



Murray State University recognized nationally by Colleges of Distinction in its 2023-2024 rankings

Murray State University has been recognized nationally by Colleges of Distinction in its 2023-2024 “Best Colleges” rankings.

According to its website, Colleges of Distinction notes colleges and universities which are nationally recognized by education experts as an exceptional school, committed to teaching undergraduate students, offers a wide range of cutting-edge educational opportunities, provides a vibrant campus community with unique opportunities for growth and is highly valued by graduate schools and employers for its outstanding preparation.

Murray State was one of two public, regional comprehensive universities in Kentucky which were recognized. Specific academic areas in business, education, engineering and nursing were also noted, as well as the University’s overall affordability.



Be Bold Centennial Campaign reports a record-breaking level of fundraising success

With the close of the first year of the public phase of Murray State University’s Be Bold – Forever Blue & Gold Centennial Campaign, the University reports a record-breaking level of fundraising success in total gifts and new documented commitments in support of its students and programs. With

total gifts and commitments exceeding \$16.7 million for the year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, the University is making excellent progress toward its goal of raising \$100 million through this historic campaign.

The Be Bold Campaign has raised over \$62 million in total gifts and commitments. The success of this fundraising effort emphasizes Murray State’s commitment to student support and success, enhancing academic excellence, strategic modernization of its campus facilities and strengthening the long-standing championship tradition of Racer Athletics, which more than doubled fundraising results over the previous year.

Following Murray State’s centennial year, donors are giving campus-wide in support of programs and students at record levels. In early 2022, the Office of Development and the Murray State University Foundation, Inc. set a goal of establishing 100 new funds that would support new student scholarships, academic funds for excellence and increased support for teaching and learning. Murray State exceeded that goal by working with donors to establish 103 new funds by July 2023. Further evidence of increased giving is shown in the number of donors achieving record levels of support, with 25 new members of the Rainey T. Wells Giving Society, which recognizes donors with total support exceeding \$250,000 in gifts to the University.

Murray State University hosts 2023 Governor’s Scholars Program and Commonwealth Honors Academy

Murray State University is proudly partnering with the Governor’s Scholars Program (GSP) as one of three host universities in the state of Kentucky for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025. The Murray State University GSP 2023 completed its five-week program on July 29, hosting a total of 352 students representing 87 counties throughout Kentucky.



The Governor’s Scholars Program is a summer residential and intellectual program for outstanding Kentucky high school students who are rising seniors as part of an effort to enhance the next generation of civic and economic leaders. Established in 1983, the program provides academic and personal growth through the balance of a strong liberal arts program with full co-curricular and residential life experiences. Students must complete an application and compete with others from across the state. Those selected attend the program at no cost to participants.

The Murray State University Commonwealth Honors Academy (CHA) completed another successful year, with the program taking place from June 3-24 with a total of 93 students participating from 69 different high schools. CHA is a challenging three-week enrichment program for outstanding high school students who have completed their junior year of high school. The Academy offers high school students who have just completed their junior year a unique approach to learning in a living-learning community located on Murray State’s campus.

Murray State University reaches all-time freshmen record

As Murray State University has begun the 2023-24 academic year, the University has reached the all-time freshmen record. With enrollment numbers materializing in the weeks to come, this year’s freshman class at Murray State will be the largest freshman class in the institution’s history.

“We are very excited to share this preliminary snapshot of enrollment for the 2023-24 academic year at Murray State University; particularly, the potentially historic size of this year’s freshman class,” said Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson. “For many months, numerous individuals across campus have worked extremely hard to engage with prospective students and their families, letting them know how Murray State University is a great fit for both their expectations and aspirations to be successful as students, graduates and alumni of this special place. We are looking forward to a tremendous academic year.”



Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife form partnership to advance invasive carp removal efforts

The Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business at Murray State University and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources have announced a new partnership to advance invasive carp removal efforts in Kentucky waterways.

Both entities see promise in a pairing of the internationally accredited business college with the state agency whose mission is conserving, protecting and enhancing Kentucky’s fish and wildlife resources. The partnership is aimed at fostering development of entrepreneurship for the commercial and retail use of invasive carp that will result in the expansion of the processing industry in western Kentucky.

At present, a robust commercial fishing industry on Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley and surrounding rivers is one of the few control strategies proven effective at reducing invasive carp impacts on sport fishing and boating economies in western Kentucky.



Board of Regents adopts resolution of support to begin examining the development of a School of Veterinary Medicine

The Murray State University Board of Regents adopted a resolution of support at its Friday, 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.

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).

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), there are 86,300 veterinarians in the United States and this occupation is expected to grow by over 19% by 2031. The BLS also reports a total of 122,800 veterinarian technologists/technicians are working today and the field is expected to grow 20% by 2031.

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 the state that is fully accredited by the AVMA.

College of Education and Human Services Reading and Writing Education Program among the best in the U.S. for preparing future teachers in the science of reading

The College of Education and Human Services at Murray State University is pleased to announce that the undergraduate Reading and Writing Education program has been recognized by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) for its rigorous preparation of future teachers in how to teach reading, earning an “A” grade in NCTQ’s new report.

The program at Murray State is among just 23% nationwide and one of four in Kentucky to earn an “A” from NCTQ for meeting standards set by literacy experts for coverage of the most effective methods of reading instruction, often referred to as the “science of reading.”



School of Engineering receives grant award from Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization

Murray State University’s School of Engineering recently received a grant award from the Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization (PACRO).

The \$56,000 grant award will fund a mechatronics lab expansion in the School of Engineering and was presented to Murray State representatives on July 10 by PACRO Executive Director Greg Wiles and Board Chairman Eddie Jones.

The lab is used to support students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in electromechanical engineering technology and manufacturing engineering technology, as well as students pursuing the Associate of Science degree in mechatronics. Students take multiple classes in the lab where they learn automation, controls and robotics using industry-standard equipment. The grant funds will be used to update and expand the number of training stations in the lab.