



Murray State University recognized as a new member of the FirstGen Forward Network

Murray State University has been recognized as a new member of the FirstGen Forward Network for 2024-25. Institutions which are selected must display a demonstrated commitment to improving experiences and advancing success for first-generation college students.

Powered by FirstGen Forward, formerly the Center for First-generation Student Success, the FirstGen Forward Network provides a three-phase approach to scaling holistic first-generation student success by engaging and empowering higher education institutions to transform the first-generation student experience, advance academic and co-curricular outcomes and build more inclusive institutional structures. To date, 429 institutions of higher education, including two statewide systems, have entered the network, representing 49 states and the District of Columbia.

Based on its most recent data, more than 40 percent of Murray State's undergraduate population is comprised of first-generation students. Led by the Center for Student Engagement and Success within the Division of Student Affairs, numerous programs are offered to first-generation students as well as scholarships, resources and even a First-Gen Thrive Lounge within the Lowry Center. Professional development sessions are offered for faculty and staff to better understand the needs of first-generation students.



For more information about first-generation efforts at Murray State, visit murraystate.edu/firstgeneration.



Murray State University and Madisonville Community College sign transfer agreement for Electromechanical Engineering Technology program

Murray State University and Madisonville Community College (MCC) signed a 2+2 articulation agreement which will provide students who have earned an Associate of Applied Science in Advanced Integrated Technology (AIT) degree at MCC a seamless transfer process into Murray State's Bachelor of Science in Electromechanical Engineering Technology (EMT) degree program. The program will be offered at Murray State University's Madisonville Regional Campus beginning with the upcoming fall 2024 semester.

Jake Hildebrant, Murray State EMT program coordinator, explained how the agreement will work.

"The agreement will allow graduates of the Associate of Applied Science in AIT to complete years three and four of the Murray State EMT degree in Madisonville's flexible laboratory using the same flexible delivery that has made the AIT program so successful," said Hildebrant. "The EMT program prepares graduates to be automation and control engineers in industry. The degree is in very high demand, and students receive high wage positions. The AIT degree is a perfect partner for the EMT program and the partnership has been in the works for many years. This should open the doors for new opportunities in the Hopkins County region."

Murray State University sets another annual fundraising record

Murray State University is proud to announce a record-breaking year of fundraising, securing \$21.3 million in donations and new commitments from alumni, faculty, staff, friends and corporate partners. This unprecedented achievement represents the commitment and dedication of the Racer community.

Over the past year, more than \$10.1 million in outright donations were received, providing an immediate impact through the University's \$100 million Be Bold: Forever Blue & Gold Centennial Campaign. These gifts will be instrumental in advancing the University's strategic initiatives including student scholarships, faculty support and development, enhancements to facilities across Murray State campuses and innovative programs and collaborative research projects.

Dr. Bob Jackson, President of Murray State University, expressed his gratitude and excitement for the future: "We are very grateful for this record-setting year of fundraising which is a testament to the unwavering support and tremendous generosity of our alumni and friends. This unprecedented private support enables us to continue providing exceptional educational opportunities, student scholarships and other financial aid and to advance our mission of preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives. Together, we are building a brighter future for our region and state and assisting current and future generations of students who will benefit from these transformational gifts."

The Be Bold Campaign is inspiring donors to support students and programs across the University. Scholarships and other financial aid support is at an all-time record with \$136 million over the last year.





Hutson School of Agriculture receives prestigious 2024 Chamber of Commerce Agriculture award

The Murray State University Hutson School of Agriculture (HSOA) has been recognized by the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce with the prestigious 2024 Chamber of Commerce Agriculture award at the 2024 Annual Business Celebration Awards Ceremony.

The longstanding collaboration between the HSOA and the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in the growth and success of many of the efforts in the HSOA. The Breakfast on the Farm partnership is especially beneficial in connecting with the local community and showcasing the importance of agriculture in the region. This event not only provides educational opportunities for the public but also fosters a sense of community engagement and support for the HSOA programs.

“In the HSOA, we take great pride in our growth and commitment to providing a comprehensive education to our approximately 1,400 students across our three academic departments. This award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff, who strive to provide an exceptional learning environment for our students,” said Dr. Brian Parr, dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture. “We are grateful for the recognition and encouragement from the Chamber of Commerce, which motivates us to continue our pursuit of excellence in agricultural education.”

Additionally, the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce has been an important supporter of the Murray State University School of Veterinary Medicine proposal. With their assistance, Murray State University has made significant progress in bringing this proposal to fruition. The establishment of a veterinary school at Murray State University will not only enhance academic offerings, but will also greatly benefit the region by addressing the growing need for veterinary professionals. The support toward this initiative demonstrates the Chamber’s commitment to the development of the community and the agricultural industry as a whole. Murray State University was recently appropriated \$60 million from the Commonwealth of Kentucky to build a Veterinary Sciences building in conjunction with these efforts.

Murray State University hires project director for \$1.5 million Department of Energy grant

Murray State University recently hired Alex Sherwood as project director for the \$1.5 million Department of Energy (DOE) grant that the Office of the Provost was awarded in May to support the efficient and effective work to revitalize the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion site in conjunction with community leaders.

The goal of the project is to develop information that the DOE’s Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office, its contractors and the public can use in decision-making for the environmental cleanup, beneficial reuse and public outreach at the Paducah site. The project will focus on site repurposing, STEM activities in local high schools and public outreach as well as scholarship and creative activities for faculty and students.



Alex Sherwood

MSU Matter RACERS CARE



Murray State University expands student mental health resources through new TimelyCare partnership

Murray State University has expanded its student mental health resources through a new partnership with TimelyCare, a 24/7 virtual health and well-being provider that serves more than 2.3 million students at over 350 campuses nationwide.

The partnership is an extension of Murray State’s ongoing student mental health resources, many of which are available on campus and virtually through areas such as University Counseling Services, the Psychological Center, the Center for Student Engagement and Success and the Office of Student Enrichment, Academic Excellence and Leadership.

Murray State’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is titled “MSU Matter – Racers Care.” As part of the University’s accreditation requirements, the current QEP is focused on mental health and well-being and is an important part of the University’s Strategic Plan.