



Communications & Marketing
Morehead State University
134 Third Street
Morehead, KY 40351

Phone: 606-783-9328
Email: news@moreheadstate.edu
Web: moreheadstate.edu

NEWS RELEASE

June 6, 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State MBA program makes Fortune Magazine ranking for third consecutive year

Fortune Magazine recognized Morehead State University's Master of Business Administration (MBA) program for the third consecutive year.

The popular financial media outlet named MSU to its [Fortune 2024 Best Online MBA \(Master of Business Administration\) Programs list](#). It was one of 92 schools highlighted nationwide (ranked #43) and the only Kentucky university to make the list. MSU also made [Fortune's 25 Most Affordable Online MBA Programs of 2024](#), ranked #18 and was the only Kentucky public university to earn this recognition.

The rankings come from Fortune Education, a global business media outlet that was created to help prospective MBA students find the best institutions offering MBA programs.

The MBA program at MSU provides quality educational opportunities in business entirely online, and students can complete it 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.

Dr. Sam Stapleton (Class of 2022), director of the MBA program, said the MBA program's strengths lie in the people dedicated to student success.

"Earning a placing on Fortune Magazine's Best Online MBA Programs list again this year is definitely an honor for the MSU MBA program," Stapleton said. "Once again, I have to attribute this honor to the dedication of the faculty and staff in both the Elmer R. Smith College of Business and the MSU Graduate School. Everyone involved with the

MSU MBA program strives to provide our students with the highest learning experience possible."

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

###

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MSU receives grant from National Science Foundation for climate change research

Morehead State will receive more than \$1 million in grant funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support research to combat climate change.

The funding comes from the NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NSF EPSCoR.) The work at MSU is part of a statewide project, "Climate Resilience through Multidisciplinary Big Data Learning, Prediction & Building Response Systems (CLIMBS)." NSF EPSCoR invested \$20 million into the CLIMBS project in Kentucky.

The \$1,155,764 in funding for MSU will be disbursed over five years to support paleontology, soil science, sedimentology, and hydrogeology research and teaching. It will also establish a summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) mini-program and support the full networking integration of undergraduate and Craft Academy researchers with their peers at other regional universities.

CLIMBS is a collaboration between the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University and Thomas More University.

Dr. Amy Collick, assistant professor of precision agriculture/agritech, Dr. Md. Golam Kibria, assistant professor of geoscience, and Dr. Jen O'Keefe, professor of geoscience, are MSU's co-investigators for CLIMBS.

MSU's [Department of Engineering Sciences](#) offers diverse programs, including computer science, earth science, engineering and technology management, physics, systems engineering, and space systems engineering. This comprehensive selection

provides students with a well-rounded and integrated education in these dynamic fields. Email Department Chair Dr. Eric Jerde at e.jerde@moreheadstate.edu or call 606-783-5406 to learn more.

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MSU students featured at statewide University Open art exhibit

Morehead State University students are once again displaying their artwork at one of Kentucky's largest competitive juried shows.

Three students from MSU's Department of Communication, Media, Art & Design currently have six pieces on display at the competitive and juried University Open at the LexArts Gallery in Lexington. The exhibit highlights emerging artists who are fine arts majors from Kentucky's colleges and universities.

MSU student artists exhibiting at the University Open include:

- Grace Douglas (Ceramics) -- Senior from Berea, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art
- Emily Fischer (Ceramics) -- Senior from Batavia, Ohio, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art
- Adrienne Tuttle (Photography) -- Senior from Mt. Sterling, pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art

Only 25 Kentucky student artists were selected out of 230 submissions. Fischer received a second-place award, while Tuttle received an Honorable Mention Award.

"It is an incredible accomplishment and speaks to the strength and aptitude of our Art students and the caliber of our art program here at MSU," said Quinn Maher, ceramics instructor. "While representing our program well, the accomplishment also validates countless hours of hard work, dedication and passion for these students. Beyond showcasing the talent that our MSU art students hold, it is exciting to see our students grow in confidence, not only as young artists but as human beings."

The University Open exhibit is at the [LexArts Gallery](#) at 161 N. Mill Street in Lexington. It is on display through Sunday, June 30.

Learn more about [MSU's Department of Communication, Media, Art & Design programs](#) by emailing cmad@moreheadstate.edu or calling [606-783-2457](tel:606-783-2457).

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NEWS RELEASE

June 7, 2024
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Model EU Club earns awards at Midwest Model European Union Summit

Morehead State University's Model European Union (EU) Club participated in this year's 30th Anniversary Midwest Model EU Summit at the University of Indiana in Bloomington in April. A total of 11 students representing Hungary and Bulgaria debated on essential legislation impacting the region and its people within the EU framework.

Two members of the MSU team, Taylor Bishop and Nathan Walden, brought home top awards. Bishop, a junior history and political science double major from Greensburg, was honored with the Top Outstanding Delegate Award in his chamber, representing Hungary in the European Commission. Walden (Class of 2024), from Lexington, earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in political science and history, and was recognized as the second runner-up, representing Hungary in the European Council.

"Model EU has presented me the opportunity to flex the skills I learned through Morehead's Political Science program," said Walden, who also serves as president of the MSU Model EU Club. "I am grateful for the opportunity I was given to not only attend but lead Morehead's Model EU team."

The Model EU Summit is an annual conference that requires students from universities across the nation to simulate the functions and decision-making processes of the European Union. To mark the 30th Anniversary of the Midwest Conference, 17 Universities with over 140 students gathered in Bloomington for the simulation event.

"The Model EU Summit offers a unique platform for students from diverse fields to converge and acquire invaluable communication and negotiation skills," Bishop said. "These skills are not only beneficial for their academic pursuits but also for their future careers, making the Model EU Club a valuable addition to their university experience."

Dr. James Masterson, chair of the Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global & Legal Studies, said the goal of MSU's Model EU Club, along with MSU's Model UN Club, is to provide students from multiple disciplines the opportunity to learn about international issues while engaging with expert faculty in the field. He and Dr. Jason Adkins, assistant professor of political science, serve as the club's co-advisors.

"Voluminous research by Dee Fink and many others has demonstrated the effectiveness of active learning techniques such as simulations and role-playing exercises," Masterson said.

"Model EU gives students an opportunity to discuss and work through important issues," Adkins added. "They also find ways to compromise on hard-to-solve issues, just like world leaders and diplomats must do on a daily basis. Compromise is often seen as being weak, but in reality, it means finding a way forward to help the world."

Students who wish to participate in the MSU Model EU/UN Club next year may contact Masterson at j.masterson@moreheadstate.edu.

To explore programs in the [Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, Global Studies & Legal Studies](#), email hppl@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2655](tel:606-783-2655).

Photo, top of page: MSU's 2024 Model EU Delegation (left to right): Dr. Jason Adkins (co-advisor), Nathan Walden (Class of 2024, Lexington), Jerry Slone (junior, Paintsville), Cannan Thacker (senior, Canada), Will Cox (Class of 2024, Morehead), Rexford Castle (senior, Paintsville), Bryce Fletcher (senior, Prestonsburg), Peyton McWilliams (junior, Henderson), Taylor Bishop (junior, Greensburg), Calleigh Gray (junior, Elizabethtown), Noah Sewall (Class of 2024, Harrodsburg), Matthew Grace (Class of 2024, Morehead), Dr. James Masterson (co-advisor).

Photo, lower: MSU's Best Delegate winners (left to right): Nathan Walden (European Council, Third Place) and Taylor Bishop (European Commission, First Place).

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INSIGHT camp visits campus for 17th straight year

Morehead State welcomed 24 students from the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) to campus June 3-7 for the 17th annual INSIGHT camp.

INSIGHT is a collaboration between MSU, the Kentucky Office for the Blind, Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB), the Kentucky Education Development Corporation (KEDC) and the KSB Charitable Foundation. The program is in its 17th year at MSU. The program is offered to students who have completed the 10th, 11th or 12th grade and gives them a real-world college experience, including living in a residence hall, attending academic classes, and practicing orientation and mobility skills in a campus environment.

For more information about [INSIGHT](#), contact Program Coordinator Connie Hill at connie.hill@ksb.kyschools.us.

To learn more about Disability Services at MSU, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/disability.

Photo Caption: Students from the Kentucky School for the Blind attended the annual INSIGHT Camp on MSU's campus this week.

- Pictured in the front row, left to right, are Abri Sanders from Lexington and Audrie Lee from Mayfield.
- Row two, l-r: Emily Martinez from Lexington and Valerie Alvarez from LaGrange.

- Row three, l-r: Gabby Keene from Shelbiana and Taeveon Burks from Louisville.
Row four, l-r: Sarah Boyd from Langley.
- Row five, l-r: Cameron Jones from Louisville and Landon Smith from Radcliff.
- Row six, l-r: D.J. Johnson from Vanceburg and Jesse Miracle from Middlesboro.
- Row seven, l-r: Caleb Robinson from Shelbyville and Annalisa Stevenson from Louisville.
- Row eight, l-r: John Burns from Louisville and Emmanuel Gray from Danville.
- Row nine, l-r: Sadie Hardy from Louisville, Peyton Peskoe from Louisville and Emily Lowe from Louisa.
- Row ten, l-r: Liz Apparcel from Lexington and Christian Morgan from Hyden.
- Row 11, l-r: Braxton Rackey from Blackey, Braedon Robinson from Shelbyville and Tyler Crabtree from Fleming-Neon.

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Morehead State art professors exhibit at ArtFields competition

Professor of Art Gary Mesa-Gaido and Associate Professor of Art Dr. Robyn Moore exhibited their work in the 12-state regional juried [ArtFields Exhibition & Competition](#) this past spring in Lake City, South Carolina.

They were selected from over 1,400 submissions by art professionals in the fields and were two of seven artists representing Kentucky. At the end of the exhibit, Mesa-Gaido's four-piece submission was purchased for a private collection, and he was selected for the Southeastern Partner Award: ArtFields, a solo exhibition at Trax Visual Art Center in the spring of 2025.

Mesa-Gaido has exhibited his work at ArtFields on and off since the event began in 2013. ArtFields' primary mission is to honor the artists of the Southeast with a festival and competition in a traditional Southern small town.

"I was initially attracted to the arts festival because it had such a unique perspective on an arts festival than I had seen before," Mesa-Gaido said. "The main goals were to first attract interesting artists and art to their small town and to get the community to join in by becoming invested in the art by hosting those works of art in their businesses and venues. It has worked very well for the last decade."

Moore applied this past year with the encouragement of Professor of Art and Gary's wife, Lisa Mesa-Gaido.

"It was so exciting to have work selected and even more exciting to be able to travel there with Gary and Lisa so we could enjoy it all together," Moore said. "I'm thrilled that Gary was awarded a solo exhibition. The award of a solo exhibition is an incredible honor— one that Gary really deserves."

Learn more about programs in the [Department of Communication, Media, Art & Design](#) by emailing cmad@moreheadstate.edu or calling [606-783-2766](tel:606-783-2766).

Photos: Both Professor of Art Gary Mesa-Gaido (upper right) and Associate Professor of Art Dr. Robyn Moore (lower left) exhibited their work at the ArtFields Exhibition & Competition in South Carolina.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Work by folk artist Minnie Adkins on exhibit at KFAC

[The Kentucky Folk Art Center \(KFAC\)](#) is currently exhibiting several never-before-seen works by popular regional folk artist Minnie Adkins.

["Pieces from the Past, works by Minnie Adkins"](#) showcases several pieces that have never been shown before, along with some one-of-a-kind artwork. The exhibit runs through Friday, July 19, with a [closing reception](#) that day from 5 to 7 p.m.

Adkins is a Kentucky folk artist born in Isonville. She started selling her painted wooden carvings in Morehead in 1983. In the late 1980s, Adkins and her husband, Garland Adkins, founded a folk-art fair named A Day in the Country, which was last held at KFAC in 2017. An annual folk art festival bearing Adkins' name, Minnie Adkins Day, is held in Sandy Hook on the third Saturday in July.

Adkins' work is nationally recognized. She has permanent collections in:

- American Folk Art Museum in New York City
- Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.
- National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.
- High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia
- KMAC Museum in Louisville
- Huntington Museum of Art in Huntington, West Virginia
- The Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, North Carolina

Located in the historic Union Grocery, KFAC houses a permanent collection of nearly 1,400 pieces of self-taught art. Dozens of works from the collection are displayed on a rotating basis in the center's first-floor gallery. The center presents several changing exhibits in the second-floor gallery each year, featuring folk art, fine art, textiles,

photography, and historical content. KFAC also offers a gift shop with original folk art, crafts, jewelry, books, toys, housewares, and more.

For information about the event or KFAC, contact Administrative Coordinator Tammy Stone at 606-783-2204 or email t.stone@moreheadstate.edu.

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Morehead State faculty and students benefit from Level UP program

Through its Level UP program, Morehead State University ensures graduates are prepared for career success. MSU faculty helps mentor students to become career-ready by providing hands-on opportunities in courses that build the critical skills employers are looking for in new hires.

Level UP program students agree that the courses prepare them for career success. Last academic year, 800 students improved their career readiness by taking one of more than 60 Level UP courses taught by 50 faculty and staff members.

Taylor Bishop, a junior from Greensburg double-majoring in history and political science, had the opportunity to study abroad in Hungary and Romania over spring break.

"I undoubtedly think because of this opportunity to take a Level UP class, I got the push I needed to develop more professional critical thinking skills that my career goals of working for the state department are no longer an 'if' but a 'when,'" she said.

Regardless of their major, students are motivated and engaged when they can apply the theories they learn in the classroom in a hands-on way.

Isabella Gilvin, a senior early elementary education major from Maysville, said one standout project from the semester involved collaborating with classmates on a social studies poster and craft activity to engage elementary students and their families at Tilden Hogge Elementary School's Kentucky History Night.

"Seeing the excitement and engagement on the students' faces as they created their own banjos was truly heartwarming. It was a moment of genuine connection and shared creativity, knowing that our efforts had made a positive impact on their learning experience. This hands-on interaction reinforced the importance of education and

community engagement for me, leaving me feeling satisfied and with purpose," Gilvin said.

"My education Level UP service-learning and teamwork-focused course served as a cornerstone in my academic journey, pushing me outside of my comfort zone and providing me with invaluable experiences that have undoubtedly shaped my future career plans."

Faculty and staff who teach Level UP courses and provide support were recognized at a ceremony last month. The event highlighted the achievements of students and the experiences they've gained through the program.

[View Photo Gallery](#)

Megan Boone, director of the Center for Career Development & Experiential Education and co-director of the Level UP program, said the game changer is that faculty also teach students to articulate their skills through an interview response technique called the STAR (Situation, Task, Action, Result) Method (Situation, Task, Action and Result) so that students are prepared to impress in an interview situation."

"Level UP faculty are to be applauded for their work as the results show that students enrolled in these courses are improving skills in ways that employers value," Boone said

Level UP is an initiative to ensure students can engage in experiences that prepare them for success, including undergraduate research, education abroad, service learning, and internships within the courses in their major. The courses further focus on building in-demand career skills like oral communication, written communication, professionalism, critical thinking, and teamwork. Level UP further focuses on training students to convey evidence of these career skills that are highly desirable to employers across disciplines.

For more information on the Level UP program, contact the [Center for Career Development & Experiential Education](#) at levelup@moreheadstate.edu or [606-783-2233](tel:606-783-2233).

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Morehead State hosts Governor's Scholars Program

Morehead State University welcomed the Governor's Scholars Program (GSP) to campus for the 14th year on Saturday, June 22. This year's class consists of 338 students representing 97 Kentucky counties.

Established in 1983, the Governor's Scholars Program is a residential summer program for outstanding Kentucky students who have completed their junior year in high school. GSP provides academic and personal growth in a challenging, nontraditional environment that balances a solid liberal arts program with a complete co-curricular and residential life experience. Students attending GSP must complete an application and compete with others from the state. Those selected attend the program free of charge.

MSU first welcomed GSP in 2006. Centre College and Murray State University are also hosting GSP students this summer.

Various activities are planned for the students' five-week stay on campus, including a Family Day on Saturday, July 6. GSP will conclude with a closing ceremony on Friday, July 26.

To learn more about [GSP](#), email gsp@moreheadstate.edu.

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MSU's Kaitlyn Praisler wins national equestrian competition

Morehead State's equestrian team not only gives students a chance to compete in a sport they love; it also equips them with the skills they need for success after graduation. Senior Kaitlyn Praisler, an equine science major from West Salem, Ohio, won the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) Individual Ranch Riding championship at the IHSA National Championship held in May.

Riding a horse named Penny, Praisler was the sole rider representing MSU at this year's competition. She was the first MSU student to win a national title since David Davis (Class of 1987) won the AQHA High Point Western title in 1985.

Praisler has been riding her whole life and said winning the title was an experience she'll never forget.

"I have worked so hard for so many years and to finally win my first grand champion buckle at a National Championship just left me speechless," she said. "I have been on the MSU Equestrian Team since I was a freshman. It was one of the main reasons I chose MSU."

Students on the Equestrian Team gain skills that give them the skills employers are looking for, setting them on the path to career success. Equestrian Team Coach and Instructor of Agricultural Sciences Luke Brock said students learn practical animal care and handling skills, in addition to more universal skills like leadership, time management and teamwork. Students also gain experiential learning opportunities through classes at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex, internships and summer job opportunities.

Former team members have become assistant trainers and farriers; many graduates work in the veterinary industry.

As for Praisler's win, Brock said she worked hard to get to nationals, and he's proud to have been a part of it.

"I couldn't be more proud of Kaitlyn Praisler, and her character and talent are rare. Coaching her has been an honor and watching her achieve her dreams is the most rewarding experience I've had as a coach so far. Congratulations, Kaitlyn, on this well-deserved victory! Go Eagles!"

The [IHSA](#) is a nonprofit organization composed of men and women of all riding levels and offers individual and team competition. Members of the IHSA participate in horse shows. Students compete at eight levels, from beginner through advanced, with horses provided to them.

For more information on the equestrian team, contact Brock at l.brock@moreheadstate.edu.

Learn more about programs in the [Department of Agricultural Sciences](#) by emailing agsi@moreheadstate.edu or calling 606-783-2662.

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Dr. Anindita Paul researches new ways to energize rechargeable batteries

Dr. Anindita Paul, assistant professor of engineering and technology management, has been chosen to participate in the Kentucky Commercialization Ventures (KCV) Launch Blue UAccel program.

[UAccel Quick Start](#), Launch Blue's university technology commercialization-focused program, offers professional development and an experiential learning opportunity to innovators interested in learning the best commercialization path for their technology.

Paul is researching the creation of an energy harvester to charge a power bank to energize rechargeable batteries. Participation in UAccel Quick Start will allow Paul to continue toward startup formation and apply for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or National Innovation Corps grants. She will attend weekly cohort meetings, gain tools to assist her independent study and receive one-on-one entrepreneurial coaching.

"As an inventor, it is important for me to understand what users want in order to effectively create a new product that can meet people's needs," Paul said. "After several coaching sessions with excellent coaches, I now know how to discover customers and have an idea of who my potential stakeholders might be."

Dr. Shannon Harr, director of MSU's Office of Research & Sponsored Programs, said Paul's participation benefits students and the University.

"Dr. Paul's participation in UAccel will benefit students working with her because they too will learn about how the work they are doing with Dr. Paul can go from an idea all the way to a commercialized product and the various avenues involved to get a product to market," he said.

"Commercialization like this benefits the MSU monetarily by way of patent ownership and any royalties derived from them. Also, this program equips participants with information that is advantageous in applying for external funding to support their research."

UAccel aims to advance technology or innovation toward commercialization, including preparations for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants or National Innovation Corps applications, creating a startup, or partnering with an established company to license the technology.

To learn more about Paul's work, contact her at a.paul@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-2094.

Learn more about MSU's [College of Science & Engineering](#) by contacting Dr. Ahmad Zargari, dean, at ahmad.zargari@moreheadstate.edu or 606-783-2425.

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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.

MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity, educational institution.



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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MOREHEAD, Ky.---

Morehead State announces Spring 2024 Presidential Engaged Eagles

Morehead State University named more than 350 students to the Spring 2024 Presidential Community Engaged Eagles. During the spring semester, these students participated in service projects throughout MSU's service region, including activities as part of Make an Impact Day and the March to Service.

"We are proud to honor these exceptional students for their dedicated service to the community," said Andrew Sexton (Class of 2020, 2022), coordinator of service learning. "Their commitment to community engagement and academic excellence shines through the reflections of their service experiences, which will benefit them both now and, in the future, as they become active citizens."

To qualify for this recognition, students must first participate in a service project or other volunteer activity and then submit a reflection about their experience.

[VIEW SPRING 2024 ENGAGED EAGLES](#)

For more information about the Presidential Community Engaged Eagles list, contact Sexton at [606-783-5493](tel:606-783-5493) or servicelearning@moreheadstate.edu.

To learn more about MSU's [Center for Career Development and Experiential Education](#), email careerservices@moreheadstate.edu or call [606-783-2233](tel:606-783-2233).

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