



## Murray State actively planning for traditional summer and fall

Murray State is actively making plans for a traditional summer and fall later this year.

“Our faculty, staff and students have done a wonderful job in adjusting to a drastically-changed world brought on by the pandemic,” said Murray State President Bob Jackson. “Throughout this time, we have maintained our high quality of teaching and learning to uphold our commitment to being the best student-centered institution we can be. As we

approach the beginning of the end to this pandemic and as vaccinations become more plentiful, we are actively planning for summer and next fall.”

The University has successfully managed the pandemic since February 2020 through the Racer Restart initiative and the 12 Racer Safe and Healthy Guidelines for a healthy and safe on-campus experience for students, faculty and staff.



## Nursing students assisting at vaccination clinics

Regional COVID-19 vaccination efforts at Murray State’s CFSB Center have included students from the University’s nursing program.

“The nursing faculty and students have helped by assisting people with mobility issues from their cars into the CFSB Center, checking temperatures at the door, administering vaccines, monitoring for any adverse responses to receiving the vaccine and answering any questions that people may have,” said Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions, Dr. Dina Byers. “We have worked as a team to help people in the community and region. Some of the stories that are shared by people receiving the vaccine are truly touching and there is a lot of hope and happiness experienced by working the clinic.”

## University celebrates Black History Month with variety of events and programs

In February, The Office of Multicultural Initiatives, Student Leadership and Inclusive Excellence (OMI), in partnership with Black Student Council, Brother to Brother, Sister to Sister, and MSU Alliance, hosted a series of events in honor of Black History Month. The events centered around the second principle of Murray State’s Community Commitment, Learning from One Another.

The month started with Black Student Council greeting the campus community in the quad as they handed out treats and bookmarks featuring historical Black figures. Two distinguished speakers provided keynotes as part of the annual OMI speaker series. Corrine Witherspoon, Director of the McClain Center for Diversity at Wittenberg University, spoke about the Black woman’s journey through leadership from Harriet Tubman to Kamala Harris. Dr. Kelvin King, author, activist and professor of English and Communication at Lawson State Community College, discussed the Black male experience related to academics, athletics and advancement. Black Student Council held a poetry contest and a poster contest that allowed students to express their creativity

and share their stories through art. Alliance hosted an LGBTQ+ black history trivia event.



## University lauded by niche.com, student reviews in numerous categories

Murray State continues to be ranked highly by niche.com based on multiple factors with emphasis on academics, value, faculty engagement with students, campus quality and student life.

The data, based on nationally-normed data from the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education and several other federal entities, ranks the University as the highest among public regional comprehensive universities in Kentucky in overall ranking, academics, value and campus quality and ties for first place with professor engagement, student life and safety.

Recent niche.com reviews from

students within the past three months include the following:

“Murray was just the right size, had a beautiful campus, very nice people, helpful professors (overall) and community pride. Everything was close and it was very affordable.”

“I have enjoyed all of my time spent at Murray State and the surrounding community. The faculty and staff at the school are the best there is! They are really there to teach you and help you learn!”

“It’s a great place and there’s lots of diversity! The town is very friendly and welcoming and everyone makes sure that you feel at home. This school is my happy place.”



### Dr. Oluwabunmi Dada selected for Academic Leadership Development Institute

Dr. Oluwabunmi Dada was recently selected for the Academic Leadership Development Institute cohort of 2021 by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

The Institute is one of the Council’s premier professional development programs specifically targeted to support underrepresented faculty and staff on Kentucky’s campuses. Beginning this spring, Dada will participate in a series of interactive professional development workshops that will expose participants to both practical and career-focused information with the goal of capacity building and cultivating the academic leadership pipeline in Kentucky.

Dada teaches in the University’s Department of Occupational Safety and Health.

“Through this experience, I hope to gain the knowledge and skill sets required to prepare me for success in future leadership roles,” said Dada. “Secondly, I hope to be a more effective mentor of students and young people in the community with this knowledge.”

## Breathitt Veterinary Center designated as a Level 1 laboratory

Murray State’s Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville has been designated as a Level 1 laboratory by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Animal Health Laboratory (NAHLN) system. Out of 60 diagnostic laboratories nationally in the NAHLN system, the center is now one of 23 state laboratories with Level 1 status and has been a Level 2 laboratory in the NAHLN system since 2005.

The Breathitt Veterinary Center, part of Murray State’s Hutson School of Agriculture, is a nationally preeminent animal disease diagnostic laboratory dedicated to protecting the invaluable assets of the region’s equine, livestock and poultry industries by providing the fastest, most accurate and dependable animal disease diagnostic services possible.



The center offers a broad range of tests for diagnostic services primarily to the livestock, poultry and equine industries of Kentucky and bordering states of Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois and Indiana.

The center also provides valuable educational and experiential learning opportunities for Murray State students who are pursuing degrees through the Hutson School of Agriculture.

## Esports continues to grow

Murray State Esports has grown exponentially in just a few years.

The club began with a group of 10 to 15 students; at the end of 2020, the number was approximately 90 students. Currently, there are 122 students in the University’s esports club.

Esports not only allows students to participate in collegiate esports events and casual gaming events, but it also gives students opportunities to grow in their leadership skills, project management skills, art and design talents and to explore their passions.

This is the first semester Murray State Esports has received funding from the University to utilize for events and tournaments, marking the first steps toward an eventually-funded program that offers scholarships.

