



MARCH 2024



Photo credit: Intuitive Machines

## Morehead State SSE students tracking lunar mission

Morehead State's Space Science Center (SSC) continues its involvement with NASA's Artemis program and the Moon to Mars initiative with the launch of Intuitive Machines' IM-1 mission.

The SSC was among the primary ground station for the mission as part of the Intuitive Machines Lunar Data Network (LDN), which included locations in England, South Africa, and Australia. Students in the space systems engineering program provided telemetry, tracking, and command services for the mission, meaning they communicated with the spacecraft and collected data it transmitted back to Earth. MSU students also tracked a NASA payload that IM-1 carried to the Moon called Lunar Node 1.

Dr. Ben Malphrus, executive director of the Space Science Center, said this was the most recent time a commercial company sent a lander to the Moon on a commercial rocket - two giant leaps for the aerospace industry.

"We'll be helping these guys make history," Malphrus said.

Intuitive Machines' IM-1 mission sent its Nova-C lunar lander named Odysseus to the Moon as part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative. CLPS is a key part of NASA's lunar exploration efforts.



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## **Morehead State awarded grant to increase student service learning**

Morehead State University provides valuable real-world experience to students through service-learning opportunities. MSU received a substantial financial award to expand the possibilities for Eagles to volunteer and impact their community.

As a Kentucky Campus Compact member school, MSU recently received an EngageKY+ Volunteer Generation Fund grant totaling over \$36,000. This grant aims to reduce barriers to volunteering for underrepresented populations and enhance current and newly created volunteer programs for undergraduate students.

## **Hammonds named Special Education Teacher of the Year**

Morehead State University's quality education programs are known for consistently producing educators who are some of the best in the state. A recent alum from the Volgenau College of Education received recognition for her work in special education.

The Council for Exceptional Children recently selected Stephanie Hammonds (Class of 2022), an exceptional child instructor at Carl D. Perkins Job Corps in Paintsville, as its 2023 Special Education Teacher of the Year. She received this honor at the State Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Louisville. A first-generation college student, Hammonds earned a Bachelor of Arts in Learning and Behavior Disorders (LBD) from Pikeville College (now University of Pikeville) in 1994 and enrolled at MSU to earn her Rank II certification in 2022.

## **MSU receives a \$2.2 million grant for rural education**

Morehead State University takes pride in its mission to educate students for success in a global environment while improving the quality of life of communities in its service region. MSU recently received significant federal funding to benefit its eastern Kentucky and rural communities.

In December 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced Morehead State was one of 22 higher education institutions to receive \$44.5 million in grants to improve rates of postsecondary education enrollment, persistence, and completion among students in rural communities. The University received over \$2.2 million to assist high school students with college enrollment and provide internships and career opportunities to postsecondary students. MSU was one of four colleges in Kentucky to receive grants. The funding comes courtesy of the Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development (RPED) grant program, which promotes the development of career pathways toward promising, in-demand occupations in the region.

## **ED.D. program earns national rankings**

Morehead State University's Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program prepares professionals to become impactful leaders in education. That commitment to quality and professional preparation has earned the program two national rankings.

The Princeton Review named MSU's Ed.D. program to its 2024 Best Online Ed.D. Programs list for the fourth consecutive year. It was one of only two Kentucky public universities to earn this distinction.

In addition, Forbes Advisor, a financial decision website from Forbes Magazine, recognized MSU's Ed.D. as one of only nine on its Best Ed.D. Programs of 2024. It was the only Kentucky university program to make the list.