



**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
STATE UNIVERSITY · 1873**

**BOARD OF REGENTS
PRESIDENT'S REPORT ITEM
December 14, 2018
Open Session**

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

- Executive Staff held a two-day retreat in November focused on “Meeting the Enrollment Challenge – Enhancing Recruitment and Student Success.” We had discussions addressing leadership in turbulent times – meaning, how do we enhance Southeast Missouri State University while dealing with declining state appropriations, fewer high school graduates, negative public perceptions of higher education, internal strife, and several other pressuring factors. We also discussed issues pertinent to institutional alignment and how we can work to ensure that leaders at all levels of the University are aligned to support the institution’s key priorities. We reviewed data on overall enrollment, retention and graduation rates, time and cost to degree, graduate outcomes and looked at information that will be necessary to help us narrow achievement gaps. Executive Staff is continuing to have conversations on these topics and we plan to engage the broader University community in them after the first of the year. Specifically, we will discuss where we are now, seek consensus on goals for each area, establish a target date by when we plan to achieve the goal, identify action steps that will be necessary to achieve the goals, and assign responsibility to individuals that will oversee needed initiatives to achieve the goals set. If done correctly, we believe that rather than embarking on a new multi-year strategic planning process, we can develop a comprehensive plan to guide us for the next 3-5 years focused on the critical areas of recruitment, enrollment and student success.
- The Southeast Missouri State University Autism Center for Diagnosis and Treatment will expand its outreach to residents in the Missouri Bootheel beginning in January by providing its services at Southeast’s Sikeston Regional Campus. Programming is expected to meet a growing demand in the region for autism services without having to travel to Cape Girardeau.
- Southeast Missouri State University’s MBA Program has been ranked among the nation’s outstanding business schools by The Princeton Review. Princeton Review included only three Missouri schools in its 2019 Best Business School rankings – Southeast’s Harrison College of Business and Computing, the Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis and the Trulaske College of Business at the University of Missouri.
- Two Southeast Missouri State University horticulture students have been selected to serve on the 2019 Student Advisory Committee of the Western Nursery and Landscape Association (WNLA). Leah Schumacher, a senior from Bridgeton, Missouri, and Kelly Hurley, a sophomore from De Soto, Missouri, will join a group of 20 of the most

outstanding agriculture students from institutions and colleges across the Midwest to serve on the 2019 board.

- The River Campus was honored with the City of Cape Girardeau's "Keep Cape Beautiful, Property of the Month" award for October.
- Southeast Missouri State University's Continuing Education department was recently recognized and commended by the City of Cape Girardeau with a proclamation for its collaborative role in connecting the University with the local community. The City Council recognized Continuing Education for providing the community with quality, customer service, access, innovation, diversity, flexibility, partnership and collaboration while inspiring a love of learning through innovative educational experiences for all ages and all people.
- Southeast Missouri State University senior Aaron Wendel was recently honored with the Rising Star Award from the St. Louis chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) during its St. Louis ImPReSSions Awards ceremony Nov. 15. Wendel is the first student to receive this new award, established to recognize a Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) member in the St. Louis region who's achieved early career successes, demonstrates outstanding leadership potential, possesses an enthusiasm for the future of public relations and is actively involved in the St. Louis community.
- Southeast Missouri State University graduate student Seth Sievers of Jackson, Missouri, has been awarded a Student Research Grant by the Central States Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine for his thesis project surrounding a study of Division I American football linebackers. He was awarded one of two research grants presented to doctoral, graduate and undergraduate level students in the chapter.
- Three Southeast Missouri State University students from the Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation won the Student Quiz Bowl at the Central States Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Conference Oct. 18 in Kansas City, Missouri. The annual quiz bowl is an opportunity for students to put their knowledge of sports medicine to the test. The Southeast team was comprised of Michael Berra of Chesterfield, Missouri; Logan Page of Malden, Missouri; and Kory Kasper of Springfield, Illinois.
- Southeast was recognized by Quality Matters with a 2018 QM Making a Difference for Students Award. Southeast was honored in the Outstanding Impact by an Institution category for implementing Quality Assurance in its online programs, establishing faculty training and creating an approach for collaborative course design.
- Southeast Online's Flipped Student Service Model, an innovative approach to providing student support services using technology, just-in-time messaging, customer service and community-building, was recognized by the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) with a 2018 Effective Practice Award. Online Learning Consortium effective practices focus on five pillars of quality in online education, including access, learning effectiveness, faculty satisfaction, student satisfaction and scale.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- Southeast Biology students Cole Bearden, Naomi Burr, and Grace Boyum won second place in a poster competition at the Midwest Drosophila Conference. The students are doing research with Dr. Rebeccah Kurzahls in the Biology department investigating the role that different genetic backgrounds have on how cells respond to a type of DNA damage called telomere loss.
- Southeast undergraduate student Cody Long and Dr. Siegal from the Biology Department recently had a paper accepted for publication in the journal *Copeia*. The title is, "Comparative histomorphology of oviducts from metamorphic and paedomorphic *Ambystoma talpoideum* (Caudata: Ambystomatidae). A former Southeast student who is currently a graduate student at the University of Tulsa started this project 3 years ago and is also a co-author on the paper.
- Four of our senior students Noah Krull, Dhanurja De Silva, Zihao Zhu, and Nick Ward were asked to observe and make recommendations regarding machine tool changeover on Mondi's Flex Printing machine as a part of a senior project. Mondi is a global leader in packaging and paper and has a facility in Jackson. Mondi staff commented: "Time motion studies like the one you guys performed are extremely important to the company. If we are able to employ these recommendations into our processes, it has the potential to save the company approximately \$250,000 a year."
- The Department of Mathematics made changes concerning their classes that has resulted in financial savings for students. Specifically, they switched from Pearson to the new Lumen Online Homework Manager, which means a \$25 per course fee instead of rates that sometimes exceeded \$130.
- Southeast's Intercollegiate Debate Team won first place in a competition in Anderson, IN, and third place in its only other competition in Dayton, OH.
- Faculty from the Department of Communication Studies and Modern Languages collaborated with faculty from the Department of Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Sociology to submit an NEH Connections Planning Grant application to improve cultural and linguistic competency among law enforcement professionals in an area with a growing Hispanic population.
- The Arrow, the university's award-winning student-run newspaper, placed first in two categories of the College Media Association Pinnacle Award and was honored with seven awards in total at the Associated College Press (ACP) /College Media Association (CMA) Fall National College Media Convention Oct. 25-28 in Louisville, Kentucky. They won the first-place Writing Pinnacle in the "Best Special Section: More than Four Pages" category for a special report titled "The Impact Zone," a special report which detailed the impact of the opioid epidemic facing Missouri and southeast Missouri in particular. A Black History Month feature titled "Until We All Make It" won the first-place Best of Collegiate Design Pinnacle in the "Best Feature Page/Spread" category. The Arrow also won a third-place Organizational Pinnacle in the "Four-Year Less-Than Weekly Newspaper of the Year" category.

- On November 7, A1 Auditions held regional auditions for the A1 Conference at the River Campus. The Conference is an opportunity for actors to be seen by the Artistic Directors and Casting Directors of the country's leading regional theatres all in one weekend. Eight of our students made it through the prescreen to attend the national professional conference in January, where they will audition in front of elite professional companies and national tours.

Enrollment Management & Student Success

- Campus Life and Event Services hosted the University's 9th annual Carpe Diem on October 27th. Carpe Diem is an event celebrating cultural diversity at Southeast and the program is largely planned by students, with support from several university staff and faculty. Approximately 800 people attended the event including university students, employees and community members.

Finance & Administration

- Facilities Management applied for and received \$134,367.90 in Ameren rebate incentives during calendar year 2018 for energy savings projects. Projects included replacement of air handling units in Grauel Building and Johnson Hall, and LED lighting upgrades in various buildings across campus including Dempster Hall and the Student Recreation Center.
- Office of Research and Sponsored Programs have submitted two National Science Foundation and are included as subaward on a third.
- University Transit was recognized by the Missouri Public Transit Association among small urban public transit systems in Missouri with an award for 7% increase in ridership. Additionally, transit has improved service to students after reviewing routes and service hours with a student focus group by adding Dempster as a stop to the River Campus route and increasing evening service from 1 bus to 2 buses between the high demand hours of 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Athletics

- Football hosted the first ever FCS Playoff game at Houck on November 24. The Redhawks won its first ever playoff game, defeating Stony Brook 28-14 and advancing to the 2nd round before ending its historic season with a loss to Weber State on Dec. 1.
- Senior Running Back Marquis Terry was named a finalist for the National Offensive Player Award, Junior Linebacker Zach Hall was named a finalist for the National Defensive Player of the Year Award, and Coach Tom Matukewicz was named a finalist for the National Coach of the Year. Additionally, Zach Hall, Marquis Terry and offensive tackle Drew Forbes were named to the 2018 Associated Press Football Championship Subdivision All-America Team.
- Senior Track & Field student-athlete Stephen Zagurski was selected to receive the Ohio Valley Conference Scholar Athlete Award for the 2018-19 academic year. The award is the highest individual honor that can be earned by OVC student-athletes and is given

annually to three men and three women student-athletes for their accomplishments in both the classroom and athletic arena, and because of their leadership qualities.

- The most recent NCAA report showed the federal graduation rate for the 2011-12 cohort of first-time full-time student-athletes at Southeast was 63%, which was 11% higher than the student body as a whole.

Advancement

- George Gasser started in the position of Director of Alumni Services on November 26. Mr. Gasser was selected after a national search to replace Jay Wolz who retired in July. He is a Southeast alumnus from 2008 and 2010 and has been employed in the Office of Admissions since graduation. In his new role, George will be responsible for administration and evaluation of the alumni program, including strategic planning, program development, volunteer management, communication and relationship development.
- SEMO Giving Day was held on November 27 resulting in \$26,469.99 raised from 298 donors, which was more than double the previous year's total. The goal for this year was to fund 12 projects in 24 hours, and all exceed their goal. The projects focused on supporting student success in a variety of ways, including experiential learning, educational equipment, undergraduate research, scholarship support, and professional development across all colleges and various departments.