

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Saline County

2024 Annual Report

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MISSOURI.**

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MIZZOU.**



Extension

University of Missouri

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



Office of Extension
and Engagement
University of Missouri

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December 2024

Dear county commissioners, elected leaders and friends of MU Extension and Engagement,

As we reflect on the past year, I want to express my deep gratitude for your support of MU Extension and for your partnership in enhancing the lives of Missourians.

Your support for MU Extension fuels Missouri's agriculture, strengthens families, prepares our youth and promotes the health, well-being and vitality of our communities. Over the past year, our programs have focused on addressing key needs throughout the state:

- **Expanding access to 4-H:** To make 4-H more accessible, we've introduced more in-school and after-school clubs, reducing barriers and creating opportunities for young Missourians to develop essential skills and leadership abilities.
- **Supporting agriculture and land stewardship:** We're addressing critical issues such as succession planning for family farms, rural mental health, agricultural business management and land stewardship. These initiatives are helping Missouri's farmers plan for the future and preserve the health of our land for future generations.
- **Advancing health initiatives:** Our team of community health field specialists, covering every region of the state, works directly with local leaders to assess health needs and bring UM System resources and expertise to these communities, supporting healthier lives and stronger communities.
- **Promoting economic development:** MU Extension is helping to create economic opportunities by working with individuals, supporting businesses in their growth and collaborating with communities to enhance local vibrancy. Through these efforts, we help bring new jobs, skills and possibilities to Missourians across the state.
- **Providing essential training:** Our continuing education programs prepare Missouri's firefighters and health care workers to meet the demands of their roles with the latest skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to serve our communities.

As you read through this annual report, I hope you feel as proud as I do of the accomplishments we've achieved together. The dedication and professionalism of MU Extension's faculty and staff are inspiring, and I am grateful to work alongside them—and each of you—as we make Missouri a stronger, healthier and more vibrant place. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are serving Missouri by delivering the University *for* Missouri.

Warm regards,

Chad Higgins, PhD
Vice Chancellor, MU Extension and Engagement
Chief Engagement Officer, UM System

Who we are

Faculty and staff



Top Row: Emma Sims, Kathi Mecham, Christina Todd, Katie Neuner, Fred Smith

Bottom Row: Chelsea Corkins, Sue Robison, Annie Luft

Not Pictured: Heather Conrow, Jim Crawford, Mitchell Moon, Tina Edholm, Todd Lorenz and Shannon Gross

MU Extension serving Saline County

Emma Sims, Youth Program Associate

Fred Smith, 4-H Youth Development Specialist

Christina Todd, Nutrition Program Assistant

Sue Robinson, Nutrition and Health

Katie Neuner, Agricultural Business & Policy

Heather Conrow, Livestock

Christina Edholm, Human Development

Todd Lorenz, Agronomy

Kathi Mecham, Horticulture

Jim Crawford, Agricultural Engineering

Mitchell Moon, Labor & Workforce Development

Chelsea Corkins, Extension Engagement

Shannon Gross, Office Manager

Council members

Tiffany Thornton, **Chairman**

Michelle Boland, **Vice-chairman**

Cindi Sims, **Secretary**

Shannon Johnson, **Treasurer**

Haley Baker

Bailey Boland

Annie Burkhalter

Brad Guthrey

Sandi Guthrey

Becky Uhlich

Dan Weber

Monte Fenner, **County Commissioner**

Vince Lutterbie, **City Mayor**

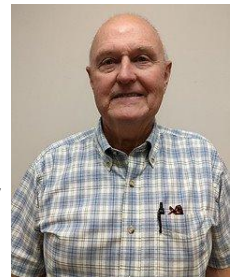
County commissioners



Becky Plattner,
Presiding Commissioner



Stephanie Gooden,
Northern Commissioner



Monte Fenner,
Southern
Commissioner



Budget and more

2024 Appropriations Financials

Income

County Appropriations	45,000.00
Fairboard Office Offset	1,084.00
Total Incomes	46,084.00

Expense

Office Salaries	29,286.59
Payroll Expenses	2,441.18
Non-Payroll Salaries	13,222.19
Travel	3,441.20
Postage	68.00
Telephone	962.64
Advertising	76.77
Printer Rental	1,462.51
Supplies/Services	1,555.69
Professional Services	50.00
Insurance	677.44
Total Expenses	53,244.10

Saline County partners

- County services provided included 2,136 total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents in Saline County included:
 - 142 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources.
 - 1,892 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development.
 - 86 contact related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing local economy.
- Local partners allow MU Extension to reach a variety of community members. These partnerships included, but were not limited to:
 - Salt Fork YMCA
 - Saline County Fair Board
 - Marshall Parents as Teachers
 - Cargill
 - Tyson's
 - Marshall Senior Center
 - And many local schools



MU Extension is a unique funding partnership.

Extension funding is a three-way partnership of federal, state and county government. Federal and state money, through the University of Missouri system, pay professional staff salaries, training costs, computers and communication equipment. County funds support the local office, secretarial and youth assistant salaries, staff mileage and council expenses.

The Saline County Extension Council, faculty and staff would like to express our appreciation to the Saline County Commissioners for their continued support of extension programs.



Local Support

Did you know you can donate directly to Saline County Extension with a gift to be used immediately or as an endowment contribution for long term efforts. Monies put into the endowment are left forever to earn interest with the county office benefiting each year. You can also direct your donation to a specific program such as 4-H or Master Gardeners.

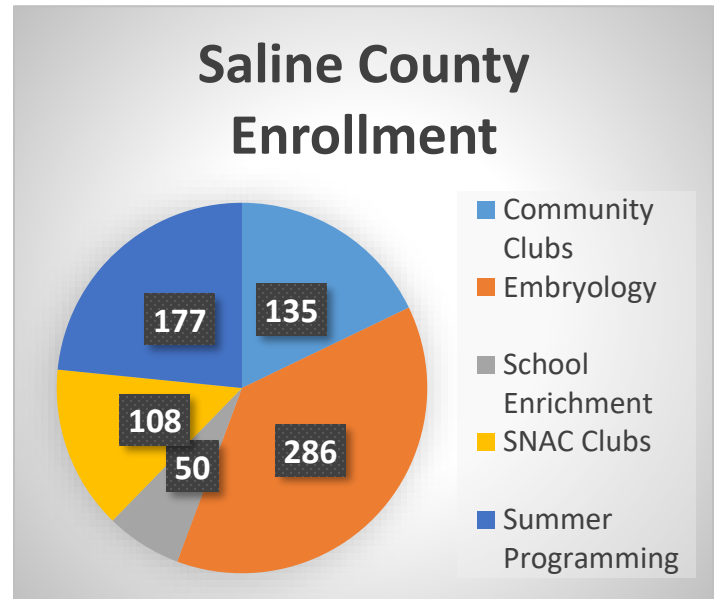


Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

Saline County 4-H

In 2024, Saline County 4-H & SNAC served over 750 youth through various programs, including community clubs, school enrichment, and summer camps. The involvement of more than 25 volunteers highlights the community's support and engagement in educational programs.

- ✓ 105 youth and parents attended 4-H Recognition and Bingo
- ✓ 20 youth and parents attended the Shooting Sports Safety Course
- ✓ 30 youth and parents attended the Show Me Quality Assurance Training (SMQA)
- ✓ 1 youth attended Teen Conference.
- ✓ 3 youth attended State Livestock Judging
- ✓ 21 youth and 4 counselors attended 4-H Camp at Heit's Point in Lincoln.
- ✓ Saline County 4-H Shooting Sports Range hosted the State Western Heritage Shoot.
- ✓ 10 youth participated in the State Shooting Sports Competition



Left: 4-H youth at the YMCA created their own healthy snacks through the SNAC (Student Nutrition Advocacy Council) program. Youth were encouraged to try new food, make healthy snacks, and engage in physical activity with this course.

Right & Upper Right: 4-H youth at Clover Kids camp engaged with teen leaders during fun, educational activities. Forming positive relationships with other youth is a goal of 4-H.





Missouri 4-H Positive Youth Development

Saline County Fair & State Fair

- ✓ 405 animal class entries took place during the Saline County Fair
- ✓ 102 Ham and Bacons were entered.
- ✓ 106 youth participated in project judging
- ✓ 677 Projects were entered for judging
- ✓ 14 youth gave a Demonstration
- ✓ 9 youth gave a Public Speech
- ✓ 19 youth participated in Fashion Review
- ✓ Premium Sale at the Saline County Fair sold 119 lots for \$129,115.
- ✓ Ty Murphy, Kennedy 4-H Member, exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat at the 2024 Missouri State Fair.
- ✓ Ellie Bonar and Addison Peecher both had projects selected as “Best of Show” in the 4-H Building at the 2024 Missouri State Fair



Left: 4-H youth showing off his catch at the County Fair sportsfishing final

Right: 4-H volunteers assisting at a local poverty simulator for Missouri Valley College students where participants managed on month in poverty conditions

Below: Youth learning about the life cycle during an Embryology session



In-School 4-H Programming

Summer Enrichment with Math and STEM kits, lead by 4-H Specialist Fred Smith, reached 190 total youth. 118 in Saline, 42 in Carroll, and 30 in Chariton.

Additional school programming such as On My Own and Youth Futures reached 361 youth in Fall 2024.



Agriculture & Environment

Tar Spot Education

Tar spot was a common topic for MU Extension Agronomy Specialists, in 2024. Tar spot can cause severe yield loss on susceptible hybrids. While Missouri has experienced



some extremely high temperatures this year, evenings in many weeks were milder and caused the disease to continue spreading. The pathogen can survive Missouri winters. Industry Reps in NW Missouri submitted this picture of tar spot in corn. Industry groups and MU Extension have a good working relationship sharing information of what is happening in the field.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

During this training held in 2024, participants learned about safe handling of pesticides, proper mixing, calibration techniques, environmental ramifications of improper mixing or careless application, and more as it pertains to protective wear, records, and pest management.

In 2024, 11 agricultural producers in Saline County were trained and licensed to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides with Agronomy Specialist, Todd Lorenz.

Livestock Grazing Grant



In 2024, MU Extension Livestock Specialists were able to enroll seven cooperators from northwest Missouri in the Grasslands Partnership with University of Tennessee. Through this partnership, MU Extension brings over \$140,000 to support these seven operations in enhancing their grazing operations over the next four years.





Agriculture & Environment

Show-Me-Quality Assurance (SMQA)

Show-Me Quality Assurance is a youth program intended to increase the knowledge and awareness of Missouri youth about food quality issues related to animal production.

Topics covered in this hands-on, interactive program include perceived safety, wholesomeness, and nutritional value of food products influence consumer-buying decisions. If consumers are not confident a product is of the highest quality they have come to expect, they will not purchase it.

- Statewide, more than **36,500** youth have been certified, with 10 youth in Saline county attending in 2024
- Resulted in an average savings of **\$3.00 to \$5.00** per head by reducing herd health expenses and providing a safe food product
- Participants have increased their knowledge about food quality and animal well-being by **2.5** points on a 1-5 scale



Soil Testing Inquires

Soil testing is a valuable tool for farmers and gardeners. It is a process used to estimate the ability of the soil to support plant growth. Samples submitted to the University of Missouri Soil Testing Lab are analyzed for pH and nutrients including phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium. Soil can also be tested for micronutrients including sulfur, zinc, manganese, iron and copper. Todd Lorenz, Agronomy Specialist, & Kathi Mecham, Horticulture Specialist, are available to help interpret results.

The objectives of the MU Soil Testing Lab are:

- to help farmers and gardeners make effective use of fertilizer to increase their financial returns;
- benefit society with improved environment and water quality through efficient use of fertilizer on farms, lawns and gardens;
- to ensure public and private labs are providing reliable and quality soil test results to the citizens of Missouri.



In 2024, 11 soil samples were processed through the Saline office analyzed by the MU Soil Testing Lab.





Business & Community

Neighborhood Leadership Academy

Neighborhood Leadership Academy (NLA) is a 10-week community development leadership program that provides participants with the skills, confidence, and strategies to plan and implement projects in their own communities. Participants come from across the entire state and meet virtually using Zoom. The program provides participants with 30 hours of educational instruction, group and individual coaching that will assist them with completing their project. Participants that complete the program are eligible to apply for mini-grants to support their projects.



What participants said about NLA:

"I enjoyed the breakout sessions. Although we are from all different backgrounds, communities, we all want the same things in our communities."

One-on-one Counseling Continues to Make Impacts

Individualized consultations supported ag producers across the state throughout 2024. Many clients were in specialty crop production and lacked resources and information needed to be successful.

One-on-one support in 2024 included:

- Missouri Ag Food and Forestry Innovation Center
- Missouri Socially Disadvantaged Farm and Rancher 2501 Team to One Coaching
- Heartland Regional Food Center Technical Assistance Provider

Katie Neuner, Agriculture Business Specialist, undertook efforts resulting in 127 counseling sessions totaling 60 hours of contact time, and over \$500,000 in requested grant funds. This resulted in realized financial gains of \$43,480 to producers with other grants still pending.

Extension Council Development

Northwest Missouri Regional Extension Engagement Specialists hosted two sessions of Regional Extension Council Lunch and Learn meetings on Zoom in 2024.

These learning opportunities helped council members increase their knowledge on two topics:

1. Extension Council member roles, responsibilities, and how to pitch MU Extension to their communities.
2. Extension Council election responsibilities, recruitment tools, and legal requirements during elections.

Overall, attendees felt more knowledgeable & prepared to serve as a council member after attendance.

Weatherization and renewable Energy

In 2024, Jim Crawford, Agricultural Engineering Specialist, helped NW Missouri learn easy, low-cost ways to reduce their energy consumption and thus their energy bills through weatherization or renewable energy.

This included:

- Energy conservation /weatherization – Steps and processes people can use to reduce their energy costs at home.
- Renewable energy – home and commercial scale wind and solar energy production systems, including how a large, commercial scale solar or wind farm can affect property values, family and lifestyle.





Health & Human Sciences

Fall Prevention Programs Aids Adult Missourians

Many older adults worry about falling and losing their independence. Not being active enough can make them more likely to fall and cause other health problems.

In Saline, Ray, Carroll, Chariton and Lafayette counties, about 20% of the population is 65 years or older. Less than half of these older adults have places to go for exercise.

In 2024, Sue Robison, Nutrition & Health Specialist, brought exercise to the Salisbury Senior Center, which hosted 9 participants during a Stay Strong, Stay Healthy program.

Stay Strong Stay Healthy is an 8-week program designed to improve balance, enhance flexibility, reduce stress, lift depression, and lower health risks through strength training. The program utilizes light hand and ankle weights to achieve these results.



“You are standing so much straighter, and you do not struggle coming in. Be proud of your hard work.”
Senior Center Observer



Home Food Preservation

Food Preservation has gained interest as families seek solutions to food insecurity and the desire to for locally grown foods. Many are turning to preserving their own produce to ensure access to fresh, healthy options year-round.

At sessions held near Saline County in 2024, participants engage in hands-on learning and acquired essential skills in:

- Utilizing pressure canners
- Understanding water bathing techniques
- Knowing when to use pectin
- Recognizing unsafe substitutions for food preservation



Above: Health and Nutrition Specialist Sue Robison is instructing how a water bath preserves foods.

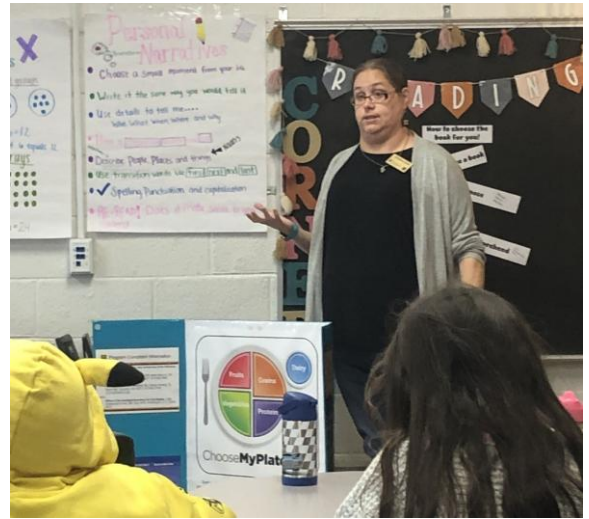


Health & Human Sciences

SNAP-Education in 2024

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Education or SNAP-Ed) brought \$11,145,237 in federal funds to Missouri. The funds support engagement with 74,864 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients and eligible citizens of Missouri who learned about being active and healthy eating on a budget. This year we had 1,164,143 indirect educational contacts through newsletters, health fairs, food pantries, and the Show Me Nutrition helpline.

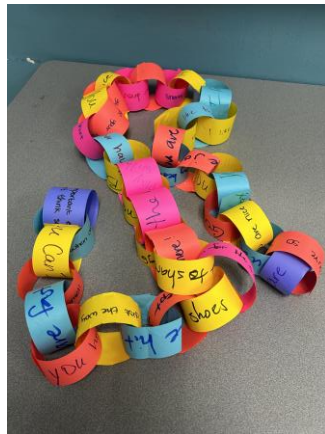
9,493 direct and indirect contacts were made in Saline County.



Schools	Agencies
Spainhower Primary	Saline County Health Department
Miami Elementary	Marshall Senior Center
Sweet Springs Elementary	Missouri Valley Community Action Agency – Saline County

Participants in SNAP-Ed learn the importance of making healthier meals and snack choices, eating breakfast more often, are more willing to try new foods, increase their physical activity, and make healthier food choices. Those who practice healthy eating and are physically active are more likely to contribute to a healthy labor force and enjoy a high quality of life throughout the lifespan. This vital programming effort also reduces healthcare costs over the participant’s lifetime, saving taxpayer money in reduced public healthcare benefits and insurance premiums.

Empowering Youth Through Resilience



Across Missouri, **713 youth** developed leadership and life skills with Tina Edholm, Human Development Specialist, through programs like Heit’s Point Summer Camp and YMCA activities in Saline County. A camp counselor noted, *“The kids learned how to work together and express their emotions constructively. It’s amazing to see their growth.”* These programs not only teach valuable skills but also foster resilience and teamwork, preparing youth for future success.



County highlights

Extension Outreach & Engagement

Community engagement plays a vital role in the knowledge of MU Extension programs and resources. In 2024, faculty, staff, volunteers, and council participated in opportunities to engage and education the public in multiple venues. These included:

- Project Share booth with Marshall Schools
- YMCA Summer Camp with county fair partnership visit
- Commissioner & Community Crunch Offs
- Summer Enrichment with Math and STEM kits
- Saline County BBQ & contests
- Community Resource Carnival booth with MVCAA
- Poverty Simulator with Missouri Valley College
- Good Neighbor Week celebration by donating food to emergency responders
- Community Baby Shower with the Health & WIC Departments



Saline County



UM System Footprint in the county in 2024



FY24 county students

101 students

- 75 Undergraduates
- 26 Graduate and professional students
- 78 Full-time students
- 23 Part-time students
- 16 Pell grant recipients (aid year 2024)



County employees and retirees

70 people employed by UM

- 24 Campuses
- 45 MU Health Care (includes additional employees gained via the recent integration of Capital Region Medical Center)
- 1 UM System

20 UM retirees and beneficiaries

UM salary and retirement income: \$3.7 million

UM state tax revenue: \$118,271

UM federal tax revenue: \$534,899



County alumni

Selected school alumni

- 15 Medicine
- 28 Nursing
- 71 Health Professions
- 11 Dentistry
- 13 Pharmacy
- 15 Veterinary Medicine
- 177 Agriculture
- 36 Engineering
- 13 Law

Alumni teaching K-12

- 35 teachers
- 12.4% of all district teachers
- 7 principals and administrators
- 36.8% of all district principals and administrators



County breakdown

MU

- 79 students
- 517 alumni
- 22 employees

UMKC

- 13 students
- 74 alumni
- 1 employee

Missouri S&T

- 6 students
- 18 alumni
- 0 employees

UMSL

- 3 students
- 6 alumni
- 1 employee



County population: 23,219



County services provided

Health care (FY24)

- 4,104 in-state patients seen at MU Health Care, with \$2.5 million of uncompensated care
- 13 in-state patients seen at UMKC School of Dentistry with a statewide average of \$52.57 per patient in uncompensated care
- MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network recorded 930 visits to 444 patients having ZIP codes associated with the county

Extension (2023)

- 2,136 Total educational contacts from MU Extension to residents of the county, including:
 - 10 contacts related to productive farming, better gardening, and managing natural resources
 - 1,892 contacts related to healthy eating and aging, strengthening families, personal finance, or youth development
 - 86 contacts related to starting businesses, developing community leaders, or renewing the local economy



Construction projects

- \$40,170 remitted to 1 county vendor, for 19 projects



County properties and offices

MU Extension in: Saline County

Saline County



University of Missouri System
COLUMBIA | KANSAS CITY | ROLLA | ST. LOUIS

UM System Statewide Footprint

Economic and Community Development Highlights

- In FY23, Business Development Specialists worked with small businesses and entrepreneurs statewide to create or retain 98,527 jobs.

\$3.1
billion

For every dollar invested from 2019 to 2021, the MU Extension Business Development Program has returned \$133 in economic impact for its clients by increasing sales more than \$1.6 billion. For a total impact of \$3.1 billion, the program has generated more than 37,000 jobs and attracted nearly \$451 million in capital investments and \$1.5 billion in government contracts.

- Between FY18 and FY23, UM System brought Missouri more than \$1.58 billion in federal and private research funds, funded primarily from outside the state, but spent within the state.



In FY24, UM System was issued 29 patents and filed 69 new U.S. patent applications.

- In FY24, the UM System awarded 707 design and construction project contracts throughout Missouri, for a total investment of \$287.3 million in the state.



In FY24, to improve access to medical and health related services, MU Health Care's Missouri Telehealth Network's Show-Me ECHO program provided 16,687 hrs of case-based instruction to 3,113 learners located in 105 of 114 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

Education and Training Provided



40,542 police, fire fighters, and medical professionals attending continuing education (2023)



Agriculture and natural resource programs served 369,077 farmers and related businesses (2023)

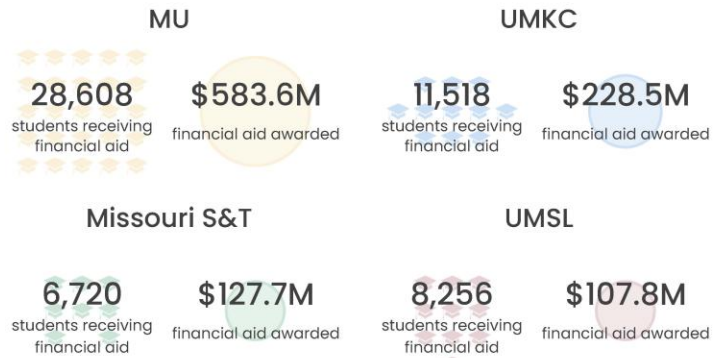


210,577 youth and stakeholder educational contacts in 4-H clubs, schools, camps and other programs (2023)

Education Highlights

FY24 Financial Aid Awards

In FY24, 69.7% of the UM System's 79,014 students received financial aid totaling \$1.048 billion



UM System's MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) provides internet connectivity, access, support and training to 58 higher education institutions (230,000 students), 484 K-12 school districts (830,000 students) and 134 public libraries (serving nearly 3 million Missourians) in 2023.

- UM System awarded 50.5% of the 31,689 Bachelor's or higher degrees awarded by Missouri four-year public institutions in 2023-24.
- UM System awarded 35.0% of the 1,776 research doctorates and 26.8% of the 3,796 professional doctorates awarded by Missouri public and not-for-profit private institutions in 2023-24.
- In FY24, UM System's \$30.7 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) grants represented 96.9% of all NSF grants made to Missouri public colleges and universities.
- In 2024, over 12,400 Missourians accessed mobroadband.org, part of the UM System Broadband Initiative which helped the statewide build-out of high-speed internet infrastructure.

Supporting the University of Missouri is an investment in the future of Missouri.

The university advances Missouri citizens and communities through its mission of teaching, research, public service, and economic development across our four campuses and University of Missouri Extension.

Prepared in December 2024, based on the best available and most recent data. Data Sources include: Missouri Office of Administration • UM IR • MU Institute for Public Policy • Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (CARES) • MU • UMKC • Missouri S&T • UMSL • UM System • UM Health Care • MU Extension • US Census Bureau • US Dept. of Health and Human Services • National Science Foundation

