



Communications & Marketing  
200 Earle Clements Ln. | Alumni Tower East  
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P: 606-783-9328 | F: 606-783-5056  
[www.moreheadstate.edu](http://www.moreheadstate.edu)

# NEWS RELEASE

**July 6, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

## **Morehead State and KCTCS sign Eagle Express Joint Admission Agreement**

Morehead State University (MSU) and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) continue a successful and long-standing partnership in helping college students succeed through its Eagle Express Joint Admission Agreement.

MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan and KCTCS President Dr. Paul Czarapata (Class of 2011, 2014) met Wednesday, July 6, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defining an arrangement to offer students a seamless transfer to MSU after earning an associate degree from KCTCS. It would allow students to be admitted to a KCTCS college and MSU simultaneously while the student completes their KCTCS degree.

Students accepted into the Eagle Express Joint Admission Program receive:

Academic advising and admissions counseling from their first day at KCTCS until they transition to MSU (for students seeking a bachelor's degree).

- Free transcript exchange.
- MSU Eagle ID card upon request.
- Unofficial transcript evaluation.
- Automatic award of the KY Transfer Scholarship (if eligible).

“This [MOU] allows students that touchpoint with the University all the time they’re with us through their associate degree to know they’re on track,” Dr. Czarapata said. “It smooths the transition and lets them know they’re on the right path they want to be and just have one more leg up.”

“This is an expansion of already existing agreements that we have had with various KCTCS colleges within our region and, ultimately, we are expanding this statewide,” Dr. Morgan said. “This joint MOU between MSU and KCTCS allows us to move our partnership systemwide, creating a pathway from Paducah to Pikeville.”

To learn more about Eagle Express Joint Admission or how to transfer to MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/transfer](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/transfer) or contact Jen Timmermann (Class of 2003, 2007), director of transition services, at 606-783-5488 or [j.timmermann@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:j.timmermann@moreheadstate.edu).

Photo, left to right: KCTCS President Dr. Paul Czarapata and MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan.

###

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### **Highley Scholarship fund honors commitment to MSU**

As a Morehead State University staff member, Mindy Highley (Class of 1991, 1993) has dedicated her career to alumni engagement and student success. Through a planned gift commitment, that dedication will continue through the creation of the Mindy C. Highley Scholarship Fund.

A native of Morehead, Highley graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Public Relations and Advertising Option in 1991. Earning a Master of Arts in Communication in 1993, she walked across the commencement stage again and straight into a career at MSU that would span nearly three decades.

Joining the team in the Office of Development, Mindy began as the telegiving coordinator, developing and implementing the phonathon program that saw students making personal calls to alumni and friends at MSU – a program still in operation today. She later moved up to the director of annual giving, then the director of development and eventually to assistant vice president for alumni relations and development, a role she has held since 2015.

Her career at MSU covered 28 years. She took lead roles in successful scholarship and fundraising campaigns that have raised tens of millions of dollars for campus facilities, scholarships and other University priorities. She also created and implemented the Herron Leadership Program, a student leadership, enrollment and retention initiative launched in 2016 thanks to the generous support of private donors.

Though she has retired this summer, Highley's legacy and commitment to MSU continues. The Mindy C. Highley Scholarship Fund will provide scholarship support to undergraduate students from MSU's 22-county service region, with preference given to students from Rowan, Bath or Lewis counties. Preference will also be provided to

students who show leadership through their involvement in high school and community service activities.

Through her decades of work at MSU, Highley understands better than most the importance of private giving and the impact it can have on students. Through this scholarship, her work on behalf of MSU won't end at retirement but will continue for decades to come. In Highley's own words – "Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle."

For more information on this scholarship or to establish your own, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email [giving@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

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### **MSU eSports Lounge opens in ADUC this fall**

Student-gamers at Morehead State University are about to have a space on campus to call their own.

Starting in the Fall 2022 semester, Room 252 of the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) will become the MSU eSports Lounge. MSU is now one of only a few colleges with an eSports lounge in the state.

The project is a collaboration between the Division of Student Affairs, Student Government Association, Office of Facilities Management, the Office of Information Technology and MSU's student gaming clubs.

"We had a number of eSports clubs on campus who were asking for a venue to come together," said Darrell Smith (Class of 1993), executive director of infrastructure services at MSU. "They know exactly what they needed and what they are looking for."

The MSU eSports Lounge will feature 10 gaming stations capable of hosting two five-person eSports teams. There will also be two additional units that are "hot swappable" if there are technical issues, and a new unit is required in the middle of gameplay. Through the University's existing partnership with Dell, the gaming stations will feature high-end Alienware gaming equipment, including 27" IPS monitors, gaming chairs and the Aurora R13 Gaming Desktop base system, which is a big selling point for gamers thanks to its processing speed.

"I know they are going to be pleased because the specs on this stuff are going to be top of the line," Smith said. "At the end of the day, it's going to translate to an experience that is fabulous."

In addition to the 10 gaming stations, two areas will feature wall-mounted 65" Samsung UHD TVs with both an Xbox Series X and PlayStation 5 console to support MSU's

gaming club console users. Another wall will have a 72" Samsung UHD TV with two Nintendo Switch consoles capable of supporting up to eight players.

The lounge will also have a sign-in/help desk and two security cameras with remote live viewing and 30-day recording capability.

In addition, ADUC 251 will be home to the eSports Lounge's streaming room. MSU has outfitted the room with two monitors, headsets and Alienware gaming chairs, a green screen, custom game lighting, an Elgato streaming deck and plenty of connections so gamers can plug in and livestream their gaming sessions. Smith said MSU will consider upgrading the streaming room in the future based on how frequently it is used.

"I would say that the student feedback we have received so far has been excitement and comments like, 'Wow, this is awesome,' and 'Thanks, MSU, for providing an opportunity for us gamers on campus,'" said Russ Mast, vice president for student affairs. "Anytime we can add or bring opportunities to campus that enhance the student experience is great."

To learn more about MSU's student gaming clubs and other student organizations, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/activities](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/activities).

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **MSU outreach programs receive funding, plan for expansions**

Several programs in Morehead State's Office of Regional Education and Outreach (OREO) are getting additional funding in the coming fiscal year to help them grow and expand to meet the needs of students and the community.

The MSUCorps program received increased funding to support 30 MSUCorps members in their service at regional schools tutoring students in reading and math. Their service time earns them a stipend plus an opportunity to attend college. The \$648,000 grant distributed by Americorps includes a \$196,000 increase in funding over last year. Joe Rowe, MSUCorps director, said the program significantly impacts the students it serves.

"MSUCorps focuses tutoring resources on students who are one to two grade levels behind in reading or math," he said. "The program has historically seen an 80% to 90% increase in math and tutoring scores. Also, learning skills and attendance have increased for tutored students."

Today's Youth will receive an increase in funding of \$100,000. This will allow the program to have a staff person in Ashland to offer the program's services, career and college readiness and work experience.

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Capacity Building Program received \$64,000 in additional funding, which will allow for the addition of a staff position in Prestonsburg and the expansion of the program's service region from 15 to 33 Eastern Kentucky counties. SMP assists Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers in preventing, detecting and reporting health care fraud, errors and abuse through outreach, counseling and education.

To learn more about MSU's outreach efforts, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/regional-educ-outreach](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/regional-educ-outreach) or call 606-783-2005.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 8, 2022**  
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### **KFAC exhibit featuring Adkins sculptures opens July 15**

The sculptures of Eastern Kentucky Folk Artist Minnie Adkins will be on display at the Kentucky Folk Art Center (KFAC) July 15-Sept. 9.

"Minnie Adkins: Story Carvings" is an exhibition celebrating the collaboration between Adkins and Mike Norris, children's book author and Jackson County native. Adkins, a native of Elliott County, carved the small creatures and figures that illustrate Norris' stories, including "Mommy Goose: Rhymes from the Mountains," "Sonny the Monkey," and "Ring Around the Moon."

Adkins started carving at an early age, inspired by watching the men around her whittle. While living in Fairborn, Ohio, from the 1950s into the 1970s, she continued her carving, giving most of it away to family and friends and occasionally selling her work at flea markets. In 1984, she took some of her carvings to a gallery in Morehead. The following year, she was introduced to the fledgling Folk Art Collection at Morehead State University, which grew into the KFAC. Adkins' work is part of the museum's permanent collection.

KFAC will host an opening reception for the exhibit Friday, July 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Hundreds of small sculptures Adkins created to illustrate Norris' books will be on public display for the first time. The exhibit runs through Friday, Sept. 9.

"Minnie Adkins' artwork is foundational to the Kentucky Folk Art Center permanent collection. Her collaboration with Mike Norris is an example of how storytelling in the Appalachian Mountains can take a number of forms, including visual storytelling, oral storytelling, and musical storytelling," said Dr. Julia Finch, assistant professor of art history and interim director of KFAC. "We are so pleased to be able to share this

exhibition, which is a testament to their mutual inspiration and collaboration and to the folk art traditions that are at the root of both artists' work."

KFAC is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/kfac](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/kfac) or call 606-783-2204.

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### Phi Beta Lamda excels in leadership competition

Nine members of Morehead State's Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) team won first place in their categories at the PBL State Leadership Competition held April 2 in Georgetown.

PBL is a professional organization that offers social, community and professional activities for students who are interested in business.

The following team members took home first-place prizes:

- Abigail Cooper, an accounting major from Vanceburg, computer concepts.
- Jared Hatton, a strategic communication major from Mt. Sterling, job interview.
- Anna Heineman, a small business management and entrepreneurship major from Morehead, entrepreneurial concepts.
- Skylar Holley, A management major from Mt. Sterling, business communication.
- Mann Patel, a computer science major from Somerset, cyber security.
- Mann Patel and John Reichenbach, a computer science major from Union, network design team competition.
- Gabriel Trudeau, an accounting major from Ft. Wright, financial concepts.
- Bryce Ward, an accounting major from Hurricane, WV, accounting principles.

Dr. Sam Stapleton, an instructor of management and PBL advisor, said, "I am always extremely proud of the students in Phi Beta Lambda and am fortunate to be able to serve as their campus advisor. This year's student members worked exceptionally hard to prepare for the state leadership competition. I believe their commitment is evident in their competition results."

To explore programs in MSU's Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/cbt](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/cbt), email [cbt@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:cbt@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2174.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 11, 2022**  
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### **MSU receives the Families of Young Children with Special Needs Program grant**

Morehead State University's Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) and Elementary Education programs received the Families of Young Children with Special Needs Program grant.

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) awarded this grant. It allowed MSU to collaborate with families across its 22-county service region in regional school districts, the Special Parent Involvement Network (SPIN) and Head Start cooperatives.

The University coordinated parent training and experiences for families to assist them in establishing early educational goals. It also provided materials, workshops and activities that equipped the families to work through introducing their children to early academic skills. Faculty and graduate students will offer multiple training courses to families at the district level to provide support.

MSU faculty like Professor of Education and IECE Coordinator Dr. Mee-Ryoung Shon engaged with graduate student-teachers to increase parent awareness about early childhood interventions in strategies.

"This funding builds a foundation in the life of young children with special needs. Faculty gets into the current real-world challenges and provide coaching, teachers provide individualized modeling sessions to each family, and families dive deep into educational play, which enhances their children's learning," Shon said. "This grant from KDE provides a steppingstone to formalize real partnerships on our team."

"I enjoyed getting the opportunity to work more one-on-one with my three students," said Megan Maddox, a teacher at Mason County Preschool. "I have a lot of complex needs within my classroom, along with behaviors. This experience made it possible to

work beyond that on Zoom and for more individualized, less rushed intervention to be provided. Families seemed engaged and we truly built wonderful relationships this way.”

The program’s seven-month implementation in the 2021-2022 academic year resulted in increased language, interactions and attention span among students.

“We are proud that this program has been supported by the KDE Office of Special Education and Early Learning for a second year,” said Dr. April Miller, dean of the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education.

The IECE and Elementary Education programs are in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education in the Ernst Volgenau College of Education. To learn more about its programs, call 606-783-2162 or visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/education](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/education).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 14, 2022**  
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### **Madonna Weathers to receive MSU's 2022 Founders Award**

The Morehead State University Board of Regents has announced that Madonna Weathers will be recognized as the 2022 recipient of the Founders Award for University Service.

Madonna Weathers (Class of 1971, 1972, 1982) came to Morehead State University with aspirations to become an educator. Growing up in Louisville, Weathers had friends and family living in the Morehead area and her visits led her to explore MSU and she was impressed by the reputable education programs.

"I came here for college, and I never went back – Morehead became my home," Weathers said.

Weathers completed a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1971, a Master of Arts in Education in 1972 and a Master of Arts in Higher Education in 1982. While she had plans to be an elementary school teacher, her plans changed when she was hired to complete a graduate assistantship in the Office of Student Housing while earning her first master's degree. The administration immediately recognized her leadership skills and passion, and she was offered an administrative staff position in the Office of Student Housing in 1972.

"After I started in the graduate assistantship role, I realized that student development work in higher education was a career path I hadn't considered," she said. "It was an area where I felt like I could be of real service to young people and I knew that would be rewarding."

Weathers served as the associate director of student housing for 13 years. Weather's first husband, the late Martin Huffman (Class of 1967), served as the director of printing services. The couple thrived in the campus environment and were very active in

campus life. It was during this time in her early career that she became an advocate for female students. She was the first person to suggest that MSU hire a female director in one of the male residence halls.

"I saw the need for women to be supported because they had so much to offer, and they were in such a male-dominated world," Weathers said.

In 1985, Weathers transitioned to the director of residence education. In 1989, she became the director of student support services. She held that position for one year before becoming director of student development in 1990.

In 2002, Weathers assumed the position of vice president for student life. In this position, she oversaw the dean of students, student organizations, intercollegiate athletics, multicultural student services, public safety, student counseling, housing, wellness and financial aid.

Weathers said her various roles in student life were a "24/7, 365-day-a-year job" that offered plenty of challenges. She has had to manage her fair share of student crises.

"There were fairly regular middle of the night calls and sometimes they could be answered on the phone and sometimes it would require a trip to campus right then," she said. "I could almost guarantee no day was going to go the way it looked on my calendar."

Even with these challenges, Weathers said the highs of her job far exceeded the lows. Anytime she encouraged a student, advised SGA or another student organization, attended an award ceremony or graduation, an athletic or a Greek life event, she saw her hard work and love for her students pay off through their success.

"Sometimes you don't know that you are impacting students at the time they are on campus. It is often years later when you see them at homecoming or receive wedding invitations from former students that you realize you did influence them in a positive way."

"It's when you get the notes after a student graduated saying 'you may not remember me but...thank you so much. You are the reason that I graduated,'" she said. "I just had a passion for that. It was important to me that people had the opportunities and all the support they needed to accomplish their goals."

Weathers worked alongside many different supervisors, vice-presidents and presidents of MSU during her 44-year career. She also served multiple terms on MSU's Staff Congress, was co-chair of the University's Campus Giving Campaign in 1999 and 2000, and served on the MSU's SACS Self Study Steering Committee from 1998 to 2000 and on multiple SACS accreditation visiting team. Weathers was a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the Southern Association for College Student Affairs, the American College Health Association, Mid-America College Health Association and the Kentucky College Health Association.

While she spent more than four decades serving students and retired in 2016, she remains actively involved with MSU. She is an avid supporter of MSU Athletics attending home and away sporting events and she travels with the MSU Retirees Association.

Weathers is also actively involved in the Morehead community. She previously served on the board of Peoples Bank and currently serves on the board of the St. Claire HealthCare Foundation, where she was recently appointed vice-chair. She also is a member of Chapter AA of P.E.O. and Jesus Our Savior Catholic Church.

Weathers has attended many Founders Day and Homecoming Celebrations and witnessed other notable Eagles receive the Founders Award. In 1996, she and her children, Sarah Huffman Caudill (Class of 1999, 2001) and Guy Huffman (Class of 2002), accepted the award on behalf of her late husband Martin Huffman, who received the Founders Award posthumously after passing away in 1993. Weathers is genuinely humbled and grateful to receive the honor herself. She said it feels like a lifetime achievement award for her consistent effort at helping every student succeed, which she said was the most rewarding part of her job.

"I'm very appreciative and just feel humble that I am being recognized. When I learned of this award, I felt honored and as if they were thanking me for a lifetime of little things," she said. " And the greatest thing is I had fun doing it."

The MSU Board of Regents established the Founders Award for University Service in 1978. The award recognizes individuals who have given superior service to Morehead State University throughout their time as an employee or volunteer. The Founders Award is presented at MSU's Homecoming in October.

For more information about recognition and awards, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email [giving@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

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**July 19, 2022**  
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### **Hawkins named Crayola Creativity Ambassador**

Susan Hawkins (Class of 2010), Morehead State instructor of art education, will be a National Arts Education Association (NAEA) Crayola Creativity Ambassador. She received this honor after a national search for arts leaders in education.

According to Crayola, nearly 200 visual arts educators applied to be creativity ambassadors. The newly announced 75 NAEA–Crayola Creativity Ambassadors will be immersed in leadership exercises and can then encourage colleagues to leverage creativity as a foundational practice in teaching and learning. Beginning in the fall, Hawkins will participate in online learning sessions and is encouraged to invite colleagues to join her. The sessions lead to the nationwide launch of Crayola Creativity Week in January 2023.

Selection for the program was based on a review of the applicants' resumes and their answers to a series of questions about how they have used successful approaches to building creative capacity through teaching and leadership in the classroom, school and community.

Hawkins said she heard about the program through her involvement with NAEA and the Kentucky Arts Education Association (KyAEA) and said she was interested because she's worked with Crayola before.

"I was immediately interested in the opportunity because I have worked with Crayola in the past using their educational materials to offer professional development to local elementary teachers," Hawkins said. "They provide quality art content and art materials, and I feel confident when using their offerings to teachers."

Hawkins said the ambassadorship will benefit her outreach efforts and help her students learn new teaching techniques.

“By working as the Crayola Creativity Team Leader, I can support the continuing supervision of the art outreach giving our art education students insight on how to create and teach their own art lessons in a hands-on approach. I can also provide additional support to local teachers who can utilize this program within their own classrooms by incorporating art in their everyday curriculum,” she said. Hawkins added she hopes the program will create awareness of how vital the arts are in schools, the community, and people’s individual lives.

To learn more about the program, contact Hawkins at [sl.hawkins@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:sl.hawkins@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2548.

For more information about programs in MSU’s Department of Art and Design, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/art](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/art), email [arde@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:arde@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2766.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 21, 2022**  
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### **MSU College of Education partners with South Dakota Tribal School**

Morehead State University's Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education developed an unexpected partnership with a tribal school in Waubay, South Dakota, resulting in a mutually beneficial relationship for students in both institutions.

The Enemy Swim Day School, a P-8 school, is a tribal Dakota school where faculty and staff integrate Dakota language and culture into the curriculum and the school environment. The school mistakenly sent a flyer to MSU (instead of Minnesota State University in Moorhead, Minnesota) looking to partner with colleges to send student-teachers to the school.

"It was the spring of 2021, and many schools were closed to student observers. As a tribal school, I thought that this school might offer a unique opportunity for our students to engage with diverse students in a virtual environment," said Dr. Kimberly Nettleton, director of Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QUAA) for the Volgenau College of Education and associate professor of education. "The more I spoke to the principal and superintendent, the more I realized what a unique opportunity this could be for both our candidates and the students in South Dakota."

Three students completed some or all of their spring student-teaching semester during the spring 2022 semester.

Katie Fraley (Class of 2022) and Lola Meyers (Class of 2022) went to The Enemy Swim Day School for student-teaching placement for their last eight weeks of the semester. Fraley is from Sandy Hook and Meyers is from Pikeville. Both graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Learning Behavior Disorders and Elementary Education.

In January, Trey Martin (Class of 2022) arrived at the school and spent his entire spring semester there. Martin is from Mt. Sterling and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in

English Education, Grades 8-12. He said the hands-on experience has been invaluable. He plans to sign a contract to teach at Tiospa Zina High School in Sisseton, South Dakota, in the 2022-23 academic year.

“I had more experiences here in the first week than most people have with several years of teaching,” he said.

The Enemy Swim Day School provided Volgenau College of Education faculty members with information concerning opportunities to partner with the school. Dr. Gera Nelson, associate professor of education, hopes to have her students work with Enemy Swim’s English Language Arts (ELA) students in the fall. The theatre education instructor, Octavia Biggs-Fleck, director of The Little Company touring theatre company, worked with Enemy Swim students when they came to MSU during their eighth-grade trip. It was a partnership neither school expected but has led to unexpected opportunities.

“It’s surprising that a flyer sent to Morehead State University in Kentucky instead of to Moorhead in Minnesota could have such far-reaching consequences,” Nettleton said.

To learn more about MSU’s Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education and its programs, call 606-783-2162 or visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/education](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/education).

Photos: MSU Volgenau College of Education alumni Trey Martin (Class of 2022, upper right) and Lola Meyers (Class of 2022, lower left pictured with students) completed student-teaching at Enemy Swim Day School, a tribal Dakota school in South Dakota.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **MSU mourns the death of former dean Dr. William 'Bill' Whitaker**

The Morehead State University community mourns the loss of former professor and dean of MSU's College of Business, Dr. William "Bill" Whitaker (Class of 1964), who passed away July 11, 2022. He was 78 years old.

Born February 27, 1944, in Maysville, Kentucky, he was the son of the late William M., Jr. and Hazel Hicks Whitaker.

Whitaker was a 1961 graduate of the Breckinridge Training School. He graduated with high distinction with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Mathematics from Morehead State University in 1964. Continuing his education at the University of Kentucky, Whitaker completed an MBA and Ph.D. in economics and business. Upon graduating cum laude in the spring of 1968, he accepted a faculty position at Florida State University in the College of Business. Throughout his 40-year career in higher education, he served as a faculty member at multiple colleges and universities.

At MSU, Whitaker served as the vice president of academic affairs and as a professor and dean in MSU's College of Business from 1975-89. As dean, he helped expand the College of Business enrollment by more than 50%, facilitated the development of several new courses and programs, and improved student retention and advising.

Whitaker left an indelible impression on many students and colleagues in his various roles. One of these was former MSU Professor Dr. Will McIntosh. McIntosh, a resident of San Antonio, Texas, is the global head of research for USAA Real Estate. Whitaker served as McIntosh's mentor throughout his career. To honor the impact he had on his education and career, McIntosh established a \$10,000 scholarship in Whitaker's honor in 2018.

The Whitaker family committed to growing the scholarship to the endowment level. Thanks to Bill and Patricia Whitaker's support and many family and friends, the Dr. William M. Whitaker III Scholarship Endowment is now valued at over \$25,000. This endowment will be invested and scholarships will be awarded in Whitaker's memory for generations to come.

"I am humbled by the generous donations made in my honor," Whitaker said in an interview before his passing. "I am thrilled that this financial support will help MSU students in the College of Business and Technology."

Scholarship recipients shall be junior or senior students majoring in finance with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above. Preference will be given to female students. The scholarship is renewable for up to one year if the student maintains a 3.0 GPA and continues to major in finance.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Dorton Whitaker (Class of 1978, 1983), and his five children: sons Will (Class of 1991), Rob (Class of 1991), Jim (Class of 1995) and Brandon (Class of 2003), and daughter Destinee (Class of 2000). The Whitakers are a family of Eagles and are loyal supporters of Morehead State University.

A celebration of life will be held on September 24, 2022, at 10 a.m. at The First Presbyterian Church in Maysville. In place of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Dr. William M. Whitaker III Scholarship Endowment. Make memorial gifts online by visiting [alumni.moreheadstate.edu/billwhitaker](https://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/billwhitaker).

At Morehead State University, over 94% of our students receive some form of financial aid. The MSU Foundation is instrumental in assisting with scholarship support. The Foundation's endowment, valued at over \$70 million, manages nearly 600 funds to support MSU students. As we celebrate 100 years as a public institution, the MSU Foundation is on a mission to grow the endowment to \$100 million.

If you're interested in establishing a scholarship or making a planned gift commitment, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033, email [giving@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:giving@moreheadstate.edu) or visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu](https://alumni.moreheadstate.edu).

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## NEWS RELEASE

**July 28, 2022**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **Grad School Open House is Aug. 4**

Morehead State University's Graduate School will hold a Virtual Open House from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 4.

The online event will allow those interested in continuing their education at MSU to chat with Graduate School advisors. Those who attend the event will receive a promotional code to waive the \$30 application fee.

Dr. Susan Maxey, director of graduate programs, said the event gives students a chance to answer any questions before the academic year. In addition to learning about MSU's 68 graduate programs and dozens of graduate-level, non-degree programs, Maxey said students can learn about the Graduate School's online options, many of which are nationally ranked.

"Numerous programs are totally online so in this environment of staying home, we make it easy to pursue a degree with convenience," she said.

Visit the Graduate School Online Open House at <https://samba.live/live/ww/july22> on Aug. 4 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Learn about MSU's nationally ranked graduate programs by visiting [www.moreheadstate.edu/rankings](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/rankings).

For more information about graduate programs at MSU, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/gradschool](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/gradschool) or call 606-783-2039.

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Morehead State University (MSU) is a comprehensive public university with robust undergraduate and graduate programs, emerging doctoral programs, and an emphasis on the region and beyond. MSU aspires to be the best public regional university in the South through prioritizing student success; outcomes; academic excellence; and rankings, reputation and regional responsiveness.



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# NEWS RELEASE

**July 28, 2022**  
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## **MSU announces recipients of Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship**

Morehead State University has announced five recipients of the U.S. Department of State's prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, a grant program allowing students in need of financial support the opportunity to study and intern abroad. The recipients from MSU are Rachel Feger, Karina Gonzalez, Mirlen Hernandez, Syria Hines and Damaris Taborda.

Rachel Feger is a junior double-majoring in global studies and sociology from East Bernstadt. Karina Gonzalez is a junior from Mt. Sterling double-majoring in Spanish and biomedical sciences. Mirlen Hernandez, a two-time recipient of the scholarship, is a senior from Lexington majoring in strategic communication and theatre. Syria Hines is a junior from Louisville majoring in creative writing with a minor in Spanish. Damaris Taborda from Somerset is a senior majoring in engineering construction management.

Aaron Hirsch, coordinator of MSU's Education Abroad program, said in addition to their education abroad experiences, these five scholarship winners will also be helping other potential scholarship recipients do the same.

"Throughout next year, you can expect to see these young women working with our office to help other students have the same success in making education abroad more affordable," Hirsch said.

For more information on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, visit [www.gilmanscholarship.org](http://www.gilmanscholarship.org).

To learn more about MSU's Education Abroad program, contact Hirsch at [aghirsch@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:aghirsch@moreheadstate.edu), 606-783-2044 or visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/educationabroad](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/educationabroad).

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