



Pictured: Murray State alumnus and actor W. Earl Brown

W. Earl Brown delivers “A Racer Success Story” at 2023 Presidential Lecture

Murray State University welcomed alumnus W. Earl Brown for the 2023 Presidential Lecture on Feb. 28 inside the historic and newly-renovated Lovett Auditorium.

Brown currently plays a recurring role in the breakout hit from Disney+/Lucasfilm in “The Mandalorian” universe, HBO Max’s hit, “Hacks,” is also currently co-starring in Apple+’s “Five Days at Memorial” and Peacock’s “Paul T. Goldman.” Other recent TV/streaming contract roles include AMC’s “Preacher,” HBO’s second season of “True Detective,” Hulu’s “Reprisal” and ABC’s anthology series, “American Crime.” His many past guest star roles on television include shows such as “Documentary Now!,” “Luck,” “American Horror Story,” “Justified,” “Six Feet Under,” “NYPD Blue,” “X-Files,” “CSI” and “Seinfeld” as well as lead roles in eight pilots. Among the several TV movies he has been involved with included the starring role in VH1’s “Meatloaf: To Hell And Back.”

Brown also played “Dan Dority” in HBO’s “Deadwood.” During the show’s second season, the show’s creator, David Milch, invited him to join the show’s writing staff. In 2007, Brown earned a Writers Guild of America Award nomination for writing on a drama series and a Screen Actors Guild Award nomination for best drama ensemble acting. Establishing himself on a show as critically lauded as “Deadwood” opened doors for other writing projects. In 2011, Sony released “Bloodworth,” a film produced and written by Brown.

Brown’s career runs the gamut from television to film, to music, to theatre — from comedy to drama to musical.



Pictured from left to right: Murray State Director of Athletics Nico Yantko, Swift & Staley President and Murray State Board of Regents Vice Chair Leon Owens, Dennis Jackson and Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson.

Murray State Athletics launches the Dennis Jackson Leadership Program

Murray State Athletics has launched the Dennis Jackson Leadership program, powered by Swift & Staley.

The program provides the needed tools to Murray State student-athletes in the areas of personal growth, life skills and professional development. From recruitment through retirement, the program is a guide for student-athletes to be successful people both with their families and in their careers.

Murray State Athletics believes in the journey each student-athlete embarks on when they arrive as freshmen, or in some cases, as transfers. During their time with a Racer sports program, the goal is to focus the student-athlete on their academic pursuits, career readiness, leadership and civic engagement, NIL preparedness, brand management and financial literacy.

Dennis Jackson became the first African American student-athlete at Murray State in 1960 where he excelled to All-Ohio Valley Conference status in two sports. A native of Murray, Jackson graduated from Murray State with degrees in history and physical education. He served 40 years as a teacher and administrator with Paducah (Kentucky) Public Schools. The desire to participate in athletics has never left Jackson. He served as a high school basketball official for 25 years and called numerous games at the Kentucky State Tournament. Jackson was inducted into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 1999.

DENNIS JACKSON LEADERSHIP PROGRAM PILLARS

Career Readiness

- Networking Development
- Micro-Internships
- Career Planning
- Mentorship
- Career Hiring Events
- M Club Membership – Connect with former Racers
- Resume Building

Leadership and Civic Engagement

- Speaker Series
- Community Service
- Voter Education
- Chamber, Local Government, Economic Impact Engagement and Education
- Trip to State Capitol in Frankfort, Kentucky

NIL Preparedness and Brand Management

- INFLCR (a content and compliance software platform for athletics)
- Co-Branded Group Licensing
- Brand Consulting
- Social Media Coaching
- Attire and Wardrobe Prep

Financial Literacy

- Murray State Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business Connections
- Local Bank Partners – Savings and Checking
- Retirement and Benefits Planning
- Investment Education

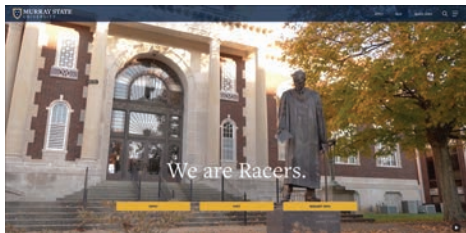


Website redesign project receives national award

The 2022 Murray State website redesign was recognized as a Silver Winner in the 10th Annual Education Digital Marketing (EDM) Awards. Entries were received from colleges, universities and secondary schools across the country. Judges for the EDM Awards consisted of a national panel of education marketers, advertising creative directors and marketing and advertising professionals.

Since the launch of the redesign, web analytics have shown increases in views, time users spend on the site and a 20.74% decrease in bounce rates.

The redesign, led by Murray State's web management department in collaboration with Beacon Technologies, Inc. and Modern Campus, is a mobile-first design. 60% of new users are visiting the site on mobile devices and there has been a 22% increase in mobile page views and a 19% increase in the time users spend on the site.



Murray State University named a top producer of students receiving prestigious Fulbright awards

Murray State University has been named a Fulbright Top Producing Institution for U.S. students by the U.S. Department of

Murray State University earns 2023-2024 Military Friendly® School designation

Along with several other recent rankings that Murray State University has received, Military Friendly® has awarded the University with the 2023-2024 Military Friendly® School designation. Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. Over 1,800 schools participated in the 2023-2024 survey with 530 earning the designation.



Murray State offers resources for military connected students such as personalized advising, career planning and placement, flexible online and weekend schedules for those who serve on active duty, disability services, free counseling services, free limited student health services and a psychological center.

The University also offers military tuition discounts for military service members using Federal Tuition Assistance. These benefits can include tuition assistance and Veterans Affairs education benefits, college credit for military training, waived fees for courses, online classes, free graduation cords for veterans, textbook and fee discounts, free admission applications as well as waived tuition costs not covered by the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program.

Master's degree program earns national recognition

Murray State University's online master's degree program in Information Systems (MSIS) was recently recognized among the 2023 Best Online Programs in the Computer Information Technology (CIT) category by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Designed for individuals looking to complete or further their education, this year's edition evaluated more than 1,800 online bachelor's and master's degree programs. *U.S. News and World Report* assessed schools based on a variety of objective factors such as student engagement, faculty credentials and services and technologies.

Murray State's MSIS program is 30 credit hours, with its curriculum including courses that deal with data management, understanding and visualizing data, implementing data-driven scientific decision making and project management.

Within the program, concentrations exist in business analytics and information security. Career opportunities include, but are not limited to, data analytics, cyber and information security and software development.

Recent graduates are currently employed at Amazon, United Systems and Syngenta, among others.

In addition to the online format, the program is offered in person at the Murray campus.

State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This recognition is given to the U.S. colleges and universities that received the highest number of applicants selected for the 2022-2023 Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Murray State is the only regional comprehensive university in Kentucky to make this list. Four students from Murray State were selected for Fulbright awards for the 2022-2023 academic year, making it the highest producing year for the University.

Fulbright is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program. It is also among the largest and most diverse exchange programs in the world. Since its inception in 1946, more than 400,000 participants from all backgrounds

and fields – including recent university graduates, teachers, scientists, researchers, artists and others, from the United States and over 160 other countries – have participated in the Fulbright Program.

“One of the most visible academic achievements for our students and University is the receipt of Fulbright Scholarships,” said Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson. “We have been recognized as a top institution in the U.S. in this area along with other distinguished universities. This is the first time in our 100-year history that we have been recognized in this manner and we are very proud of our students, faculty and staff who have worked to make this possible.”