

Morehead, KY 40351

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 1, 2023**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

MSU named College of Distinction for Adult Students

Morehead State University received recognition multiple times from Colleges of Distinction. Recently, the popular resource, in partnership with Abound, gave MSU one more ranking, designating the University as one of the Best Colleges for Adults.

"For MSU to be ranked as a College of Distinction for Adult Students is an incredible honor," said Jen Timmermann, director of transition services. "Adult students are a vital demographic in our overall population, and we're honored to assist them in achieving their educational goals."

Abound is a system that provides guidance to adults pursuing higher education at the undergraduate and graduate level. Institutions selected schools as a Best College for Adults by upholding practices and creating and reflecting a great flexible program, including night and weekend access, childcare opportunities, strong part-time student retention and graduation rates, affordable tuition, and more.

"We strive for a student-centered approach and work diligently to meet adult students where they are, whether it be via online completer degrees or regional campuses. Our faculty and staff are accessible and understand the responsibilities and real-life demands placed on adult students such as full-time employment, caregiving, and the like," Timmermann said. "MSU provides strong support programs for Adult students such as tutoring, disability services, student support services, and professional advising."

For more information about Abound, visit <https://abound.college>.

MSU was also named a 2022-2023 College of Distinction, Kentucky College of Distinction, and Public College of Distinction. It also received Colleges of Distinction recognition in business, career development, military support, nursing and affordability.

Learn more about [MSU's rankings](#).

To [apply to Morehead State](#), email [admissions@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:admissions@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2000](tel:606-783-2000).

###

Morehead State University is a comprehensive public university located in Morehead, Kentucky. With a rich history and a commitment to innovation, the University's academic programs, research initiatives, and community outreach efforts are designed to empower students to succeed. Serving Eastern Kentucky for more than 135 years, MSU is ranked among the top public universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report and boasts more than 70,000 proud alumni.

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 2, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### Talent Search holds Career Day

The Educational Talent Search (ETS) programs at Morehead State University hosted their annual "Game of Life" College and Career Fair this month.

More than 200 students from 12 ETS program high schools attended the event. Students had the opportunity to hear from MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan, WKYT News Anchor and MSU alumna Amber Philpott (Class of 2003), and various professionals from 30 vendors. Careers represented at the fair included: the FBI, Federal Bureau of Prisons, WKYT News, Dream Maker Realty, The Northeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center, and the Kentucky State Police, among others.

"We want our students to not only pursue the best educational programs to further their careers but to also seek out hands-on experiences through internships, job shadowing, or even volunteer work," said ETS Director Summer Bryant. "My hope is that our students leave feeling not only motivated but also empowered with the resources and professional connections to take that next step on their path to their career."

For more information about ETS at MSU, contact [Talent Search](#) Director Summer Bryant at [606-783-2977](tel:606-783-2977) or [s.copley@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:s.copley@moreheadstate.edu).

Photo caption: WKYT-TV News anchor Amber Philpott (Class of 2003) spoke at the ETS "Game of Life" Career Fair, held April 13 in the Adron Doran University Center.

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 2, 2023

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### Student film showcase is May 4

Morehead State's Convergent Media program will host its annual Student Film Showcase Thursday, May 4, in the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) Theater. Seven films created by students for classes and other faculty-led opportunities this semester will be screened at the event.

"This is a chance for us to show off the fantastic work our students are doing for our community," said Dr. Nettie Brock, assistant professor of communication.

The films that will be screened include:

"Permanence:" Two roommates, Alex and Morgan, navigate a post-apocalyptic world overrun by brain-infecting parasites after the death of their mutual best friend Ben. Tensions arise as they forage for supplies, try to contact other survivors, and attempt to repair the broken bond of friendship they once shared.

"Til the Cows Come Home:" In a post-apocalyptic world, a new virus develops in cows. The virus makes all dairy and beef poisonous to humans.

"The Quest for the Holy Cheese:" A group of three adventurers is on a quest to obtain the holy cheese from an evil wizard named Mr. Chester. The holy cheese is wanted because it will cure the zombies. The adventurers will have a unique encounter with Mr. Chester.

"The 1000-Year Flood: The 1000-Year Flood" is a historical still image documentary that chronicles the devastating floods that struck eastern Kentucky in July of 2022. Through a combination of news footage, first-hand accounts, and expert interviews, the film explores the causes and consequences of the disaster that left thousands of families homeless and entire communities destroyed.

“Women in Appalachian Traditional Music: Standing by Herself, Not Her Man.” This documentary is about the history of women in traditional music and the modern experiences of women who practice this art form.

“Passerby:” A coming-of-age, brutally honest drama following our main character after she hits an all-time low. Throughout four installments, a college student begins to find solace in the peculiar counsel of her childhood friend to reinvigorate her life and navigate the spring semester. Ep. 01 – “Breathe In:” After hitting rock bottom, an art student is saved by her longtime friend.

“The Love of Yarn:” The piece centers on Kentucky weaver Martha Richard as she talks about her experience running a textile production studio, her introduction to the craft, and the history of the state's cottage fiber arts industry.

Doors and red carpet open at 7 p.m., and the screening will start at 7:30 p.m. A brief Q&A period will be held following the screening. The event is expected to last about 90 minutes and is free and open to the public.

For more information about the film screening, contact Instructor of Mass Communication Steven Middleton at [s.middleton@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:s.middleton@moreheadstate.edu).

To learn more about the convergent media program, contact the [Department of Communication, Media and Languages](#) at [cml@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:cml@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2134](tel:606-783-2134).

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 3, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **MSU's 'Greatest Gala' provided exciting and entertaining fundraiser**

Morehead State University faculty, staff, students, and friends came together for the 2023 Spring Gala on April 29 at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

The MSU Foundation touted the circus-themed event and fundraiser as the "The Greatest Gala." The gala treated guests to incredible food and drinks, a silent auction and a performance by students, faculty, and alums from the School of Creative Arts.

The 30th annual fundraising event had nearly 400 attendees. It raised over \$60,000 through corporate and individual sponsorships and almost \$20,000 through the online auction.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our event sponsors and participants," said Allison Caudill (Class of 2005, 2009), executive director of alumni relations and development. "The annual Spring Gala continues to provide MSU with the opportunity to celebrate and showcase the talents of our students and raise support for student scholarships."

Over the years, the Spring Gala has raised close to \$3 million dollars to support educational opportunities for MSU students.

The 2024 MSU Spring Gala is Saturday, April 28, 2023. For additional information, visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu/gala](http://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/gala) or call the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at 606-783-2033 or 1-877-783-ALUM.

View a photo gallery of the 2023 Spring Gala at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAC4nG>.

Watch a recap at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0M1Z943SSE>.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **MSU Spring Commencement is May 13**

The commencement ceremony will be held for spring 2023 graduates at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 13, in the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC).

The event will not require tickets for guests or graduates, and there is no limit on the number of guests who may attend. Guest seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and the venue will not mandate social distancing. Special music will be provided by faculty and students from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

The student speakers for the 2023 Spring Commencement are Keenan Conley and Kelton Crank.

Keenan Conley of Salyersville will represent the College of Science and is the son of Lora (Class of 2022) and Matthew Sellers, and Rhonda Conley. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Science.

As an undergraduate student, Conley earned a 4.0 GPA and was on the Dean's List for seven consecutive semesters. While at MSU, Conley completed the Rural Physician Leadership Program Bootcamp. He was one of five students awarded automatic conditional acceptance into the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Medicine through its Early Assurance Program. Conley is enrolling in the UK College of Medicine's Rural Physician Leadership Program as an M.D. candidate.

Kelton Crank of Pikeville will represent the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology. He is the son of Johnna Stafford. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Healthcare Management.

Crank's extracurricular activities included serving on the Student Government Association (SGA) as vice president, commuter representative and chief of staff. Crank was awarded the James Still Fellowship and will continue his education by completing

the Master of Health Administration program at the University of Kentucky. He aspires to be a director within the healthcare system and, eventually, a legislator focused on healthcare policy.

The Spring Commencement will also feature the commissioning of the following MSU ROTC officers:

- Alexander Clay Back – Lexington, KY
- Jacob Wayne Buttry – Mt. Sterling, KY
- Catherine Rose Ortiz-Ramirez – Waynesburg, KY
- Dorothy Shipley – Brandenburg, KY
- Isaac James Shackelford – Cave City, KY

In addition to the Spring Commencement ceremony, the following will also honor MSU graduates:

- Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Annual College Honors Convocation – 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, Adron Doran University Center.
- Lavender Graduation – 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 8, Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) Ballroom A
- Rites of Passage Ceremony – 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 8, Adron Doran University Center (ADUC) Ballroom A
- ROTC Commissioning Ceremony – 5:30 p.m., Friday, May 12, Button Auditorium

For more information on MSU's 2023 Spring Commencement and to live stream the ceremonies, visit [moreheadstate.edu/graduation](https://moreheadstate.edu/graduation).

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The event will not require tickets for guests or graduates, and there is no limit on the number of guests who may attend. Guest seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and the venue will not mandate social distancing. Special music will be provided by faculty and students from the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.

The student speakers for the 2023 Spring Commencement are Keenan Conley and Kelton Crank.

Keenan Conley of Salyersville will represent the College of Science and is the son of Lora (Class of 2022) and Matthew Sellers, and Rhonda Conley. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences.

As an undergraduate student, Conley earned a 4.0 GPA and was on the Dean's List for seven consecutive semesters. While at MSU, Conley completed the Rural Physician Leadership Program Bootcamp. He was one of five students awarded automatic conditional acceptance into the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Medicine through its Early Assurance Program. Conley is enrolling in the UK College of Medicine's Rural Physician Leadership Program as an M.D. candidate.

Kelton Crank of Pikeville will represent the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology. He is the son of Johnna Stafford. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Health Systems Management.

Crank's extracurricular activities included serving on the Student Government Association (SGA) as vice president, commuter representative and chief of staff. Crank was awarded the James Still Fellowship and will continue his education by completing the Master of Health Administration program at the University of Kentucky. He aspires to be a director within the healthcare system and, eventually, a legislator focused on healthcare policy.

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 4, 2023

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **MSU announces student speakers for Spring 2023 Commencement**

Morehead State University has announced the student speakers for the 2023 Spring Commencement. The ceremonies take place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at the Academic-Athletic Center (AAC).

The 10 a.m. ceremony will recognize graduates from the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education, and the College of Science. The 2 p.m. ceremony will recognize graduates from the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology, and the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Keenan Conley of Salyersville will represent the College of Science and is the son of Lora Leigh Sellers (Class of 2022), Matthew Sellers and Rhonda Conley. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences.

As an undergraduate student, Conley earned a 4.0 GPA and was on the Dean's List for seven consecutive semesters.

Conley is a member of the MSU Chemistry Club, the MSU Pre-Med Club, and the Herron Leadership Program and served as service chair and biology tutor of the Tri-Beta Club. He is also a Delta Tau Delta Fraternity member, serving in roles including Southern Division Conference delegate, Karnea delegate, new member class president, secretary, alum coordinator, FAAR coordinator and vice president of communications. He is also a two-time recipient of the Delta Tau Delta Zeta Zeta Academic Scholarship.

Conley has participated in the Undergraduate Research Fellowship program since August 2020 under the mentorship of Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Melissa Mefford. He designed and performed experiments using state-of-the-art methods to screen through yeast colonies to look for novel mutations within the telomerase RNA gene. Conley also performed data analysis using DNA sequence alignment software

and Microsoft Excel. Conley and others presented their findings at the 2022 Celebration of Student Scholarship, where he received an award of merit based on his group's poster presentation. He also shared his research through a virtual talk at the Southeast Regional Yeast Meeting as one of the few undergraduate students to participate.

Conley works as a Be You Medical Spa patient care coordinator in Prestonsburg.

While at MSU, Conley completed the Rural Physician Leadership Program Bootcamp. He was one of five students awarded automatic conditional acceptance into the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Medicine through its Early Assurance Program. Conley is enrolling in the UK College of Medicine's Rural Physician Leadership Program as an M.D. candidate.

"I feel like I truly belong, and that feeling is something I believe is unique about MSU. I want to remind my class of this feeling," Conley said. "I want them to reflect on the last four years and think about their own experiences and on what MSU means to them. I want to empower them and leave them with motivation as they prepare to begin the next journey of their lives. Being an Eagle is special, and no matter where our lives take us after graduation, we will always have a home here at Morehead State University."

Kelton Crank of Pikeville is the commencement speaker representing the Elmer R. Smith College of Business & Technology. He is the son of Johnna Stafford. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Health Systems Management.

As an undergraduate student, Crank earned a 4.0 GPA and was on the Dean's List. He also was accepted into the AHEC (Area Health Education Center) Scholars Program, a program to strengthen skills for healthcare professionals.

Crank's extracurricular activities included serving on the Student Government Association (SGA) as vice president, commuter representative, and chief of staff. He was first chair of the Funding and Awards Committee, a member of the Traffic and Appeals Committee, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and the Kentucky Rural Health Association. Crank is also a Beta Gamma Sigma honors society member and an Advocacy Fellow for the Fund for Global Health.

"My time at MSU has taught me the importance of actively being a part of a community," Crank said. "My campus involvement has instilled in me a greater sense of self that has urged me to take advantage of every future opportunity to be involved."

Crank completed two healthcare internships in 2021. He was a physician practice administration intern for Pikeville Medical Center in Pikeville and a healthcare administration intern for St. Claire Healthcare in Morehead. On campus, Crank also worked as an Information Technology student resource specialist and a tutor at MSU's Tutoring and Learning Center.

Crank was awarded the James Still Fellowship and will continue his education by completing the Master of Health Administration program at the University of Kentucky. He aspires to be a director within the healthcare system and, eventually, a legislator focused on healthcare policy.

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 4, 2023

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **MSU students, faculty and staff receive civic engagement, experiential education awards**

Morehead State University's Center for Career Development and Experiential Education (CCDEE) presented awards to recognize students, faculty, staff, and employers for prioritizing hands-on experiences inside and outside of the classroom to prepare students for career success.

The ceremony was part of the 18th Annual Celebration of Student Scholarship on Wednesday, April 19. The experiential education awards - presented by Rebecca Wright, coordinator of internships - honored those whose contributions to and investments in career development via experiential education were exceptional. All students, employers, and faculty engaged in experiential education – internships, co-ops, clinicals, practicums, and student-teaching – during 2022 were eligible for nomination. The community and civic engagement awards - presented by coordinator of service learning Andrew Sexton (Class of 2020, 2022) - recognized the achievements of students, staff and faculty who used their time and experience to give back to Morehead and the service region.

"I am grateful for all the students, faculty, and organizations that make internships such a dynamic and impactful experience for all constituents involved," Wright said.

"Research shows how significant an internship is for students, not only in regards to employability, but for the development of desirable career skills that they can apply in academic, professional, and personal settings."

#### **2022 STUDENT INTERN OF THE YEAR AWARD: JORDAN HENSLEY**

Jordan Hensley of Walton is a veterinary technology major in the College of Science. She was a veterinary assistant at Noah's Ark in Florence for her internship. Noah's Ark Animal Clinics are four full-service, state-of-the-art clinics that annually care for over



50,000 dogs and cats in Greater Cincinnati. As an intern, Hensley learned to gather patients' histories, assist the veterinarian with multiple tasks, work directly with clients, and volunteer to cover shifts in all clinic areas. Hensley grew tremendously throughout her time as an intern at Noah's Ark, and her work ethic and professionalism profoundly impacted all those around her.

#### 2022 FACULTY SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD: DR. LEEANN AKERS

Dr. Akers, assistant director for the Center for STEM+eXcellence, received recognition for working with students at Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR). She provided outstanding support for students engaging in internships at Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR). Akers has been instrumental in nurturing student engagement in the internship opportunities at MSPR, many of whom become employed as student MSPR work-studies and accept jobs in the field. Her personal and professional commitment to the value of internships has profoundly impacted MSU students' educational experiences.

#### 2022 EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD: ST. CLAIRE HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

St. Claire HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm of St. Claire HealthCare, secures the financial resources necessary to support St. Claire HealthCare's mission. This award recognized Mindy Highley (Class of 1991, 1993), executive director of community engagement and philanthropy, for her impact on student internships at the foundation. Alexa Deaton, an MSU student enrolled in an internship at the St. Claire HealthCare Foundation in the fall of 2022, shared that "Mindy has prepared me for a future in this field by expanding my knowledge, giving me responsibilities to sharpen my career skills, and has opened doors for me to work with others in the hospital to create connections." Internship experiences like this are instrumental for the personal and professional growth of MSU students, and organizations like St. Claire HealthCare Foundation and the mentorship of people like Highley make these opportunities possible.

The MSU Community and Civic Engagement Awards were presented to the following recipients engaging in mutually beneficial relationships:

#### 2022-2023 COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD – FACULTY: DR. JEANNIE JUSTICE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY, ERNST & SARA LANE VOLGENAU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Justice engaged with the Haldeman Hayes Crossing Community Center, formerly the Haldeman School, initially built in 1937. Justice's involvement with the center started from an MSUTeach course that required students to engage in educational field experience. This short-term engagement turned into a long-term partnership as the center's board appointed Justice due to her interest in and support of their mission. Students from all majors have volunteered at the center to teach and help attending children. Justice earned recognition for her historical depth and continued engagement

with the Haldeman Hayes Crossing Community Center and the value that it brings to the community of Morehead and Rowan County.

2022-2023 COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD – STAFF: PAUL HITCHCOCK, GENERAL MANAGER, MOREHEAD STATE PUBLIC RADIO (MSPR)

Hitchcock began a new initiative in collaboration with Professor of Spanish Dr. Itza Zavala-Garrett to expand MSPR's programs to serve the Spanish Language Community in the region. MSPR's flagship station, WMKY, can be listened to at 90.3 FM, serving more than 20 counties in Eastern Kentucky. MSPR provides educational, entertaining, and informative programming through the efforts of students, staff, and community volunteers. Hitchcock also facilitated print materials to alert the community about programming availability. He earned recognition because of his efforts to meet a regional need while allowing students to obtain real-world, hands-on experience related to their major.

2022-2023 COMMUNITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD – STUDENTS: GABE BARCUS, ABBEY COOPER, ALEXA DEATON, MADDIE DODRILL, BRITTANY GRAZIANI

Gabe Barcus (Kitts Hill, Ohio), Abbey Cooper (Vanceburg), Alexa Deaton (Hazard), Maddie Dodrill (Asbury, West Virginia) and Brittany Graziani (Alexandria) worked with Dr. Janet Ratliff, Elmer and Donna Smith Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship and associate professor of management/entrepreneurship. In Her Level UP BBA 350-700SL course, students completed a service-learning project while developing the career skill of teamwork. Their multi-pronged project was part of the Appalachian Teaching Project "Building for the Exchange," funded by a \$5,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Under Ratliff's guidance, these student leaders paved the way for entrepreneurship and business development in the City of Morehead. They researched and completed a business plan for Fresh Start, LLC, to offer healthy food options through partnerships with local farmers. Barcus, Cooper, Deaton, Dodrill, and Graziani represented MSU in Washington, D.C., to present their research on the project. They also spoke with the board members of Downtown Morehead, Inc. This team of students earned recognition for their collaboration with one another and entrepreneurial engagement with the City of Morehead.

"Seeing the impact that our students, faculty and staff have on solving real-world problems in our community is impressive," said Megan Boone, director of the Center for Career Development and Experiential Education. "Students engaging in their communities develop discipline-specific knowledge while also building relevant career skills such as critical thinking, communication and teamwork. We applaud these efforts and the community partners with which MSU engages."

Community partners interested in working with Morehead State University for future service projects can complete the following survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ZHnqPCvvZy>.

MSU's CCDEE focuses on giving students helpful tools, knowledge, and opportunities to achieve career success. For resources, [upcoming events](#) and more information, call [606-783-2233](tel:606-783-2233) or visit [moreheadstate.edu/career](https://moreheadstate.edu/career).

Photo, left to right: Andrew Sexton (Class of 2020, 2022), coordinator of service learning, presented the 2022-2023 Community and Civic Engagement Award to Alexa Deaton (Hazard), Brittany Graziani (Alexandria), Abbey Cooper (Vanceburg) and Gabe Barcus (Kitts Hill, Ohio) (not pictured is Maddie Dodrill of Asbury, West Virginia).

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 5, 2023

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MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **MSU talent search students place second at competitions in Atlanta**

A group of high school students participating in Morehead State's Educational Talent Search (ETS) program came in second place at the Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SAEOPP) Regional Student Initiatives competition last month in Atlanta, Georgia.

The team placed 2nd in the High Q academic team competition. Students on the team included:

- Gabe Applegate, a junior from Lewis County
- Cloey Davis, a senior from Magoffin County
- Rylee Hilderbrand, a senior from Carter County
- Garrett Jenkins, a senior from Carter County
- Ethan Lung, a sophomore from Lewis County

The MSU Talent Search team competed against other Talent Search teams representing Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. After placing first at the state competitions in February, the team earned the right to represent Kentucky.

The SAEOPP Student Initiatives is an annual competition for students served in federally funded college access programs, including Talent Search, Upward Bound and Student Support Services. The MSU Talent Search program currently serves students in sixth through twelfth grades in a 12-county service region in Eastern Kentucky.

To learn more about [MSU's ETS program](#), email Program Director Summer Bryant at [s.copley@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:s.copley@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-9023](tel:606-783-9023).

###

Morehead State University is a comprehensive public university located in Morehead, Kentucky. With a rich history and a commitment to innovation, the University's academic programs, research initiatives, and community outreach efforts are designed to empower students to succeed. Serving Eastern Kentucky for more than 135 years, MSU is ranked among the top public universities in the South by U.S. News & World Report and boasts more than 70,000 proud alumni.

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 5, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **Craft Academy announces Class of 2025**

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State University is proud to announce the members of the Class of 2025.

Students from across the Commonwealth were chosen to attend the Craft Academy, located on the campus of Morehead State University. The students live in Craft Academy residence halls and earn dual credit as they complete their final two years of high school at the Academy while taking college-level courses.

Craft Academy provides students with a postsecondary residential experience to complete their junior and senior years of high school by enrolling in college courses. The Craft Academy aims to meet the unique educational needs of the Commonwealth's academically gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors. The academic rigor of the Craft Academy challenges students to excel at their highest level through project-based STEM+X courses and hands-on learning experiences, emphasizing innovation, design and creativity, and civic and regional engagement.

Students who apply are selected to attend the Academy for excelling in science, math and other STEM-related fields. They must also complete a face-to-face interview and submit recommendations from STEM teachers, a community member and a person of their choice. They must also qualify with ACT or SAT scores and by completing the essays required to be considered.

The following students are members of the Craft Academy Class of 2025. The list includes each student's hometown and home high school:

- Lisa Brempomaa Abrampah, Lexington, Frederick Douglass High School
- Annalisa Rose Banker, Lexington, Henry Clay High School
- Katherine Diana Black, Butler, Pendleton County High School

- Anthony Christian Blevins, Sandy Hook, Elliott County High School
- Prince Daniel Boateng, Lexington, Carter G. Woodson Academy
- Jaxson Riley Brewer, Georgetown, Great Crossing High School
- Xander Lee Britton, Frankfort, Woodford County High School
- Joanna Qiulin Rose Brosseit, Owingsville, Bath County High School
- Reese Griffith Brown, Maysville, Mason County High School
- Ryan Delaney Burton, Grayson, East Carter High School
- Daniel Cole Cameron, Cynthiana, Harrison County High School
- Colin Woodford Campbell, Nicholasville, West Jessamine High School
- Devin Reece Carlton, Stanford, Lincoln County High School
- Dylan Ray Carroll, Bulan, Perry County Central High School
- Norman Dee Charles III, Raccoon, Pike County Central High School
- Jeffrey Chase Childers, Inez, Martin County High School
- Jonah Douglas Clements-Mattingly, Mt. Washington, Riverview Opportunity Center
- Eliana Lynn Clifford, Nicholasville, West Jessamine High School
- Caden Brock Cole, Mount Eden, Spencer County High School
- Kaytlin Fayth Cole, Salyersville, Magoffin County High School
- Garick Grey Eagle Collins, Carlisle, Nicholas County High School
- William Lacy Collinworth, Salyersville, Magoffin County High School
- Emma Lynn Combs, Mount Sterling, Montgomery County High School
- Brayden Walker Cook, Inez, Martin County High School
- Wyatt Christopher Cook, Georgetown, Scott County High School
- Paisley Angelina Cooke, Germantown, Robertson County High School
- Aubry Eden Cooley, Vanceburg, Lewis County High School
- Angel Renae Daugherty, Strunk, McCreary Central High School
- Jacob Benjamin Day, Nicholasville, West Jessamine High School
- Nicholas Ryan Demond, Danville, Homeschooled
- Alexander Robert Siegfried Dilger, Union, Ignite Institute / Ryle High School
- Lucas Karl Matthew Dilger, Union, Ryle High School/Ignite Institute
- Caden Patrick Dobbins, Shepherdsville, Bullitt Central High School
- Iris Acacia Dorroh-Sheehan, Berea, Berea Community High School
- Kaysen Brock England, Mt. Washington, Riverview High School
- Aime Madelen Ensenat Pena, Louisville, Riverview Opportunity Center
- Dylan Cole Foster, Elizabethtown, John Hardin High School
- Ashlee Belle Foxworth, Cynthiana, Harrison County High School
- Isaiah Hydar Gowing, Lexington, Carter G. Woodson Academy
- Caitlyn Elizabeth Gregory, Irvine, Estill County High School
- Samuel Zachary, Gross, Girdler, Knox Central High School
- Dalton Ernest Hall, Jeffersonville, Montgomery County High School
- Logan Micheal Hammer, Winchester, George Rogers Clark High School

- Kaelee Dawn Harmon, Winchester, George Rogers Clark High School
- Ashton Cole, Hazelwood, Richmond, Madison Southern High School
- Evan Wesley Herzog, Lexington, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
- Benjamin Joel Hildebrand, Mays Lick, Augusta High School
- Peyton James Hilton, Hopkinsville, Christian County High School
- Jonah Hirsch Rosales, Flemingsburg, Rowan County Senior High School
- Jacob Harold Stephen Holbrook, Grayson, East Carter High School
- Silas Dane Vernal Host, Nicholasville, West Jessamine High School
- Trevan Wade Hughes, Somerset, Southwestern High School
- Rhianna, Elizabeth, Ilari, Georgetown, Great Crossing High School
- Madelyn Mae Irish, Dover, Bracken County High School
- Justin Paul Wurtsmith Jones, Smithfield, Oldham County High School
- Makayla Jesalyn Yvonne Jones, Butler, Pendleton County High School
- Patrick Martin Kelly, Versailles, Woodford County High School
- Gabriel Michael Kendall, Mt. Washington, Riverview Opportunity Center
- Kevin Andre Knox II, Lexington, Carter G. Woodson Academy
- Oliver Curtis Laiben, Marion, Laiben Homeschool Academy
- Emma Grace Laney, Ashland, Paul G. Blazer High School
- Kaylee Marie Lawhorn, Grayson, East Carter High School
- Jacob Edward Layne, Catlettsburg, Boyd County High School
- Kiara Laraine Little, Owingsville, Bath County High School
- Isaiah Xavier Llewellyn, Williamsburg, Whitley County High School
- Roger Alexander Love, Cynthiana, Harrison County High School
- Ethan Robert Lung, Tollesboro, Lewis County High School
- Jase Brady Lykins, Salyersville, Magoffin County High School
- Micah Nathaniel Marsh, Cynthiana, Harrison County High School
- Annika Lynn Marshall, Fort Mitchell, Beechwood High School
- EmmaLee Faith Martin, Shelbyville, Martha Layne Collins
- Alena Beth McCall, Grayson, East Carter High School
- Andrew Rayce Meadors, Williamsburg, Whitley County High School
- Abigail Colette Mills, Flat Lick, Knox Central High School
- Kirk Erickson Mills, Inez, Martin County High School
- Ethan Cole Morse, Owingsville, Bath County High School
- Thomas, Embry, Morton, Nicholasville, West Jessamine High School
- Jayson Brayden Myers, Shepherdsville, North Bullitt High School
- Addison Nicole Ody, Sandy Hook, Elliott County High School
- Gabriella Grace Ostrander, Hyden, Leslie County High School
- Keira Joy Patton, Stanton, Powell County High School
- Helena Evangeline Pearce, Lexington, Henry Clay High School
- David William Pohlmann, Bowling Green, Greenwood High School
- Norma Soscha Marie Proffitt, Corbin, Whitley County High School



- Caleb Nathaniel Raider, Stanford, Lincoln County High School
- Ella Grace Ranson, Lexington, Henry Clay High School
- Anna Victoria Rich, Paris, Bourbon County High School
- Zoey Kay Roberts, Winchester, George Rogers Clark High School
- Nico Maxwell Bess Royster, Wooton, Perry County Central High School
- Mahallah Aiyanna Saadiq, Lexington, Frederick Douglass High School
- Andy Sabic, Louisville, Atherton High School
- Palmer Michael Schmidt, Nicholasville, West Jessamine High School
- Jesselyn Anne Sharpe, Shepherdsville, Bullitt Central High School
- Margaret Elisabeth Shelton, Harlan, Harlan Independent High School
- Clyde David Shiley, Jeffersontown, Jeffersontown High School
- Matthew Charles Shope, Vanceburg, Lewis County High School
- Allison Rae Smith, Barbourville, Knox Central High School
- Alexis Derayn Stevens, Irvine, Estill County High School
- Carter Joe Stevens, Morehead, Rowan County Senior High School
- Brooklyn Elizabeth Strange, Winchester, George Rogers Clark High School
- Maddolyne Faith Sutton, Hindman, Knott County Central High School
- Emma Nicole Thompson, Shepherdsville, Bullitt Central High School
- Erin Gabrielle Sophia Thorpe, Jackson, Breathitt County High School
- Justin Ryan Triplett, Greenup, Greenup County High School
- Robert Isaac Vanderpool, Mt. Washington, Riverview Opportunity Center
- Aiden Christian Vieu, Vinegrove, North Hardin High School
- Logan Sawyer Vincent, Bowling Green, Warren East High School
- Nattalie Cheyenne Page Wall, Middlesboro, Middlesboro High School
- Aubrey Lynn Watson, Olive Hill, East Carter High School
- Gabriella Despina Watson, Hebron, Conner High School
- Maryanne Nicole Wheatley, Salyersville, Magoffin County High School
- Samantha Lynn Wheatley, Salyersville, Magoffin County High School
- Maya Christine Wiegand, Goshen, North Oldham High School
- Jonathan Seth Wilson, Williamsburg, Whitley County High School
- India Shonea Young, Lebanon, Marion County High School
- Tiffany Zhang, Winchester, George Rogers Clark High School

The Craft Academy aims to meet the unique educational needs of the Commonwealth's academically gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors.

To learn more, visit the [Craft Academy website](#), email [craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2093](tel:606-783-2093).

###

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 8, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **Craft Academy graduation ceremony is May 13**

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Class of 2023 will hold a graduation ceremony Saturday, May 13, at 4 p.m. in the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC).

Bailey Lynn Bullock of Mt. Vernon is the student speaker. She is the daughter of David and Vanessa Bullock. Her areas of interest at the Craft Academy were political science and history.

Bullock attended Rockcastle County High School before attending the Craft Academy. There, she was an active member of the student council and a member of the tennis team. She was also a local, regional, and state officer for Student Y and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

Bullock was involved in several extracurricular activities and projects at the Craft Academy, serving as junior and senior class president. She was the president of the Student Y chapter, founder and chair of the Interclub Council, treasurer of the National BETA Club, the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association Board of Directors, the executive council for the Kentucky Student Council Association (KYSCA), and the Kentucky State FCCLA vice president of parliamentary law. She also participated in entomology research on spider biodiversity in Eastern Kentucky with Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Sean O'Keefe. She was also part of a team of Craft Academy students who participated in Entrepreneurial Community Improvement Program (E-CIP) regional and district competitions.

Bullock plans to continue her studies at Morehead State University, double majoring in middle grades education and legal studies, with plans to attend law school.

Graduates and their hometowns are listed below:

- Ava Lorin Ashley, Franklin County
- Curtis Brandon Bair, Carter County
- Camryn Isaiah Banbvel, Morgan County
- James Wayne Bandy, Meade County
- Hannah Nichole Barrett, Lee County
- Lauren Aubrey Beasley, Montgomery County
- Braden James Bickers, Campbell County
- Lauren Christine Bordeaux, Mercer County
- Kaylee Megan Bow, Knox County
- Bailey Lynn Bullock, Rockcastle County
- Abigayle Nicole Caldwell Lawrence County
- Faith Audreanna Carney, Bullitt County
- Alexa Skye Cunningham, Oldham County
- Autumn Makenzie Davidson, Owsley County
- Laci Jenà Davis, Harrison County
- Joshua Caleb Day, Jessamine County
- Andrew Steven Dorn, Boone County
- Kiera Rose Fehr, Fayette County
- Caroline Caylee Fish, Boone County
- Taylor Bell Fryman, Harrison County
- Derek Schon Gill, Powell County
- Abigail Reese Grzynkowicz, Anderson County
- Allison Maria Hall, Pendleton County
- Jude Christopher Hall, Pendleton County
- Sara Ahmad Hassan, Rowan County
- Riley Elizabeth Hicks, Floyd County
- Landon Pierce Hodge, Fayette County
- Taylor Lawrence Horsfall, Fayette County
- Brianna Summer Kayatin, Breathitt County
- Kirston Renee Kelley, Estill County
- Logan William Lee, Lewis County
- Bethany Eleanor Lucio, Franklin County
- Kendall Jade Mayes, Greenup County
- Hayley Isabel Milner, Boone County
- Alexander Cain Neal, Fayette County
- Shawn Christian Nelson, Jefferson County
- Alyssa Amit Patel, Knox County
- Sagar Ishwar Patel, Bullitt County
- Megan Faith Pennington, Elliott County
- Cameron David Perry, Harrison County
- Victoria Marylee Pintha, Pendleton County

- Sawyer Lane Putnam, Garrard County
- Savannah Faith Reed, Daviess County
- Sarah Elizabeth Robinson, Spencer County
- Brady Keith Sammons, Carter County
- Miles Coleman Saunders, Bath County
- Khloe Makenzee Schwaniger, Franklin County
- Sydney Aspen Sebastian, Owsley County
- Mahathi Siripurapu, Fayette County
- Kelsey Faith Sowders, Franklin County
- Hannah Elizabeth Xiulan Stanley, Kenton County
- James Canyon Thomas, Franklin County
- Muriel Tipton, Montgomery County
- Kaleb Dalton Trent, Perry County
- Alyssa Renee Turner, Pendleton County
- Jillian La Verne Wallshield, Jefferson County
- Hanah Lynn Whisenant, Lawrence County
- Naomi Wiegand, Oldham County
- Jacob Ryan Winkler, Estill County

A send-off event is scheduled for Friday, May 12, at 6 p.m. at the Adron Doran University Center.

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit academy for academically exceptional Kentucky students. Craft Academy provides students with postsecondary residential experience to complete their junior and senior high school years by enrolling in college courses. The Craft Academy aims to meet the unique educational needs of academically gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors in the Commonwealth. The academic rigor of the Craft Academy challenges students to excel at their highest level through project-based STEM+X courses and hands-on learning experiences with an emphasis on innovation design and creativity and civic and regional engagement.

Funding for the Craft Academy comes from the generous contributions and support of Dr. Joe Craft and Ambassador Kelly Craft. They have donated approximately \$10 million to the Academy. Additional funding comes from state appropriations.

For more information about the Craft Academy, visit [craftacademy.info](http://craftacademy.info), email [craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2093](tel:606-783-2093).

###

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 8, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### Center for Stem+ eXcellence receives \$50K grant

The Center for Stem+ eXcellence at Morehead State's Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics has received a \$50,000 grant from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE).

The grant will fund bridge programs to help teachers enhance science lessons for their students through hands-on activities, workshops, and camps. Melissa Murray is the teacher-in-residence for the Center for STEM+eXcellence and wrote the grant proposal.

"The funds will be used to recruit prospective STEM teachers to pursue a summer bridge program," Murray said. "These programs are designed to give students, especially first-generation college students, a chance to experience college life before they begin their first semester. The Center for STEM+eXcellence will work closely with MSUTeach to support students as they prepare for their college careers."

Jen Carter, director of the center, said the grant is vital to recruiting new STEM teachers.

"Only educators know what students need," Carter said. "They have valuable experience that gives insight into what works and what doesn't work when it comes to connecting students to content in meaningful and impactful ways. With the current teacher shortage in Kentucky and across the country, we feel that recruiting new STEM+X educators is an integral part of making sure students in the Commonwealth are prepared for long-term success in these fields."

The Center for STEM+ eXcellence offers informal STEM+X education opportunities to Kentucky students in K-12 programs. Workshops are offered during the summer and throughout the year. The +X represents three focus areas:

- Creativity and design

- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Civic and regional engagement.

All programs are rooted in mathematics with a science, technology, or engineering application and +X product outcomes. Programs are created and implemented by educators in public schools and universities. All programs take place on the campus of Morehead State University.

For more information on the [Center for STEM+ eXcellence](#), email Program Coordinator Brenda Porter at [b.porter@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:b.porter@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2300.

The Center for STEM+ eXcellence is housed within the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, a dual-credit academy for academically exceptional Kentucky students. Craft Academy provides students with a postsecondary residential experience to complete their junior and senior high school years by enrolling in college courses. To learn more about the [Craft Academy](#), email [craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2093.

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## NEWS RELEASE

**May 10, 2023**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MOREHEAD, Ky.---**

### **RETRACTION: Center for Stem+eXcellence receives \$50K grant**

We would like to issue a retraction for our news release dated May 8, 2023, titled "Center for STEM+eXcellence Receives \$50K Grant." There was an error in the information presented in the release. Please remove or unpublish any references to this information.

Morehead State University's Center for STEM+eXcellence did not receive a \$50,000 grant, as stated in the original article. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

The correct information is that Morehead State University's Undergraduate Education & Student Success (UESS) office received a \$50,000 from the Council on Postsecondary Education to enhance student success for at-risk students.

The grant will be used to develop a bridge program for a summer bootcamp and subsequent fall and spring semesters that will offer wrap-around support and specific programming for these students.

This program is intended to ensure that underprepared first-year students complete their courses successfully and return for their next year of college. Students in the program will be on schedule to complete 30 credit hours during their first year and will be given intensive support through tutoring, study skills, advising, and specific programming.

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 11, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **MSU Mathematics to host Rubik's speedcubing competition**

Morehead State University's Department of Mathematics is providing a special event for Rubik's Cube fans when it hosts its first-ever MoreHead-to-Head 2023 Speedcubing Competition.

The event occurs on Saturday, June 3, at the Adron Doran University Center (ADUC). It will be an official World Cube Association (WCA) competition.

Speedcubing is the art and science of solving Rubik's cubes and similar twisty puzzles. Dr. Christopher Schroeder, chair of the Department of Mathematics, highlighted the connection between twisty puzzles and mathematics."

"We are very excited to sponsor this competition," Schroeder said. "Mathematics is such a huge part of life, and cubing incorporates mathematical concepts in a fun problem-solving environment."

The event will begin at 8 a.m. with a tutorial for new competitors, followed by the first round of events. Participants will solve Megaminx, Pyraminx, and four versions of Rubik's cube puzzles: 3x3, 5x5, 6x6, and 7x7. Participants with the fastest times move on to the afternoon round and the finals. Awards presentations take place at 6 p.m.

Registration for MoreHead-to-Head 2023 is online and open until Friday, May 26, 2023. There is a limit of 100 competitors, and the registration fee is \$15. Those interested in participating should register as soon as possible.

The WCA is a non-profit, 100% volunteer-run organization whose goal is to bring opportunities for community membership and leadership to young people worldwide by increasing the accessibility of its "twisty puzzle" competitions.

Javier González-Napoleoni, one of the WCA delegates coordinating the competition, can be reached at [javier.gonzalez-napoleoni@outlook.com](mailto:javier.gonzalez-napoleoni@outlook.com) for questions. For details and registration, visit

[www.worldcubeassociation.org/competitions/MoreHeadToHead2023](http://www.worldcubeassociation.org/competitions/MoreHeadToHead2023).

To learn more about [MSU's Department of Mathematics and its academic programs](#), contact [math@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:math@moreheadstate.edu) or [606-783-2930](tel:606-783-2930).

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 15, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **MSU celebrates graduates at Spring 2023 Commencement**

Morehead State University honored nearly 800 graduates at ceremonies on May 13.

Graduates celebrated their academic accomplishments with the MSU community. The ceremonies included congratulations from MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan.

The morning ceremony honored graduates from the Ernst and Sara Lane Volgenau College of Education and the College of Science. The afternoon ceremony honored graduates from the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology and the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Keenan Conley (Class of 2023) of Salyersville served as the commencement speaker representing the College of Science. While at MSU, Conley completed the Rural Physician Leadership Program Bootcamp. He was one of five students awarded automatic conditional acceptance into the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Medicine through its Early Assurance Program. Conley is enrolling in the UK College of Medicine's Rural Physician Leadership Program as an M.D. (Medical Doctor) candidate.

"Throughout our lives, we will experience obstacles that might seem insurmountable and all-consuming to the point that the light at the end of the tunnel is only a flicker or has extinguished entirely. Nevertheless, we must navigate every challenge in order to be stronger, more vigilant, and more determined," Conley said.

Kelton Crank (Class of 2023) of Pikeville served as the commencement speaker representing Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology for the afternoon ceremony. Crank was awarded the James Still Fellowship and will continue his education by completing the Master of Health Administration program at the University of Kentucky. He aspires to be a director within the healthcare system and, eventually, a legislator focused on healthcare policy.

"The world is a much different place than it was in the Fall of 2019, and I would argue that no graduating class of recent years, even decades, has endured as much change and challenge in such a short period of time as ours," Crank said. "Because of these hardships, I maintain that no collective is more equipped to change the world as those sitting before me today."

ROTC students commissioned as a second lieutenant during the ceremony were Alexander Clay Back of Lexington, Jacob Wayne Buttry of Mt. Sterling, Catherine Rose Ortiz-Ramirez of Waynesburg, and Isaac James Shackelford of Cave City. Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Strack administered the oath. MSU also recognized ROTC students in a separate ceremony on May 12, along with commissioned ROTC student Dorothy Shipley of Brandenburg.

Photo gallery: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjADW9S>

Video highlights: <https://youtu.be/57pncAU8mv0>

View the Spring 2023 Commencement program at [moreheadstate.edu/graduation](https://moreheadstate.edu/graduation).

###

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 17, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **MSU faculty selected for CPE Academic Leadership Academy**

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) has selected three Morehead State University faculty members to participate in a leadership group.

Dr. Kenneth Andries, department chair for agricultural sciences, Dr. Jon Musgrave, assistant professor of management, and Dr. Kimberlee Sharp, professor of middle grades and secondary education, are participating in Bluegrass Tomorrow's Academic Leadership Academy (ALA). They are among 65 faculty and staff representing 18 colleges and universities across Kentucky.

As ALA fellows, Andries, Musgrave, and Sharp will receive professional development training and mentorship from statewide institutional leadership, preparing them for career paths in higher education. ALA is a project of CPE and the Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium, a partnership of 12 colleges and universities in the Central Kentucky region managed by Bluegrass Tomorrow. The academy expanded statewide in 2019.

Dr. Kenneth Andries became department chair for agricultural sciences in July 2022. He previously served at Kentucky State University for over 17 years in various roles, including associate dean of the College of Agriculture, Communities and the Environment.

Andries said he hopes to gain a better understanding of the university budgeting process and managing budgets related to educational programs. He also wants to learn more about the process of administration in higher education and how to strike a balance among the needs of students, university employees and potential student employers.

“My plan to use this information is in managing the Department of Agricultural Sciences to improve the program areas and help me mentor others in the program to be able to move up into administration successfully,” Andries said. “I’m hoping the information I gather through this training will allow me to build the program to meet the needs of the students and faculty while demonstrating best management practices for faculty and staff that wish to advance into administration positions.”

Dr. Jon Musgraves has been an assistant professor of management in the School of Business Administration since 2020. He previously served at Indiana State University as a part-time lecturer and instructor for the Department of Human Resource Development and Performance Technologies.

“By furthering my knowledge of leadership and the various aspects of academic leadership discussed in the first session, I intend to incorporate what I have learned about academic leadership into my business school courses,” Musgrave said.

Dr. Kimberlee Sharp is a professor of middle grades and secondary education who has been with MSU since 2005. She was promoted to professor in 2019.

"I hope that my participation will help to inspire others within my college to be actively involved in student success and boosting student retention between their undergraduate degree completion and graduate enrollment," Sharp said.

To learn more about what makes MSU a Top 15 public regional university in the South, visit [moreheadstate.edu](https://moreheadstate.edu).

Photo, left to right: Dr. Kenneth Andries, department chair for agricultural sciences, Dr. Jon Musgrave, assistant professor of management, and Dr. Kimberlee Sharp, professor of middle grades and secondary education, are participating in Bluegrass Tomorrow's Academic Leadership Academy (ALA).

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 17, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **Mason and Rosemary Combs Family Scholarship Endowment established**

The Morehead State University Foundation announced the establishment of the Mason and Rosemary Combs Scholarship Endowment.

Jack Cunningham and his wife, Mary Combs Cunningham (Class of 1977), created this generous endowment named in honor of Mary's parents, Mason and Rosemary. Mary's husband Jack was instrumental in the creation of the fund, which he did to honor not just Mary's love for MSU, but her parents' dedication to ensuring their children were provided the opportunity for higher education.

In 1973, Mason and Rosemary, who lived in Pineville, sent their oldest child, Mary, to MSU. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in clothing and textiles and soon after, two of her brothers, John Mason Combs (Class of 1980) and David Lawrence Combs (Class of 1983), followed and earned bachelor's degrees in business.

While studying at MSU, David met his wife, Teresa Ann (Lane) Combs (Class of 1983). Teresa received a bachelor's degree in education. David and Teresa later encouraged their children to follow the MSU family tradition. Their son, Mark David Combs (Class of 2014), received a bachelor's degree in business, and their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Combs (Class of 2022), received a bachelor's degree in legal studies.

"My brothers and I are very proud of our Kentucky heritage and especially our MSU legacy," Mary Combs Cunningham said. "My parents worked very hard to ensure my brothers and I received a college education. MSU was the perfect fit for us. We are proud to be MSU Eagles and are excited to be able to help future generations receive their education."

The scholarship supports first-year students from Bell County, where Rosemary resides. If there's not a student from Bell County who qualifies, a student from one of the



surrounding counties of Knox, Whitley, Clay, Leslie, or Harlan counties may be considered.

Mason and Rosemary's dedication to their children started what is now a multi-generational MSU legacy. A graduate of The Citadel, Jack served on The Citadel Brigadier Foundation Board and has seen the impact of privately funded scholarships firsthand through this experience.

"I wanted to do something special to honor my wife and her parents," Jack said. "I feel fortunate to be able to assist with the creation of this endowment. The gift of education is something that will make a difference for years to come and offering this scholarship to students from Bell County will honor the family's rich history in southeast Kentucky."

Jack and Mary now reside in South Carolina, but Kentucky is still close to their hearts. They annually bring the Bluegrass State to South Carolina by hosting a Kentucky Derby party. This year, they invited several MSU alums from the Beaufort area to join them. This annual event is their way of bringing a little Kentucky tradition to their friends and other MSU alums who call South Carolina home.

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).

Photo, left to right: Mark David Combs, Teresa Ann (Lane) Combs, David Lawrence Combs, Sarah Elizabeth Combs, Mary Combs Cunningham and John Mason Combs are all part of an MSU family legacy. Mary and her husband, Jack Cunningham (not pictured), established the Mason and Rosemary Combs Scholarship Endowment in honor of Mary's parents.

###

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 17, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **Molly McBride's memory continues through scholarship endowment**

After the passing of Molly C. McBride, Molly's parents, Dr. Scott McBride and Jill McBride, created a scholarship fund through the Morehead State University Foundation to honor her legacy. Thanks to the support of a host of family and friends, the Molly C. McBride Memorial Scholarship Endowment has received over \$57,000 in contributions since its inception.

Molly's parents and the MSU Foundation created the scholarship a decade ago to honor Molly's life, which ended at 21 after an automobile accident on May 18, 2013. At the time of her passing, she was a junior biomedical sciences major at MSU and was planning for a career as a physician's assistant. Molly was a dedicated student who enjoyed helping others, primarily through her work as a tutor in MSU's Tutoring and Learning Center.

To ensure Molly's legacy continues through the lives of other MSU Eagles, her mother, Jill, encourages others to consider making a memorial gift in Molly's memory. Jill has pledged \$5,000 as a matching gift, hoping to grow the fund by \$10,000 in honor of this 10-year milestone.

"Giving back in Molly's memory is something that brings me joy," Jill said. "I love learning about the students who are receiving the scholarship, and I hope that this scholarship assists them along their journey. The more we can grow the endowment, the more students we will be able to support, and I can't think of a better way to continue to remember Molly."

The scholarship is for seniors majoring in biomedical sciences or agricultural sciences. Since its inception, the fund has supported nine students. This year, two recipients received the scholarship. Emily Hammonds, a senior from Morehead and Mollee

Flannigan, a senior from Lewis County. Both recipients are majoring in biomedical sciences with a pre-med track.

Past recipients include:

- 2014-15: Samuel Hudson
- 2015-16: Kevin Cummins
- 2016-17: Darian Lewis
- 2017-18: Toni Carter
- 2018-19: Kassidy Cyrus
- 2020-21: Brittany Brewer
- 2021-22: Emily Wiley

Additionally, the endowment provides funding for the Molly McBride Tutoring Excellence Award. This award is given annually to a tutor who demonstrates superior tutoring skills and caring for MSU students. This year's recipient is Emily McCreary, a junior from Catlettsburg majoring in elementary education with a minor in music.

Past recipients include:

- 2014: Taylor Gasser
- 2015: Yen Tran-Spring
- 2016: Abbi Leigh Chandler
- 2017: Shelby Price
- 2019: Sarah Young
- 2020: Elizabeth Burke
- 2022: Mercy Hailu

To make a gift in Molly's memory, visit [alumni.moreheadstate.edu/mcbride](https://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/mcbride).

For more information on this scholarship, contact MSU's Office of Alumni Relations and Development at [606-783-2033](tel: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

May 19, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **Chynah Thompson to represent MSU at Mountain Laurel Festival**

Morehead State University student Chynah Thompson will represent MSU as a queen candidate at the 2023 Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival.

Thompson, a junior from Salt Lick, is majoring in early elementary education. She is the daughter of Rachelle & Timothy Thompson. Her fiancé, Lance Corporal Ryan Walters, will escort her to the festival.

Upon graduation, she hopes to remain in the Eastern Kentucky region and make a difference in students' lives.

"I am extremely honored to represent MSU at the festival. It's not only an opportunity to share my love for MSU but to connect with our region. To say I'm excited is an understatement." Thompson said.

Thompson is an active member of the Eagle community at MSU. She was named a Herron Scholar and is secretary of the Herron Leadership Organization. She is also a treasurer of the Kentucky Education Association for Aspiring Educators (KEA-AE) and a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and serves as vice president of inclusion.

In 2021, she was crowned Miss Bath County and later competed in the Miss Kentucky Scholarship Pageant, where she placed in the Top 11 finalists and was selected as Kentucky's Choice.

The Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival has been held each year since 1931. Colleges and universities from Kentucky select one representative to participate in the festival's pageant, which is held annually over Memorial Day weekend. The participating candidates attend various festival events held in Pineville, Kentucky.

The tradition of crowning the Mountain Laurel Queen occurs on Saturday, May 27, at Pine Mountain State Resort Park.

For more information about the Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival, visit [www.KMLF.org](http://www.KMLF.org).

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 19, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **Craft students continue project at Hazel Green Academy**

Students from the Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics are continuing their work to revitalize a community learning center in Eastern Kentucky.

The project at the Hazel Green Academy (HGA) is two-fold: students worked to find funding for the project and performed hands-on work at the HGA. Craft Academy students have worked to help the property owners secure grant funding to revitalize the site as a community educational outreach center. Members of the project's senior leadership team located a \$4,000 grant from the Wolfe County Tourism Center and wrote the grant proposal. The funds will be used for a 9-week programming series at the site called Music on the Green, scheduled to begin later this year. Planned activities include live music, open mic nights, food trucks, and outdoor field activities. Last year, Craft Academy students helped the owners secure a \$5,000 grant from the Mountain Rural Telephone Cooperative for the project. Students also helped the property owners by researching how they could acquire LLC status, which would open the door for potential state funding for the restoration efforts.

Dr. Rachel Rogers, visiting assistant professor of research/QEP at the Craft Academy, said most of the campus is on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, students have participated in service-learning at the HGA, helping clean up the property, painting, doing yard work and helping in a used clothing store housed in one of the buildings.

Craft Academy students began the project in 2021 with three strategic goals:

The development of an educational outreach utilizing the administration building.

The creation of a community engagement venue for the auditorium called "Music on the Green."

The addition of those HGA campus buildings not already registered to the National Register of Historic Places.

Founded in 1880, the HGA was a residential academy where students learned about STEM, art, history and religion. At its peak, the academy was accredited by the Kentucky Board of Education and focused on science and mathematics, like the Craft Academy. The HGA closed in 1983, and the remaining buildings have fallen into disrepair. The Craft Academy project aims to restore the buildings to create a community educational outreach center.

Craft Academy student Josie Traver from Somerset is a member of the project's junior leadership team. She said she looks forward to seeing how the project helps the community.

"This opportunity delineates the impact of community service and has allowed me to exercise my passion for volunteerism. Collaborating with my fellow team members to bring our vision to life has been an absolute pleasure. With enough support, I'm eager to see the community of Hazel Green flourish into something incredible."

Jennifer Nguyen from Grayson, another member of the junior leadership team, said the project holds a special meaning for her.

"As an Eastern Kentucky native, I have grown up in an area similar to Hazel Green. Having the opportunity to plan service-learning trips, construct grant proposals, and much more as a part of the team has been a wonderful experience that I am excited to continue."

Members of the project's senior leadership team include:

- Camryn Banbel, West Liberty
- Derek Gill, Jeffersonville
- Ally Hall, Falmouth
- Jude Hall, Falmouth
- Bethany Lucio, Frankfort
- Sagar Patel, Shepherdsville
- Alyssa Turner, Foster

Members of the project's junior leadership team include:

- Casey Hovis, Louisa
- Sarah Lakes, Cynthiana
- Dakota Murphy, Louisa
- Jennifer Nguyen, Grayson
- Josie Traver, Somerset

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit academy for academically exceptional Kentucky students. Craft Academy provides

students with a postsecondary residential experience to complete their junior and senior years of high school by enrolling in college courses. The Craft Academy aims to meet the unique educational needs of the Commonwealth's academically gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors. The academic rigor of the Craft Academy challenges students to excel at their highest level through project-based STEM+X courses and hands-on learning experiences, emphasizing innovation, design and creativity, and civic and regional engagement.

To learn more about the project, contact Rogers at [rj.rogers@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:rj.rogers@moreheadstate.edu) or 606-783-2891.

To learn more about [the Craft Academy](#), email [craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:craftacademy@moreheadstate.edu) or call 606-783-2093.

Follow progress on the project by following HGA on social media:

Instagram: [hazel green academy](#)

Twitter: [HazelGreenAcad](#)

Facebook: [Hazel Green Academy Revitalization Project](#)

Top Photo: Craft Academy students Sarah Lakes of Cynthiana, Alyssa Turner of Foster, and Sophia Whitlock of Taylorsville, were part of a team of Craft Academy students who participated in a service-learning project at the Hazel Green Academy.

Bottom Photo: Members of the HGA Senior Leadership Team include, front row from left to right: Dakota Murphy, Casey Hovis, and Bethany Lucio. Middle row, l-r: Jennifer Nguyen, Josie Traver, Dr. Rachel Rogers, Sarah Lakes, Ally Hall, and Alyssa Turner. Back row, l-r: Jude Hall, Derek Gill, Camryn Banbel, and Sagar Patel.

###

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 24, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **MSU alum Olyvia Neal earns scholarship to pursue her passion for media**

Olyvia Neal (Class of 2023) is taking the extensive experience she acquired at Morehead State University and continuing her education in the nation's capital.

Neal, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Convergent Media and a Bachelor of Arts in Convergent Media, received a competitive scholarship to enroll in the Publishing Master of Professional Studies (MPS) program at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

"When I was accepted into this program, I was incredibly excited, but when I heard that I had earned their competitive scholarship as well, that was one of the happiest and gratifying moments of my life," Neal said. "Everything I have done in my undergraduate career at MSU led me towards George Washington University's Publishing Master of Professional Studies program."

The Monticello native grew up loving writing and literature, reading at all hours and filling her notebooks with stories. After experiencing the campus through the Governor's Scholars Program, she decided to attend MSU and earned acceptance into the George M. Luckey Jr. Academic Honors Program.

"I just absolutely fell in love with the program and the amazing opportunities and resources it provided for its students. I applied, was thankfully accepted, and received their full-ride scholarship. MSU and the Honors Program definitely changed my life," she said.

Neal's time at MSU fostered an interest in media and publishing, and her love of writing and editing led her to pursue degrees in both English and convergent media. While studying English and developing her writing skills was familiar territory, the convergent media program pushed her out of her comfort zone in an effective way.

"I pursued convergent media as well because I wanted to learn how to tell the stories of others and give a voice to those in my community through journalistic writing as well. My eyes were quickly opened through convergent media as to the many ways in which stories can be told beyond words," Neal said. "Before college, I had never picked up a camera in my life, but I quickly fell in love with photojournalism and learned how to not only produce multimedia from video to audio features but to edit them as well. Telling stories through all forms of media is now a huge part of my life, and I would not have discovered it if it weren't for both of my majors."

Neal was proactive in gaining practical experience in media outside of the classroom. At MSU, she served as editor-in-chief of the Honors Program's newsletter, *The Unorthodox*, MSU's arts and literary journal, *Inscape*, and the student newspaper, *The Trail Blazer*. Through her Undergraduate Research Fellowship, she was an editorial assistant for *The Kentucky Philological Review* throughout her undergraduate career.

"Olyvia is an outstanding example of a student taking full advantage of the numerous opportunities provided across campus," said Professor of Art Lisa Mesa-Gaido. "Her experiences writing, editing, and curating are an ideal combination that made her a sought-after candidate for George Washington University's graduate program in Fall 2023."

Neal also earned multiple honors for her work in writing and media, including First Place in Creative Nonfiction for *Inscape* in 2022 and 2023 and First Place for Best General News Picture for the Kentucky Press Association in 2021. She also earned the Caudill College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Student in English Award.

Neal said the news project that was the most impactful for her was completing education abroad in Europe in 2022. During her overseas internship, she was a travel writer and photographer for *Southeast Kentucky Magazine*, documenting her experience through journaling and photojournalism. The final product was a two-part magazine series called "The European Experience," including written articles and photo essays.

"I was so incredibly proud of myself because I had never left the country before and had such life-changing experiences during my travels, but I had also never published my own story before, which was the greatest challenge I had ever experienced," Neal said. "It was incredibly difficult and vulnerable for me to write from my own perspective, but through the help of my mentors like Professor (John) Flavell (instructor of communication) and Dr. (Philip) Krummrich (director of the Academic Honors Program), I published pieces that I became proudest of creating."

After completing the George Washington University graduate program, Neal hopes to become a professional editor and published author. She knows wherever her career takes her in media, she has not just gained invaluable experience at MSU but an elevated sense of responsibility and purpose as she pursues her passion.

"One thing I have learned and appreciated is that as a member of the world of media, your words have meaning, and your voice has an impact," Neal said. "I have been asked by so many people why I would pursue a career in the media when there is so much division and animosity today, but my love for media stems from its necessity, importance, and relevance in society. The stories of others and the current happenings of the world both need and deserve to be told to their communities and without those courageous enough to go out and tell them, we would be lost. I hope to continue to use my voice in a positive way and continue this pursuit."

Morehead State's [Department of Communication, Media and Languages](#) offers several degree options to prepare students for exciting careers at the forefront of communication in the digital age. To learn more, email [cml@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:cml@moreheadstate.edu) or call [606-783-2134](tel:606-783-2134).

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 25, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **Morehead State Public Radio gets audio equipment upgrades**

Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR) recently installed two new audio control boards at the station, allowing student workers to learn to use the latest broadcast technology.

The upgrade replaced control boards that were over 20 years old and in failing condition. MSPR began raising funds to replace the boards in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic hampered efforts. In 2021, the boards were purchased with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act and the radio station's fund with the MSU Foundation.

The boards that were replaced were in the station's production and master control studios. The installation of the master control board was coordinated so there would be no broadcast interruptions.

"MSPR is very excited to finally have the necessary equipment to extend and improve WMKY's service to the region throughout eastern Kentucky," MSPR General Manager Paul Hitchcock said. "The installation of new equipment will replace equipment purchased more than 20 years ago, equipment which has served well beyond its intended use."

Serving more than 20 counties throughout eastern Kentucky, southern Ohio, and western West Virginia, Morehead State Public Radio (WMKY) broadcasts from the campus of Morehead State University at 90.3FM and online at <https://wmky.org>.

Additional information is available by contacting Hitchcock at [606-783-2334](tel:606-783-2334) or by e-mail at [p.hitchc@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:p.hitchc@moreheadstate.edu).

Photo Caption: Senior Convergent Media major Hallie Adams of Flemingsburg broadcasting from one of MSPR's two new control boards.

###

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## NEWS RELEASE

May 30, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOREHEAD, Ky.---

### **Morehead State MBA program earns second consecutive national ranking by Fortune Magazine**

Fortune Magazine has once again recognized the value of Morehead State University's Master of Business Administration program.

The popular financial media outlet named MSU to its Fortune 2023 Best Online MBA (Master of Business Administration) Programs list. It was one of 100 schools highlighted nationwide. MSU made the list as one of only three universities in Kentucky, and it was one of two public institutions in the Commonwealth to receive this recognition.

The rankings come from Fortune Education, which the global business media outlet created to help guide prospective MBA students to the best institutions offering MBA programs.

A full list of rankings can be found at <https://fortune.com/education/business/best-online-mba-programs>.

The MBA program at MSU provides quality educational opportunities in business entirely online and can be completed in as little as one year. Its focus and design are for working professionals seeking to improve their management success. You can also complete an MBA with a Health Systems Management Track, which prepares you for leadership positions in various healthcare settings. Fortune Magazine also ranked MSU's MBA program on its [25 Most Affordable Online MBAs in 2022 list](#).

Dr. Sam Stapleton, director of the MBA program, said the MBA program's strengths include accessibility, affordability, time of completion and a commitment to helping students succeed.

"The MSU School of Business Administration is once again honored to be recognized by Fortune Magazine," Stapleton said. "I believe our ranking can be attributed to the

dedication of our faculty and staff, who strive to engage all of our students in a meaningful educational experience.”

To learn more about the [MBA program at MSU](#), contact the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and Technology at [cbt@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:cbt@moreheadstate.edu) or [606-783-2174](tel:606-783-2174).

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