities in the South in categories including Regional Universities, Top Public Schools, Best Value Schools and Best Colleges for Veterans.

Specifically, Murray State ranks in the South region as follows:

- 31st - Regional Universities
- 13th - Top Public Schools
- 9th - Best Value Schools
- 11th - Best Colleges for Veterans
- Top 150 Performers on Social Mobility

Murray State has also been recognized as a top university in undergraduate academic programs of business, computer science and nursing, with a specific mention of engineering and an increase in rank by 9%.

"We are very pleased to be recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* for the 33rd consecutive year across multiple categories, particularly attributes of the quality, value and accessibility of a Murray State education," said Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson. "We continue to see enrollment growth, including this fall's largest freshman class in the history of Murray State University. Over the past five years, we have awarded a record amount in scholarships and financial aid while continuing to enhance our academic programs and campus resources to support our students. This is an exciting time to be a Murray State Racer."

The University was highlighted within the past month as a best value for students seeking a college degree by *Washington Monthly* in its "Best Bang for the Buck" rankings, as well as spotlighted nationally for both quality and value by *Forbes*.

