



College and Career Readiness Initiatives

The university-wide, college and career ready initiatives that Murray State University has taken on are as follows:

ACT Tool Kits and Training — High schools in the region requested that Murray State University help juniors prepare for the state-required ACT each spring. MuSU responded to this request by producing a training DVD through collaboration between our Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement, our Office of Regional Stewardship, and the faculty and students in the College of Education. The DVD highlighted MuSU students discussing the importance of taking the ACT and also gave test examples of how to work through each section on the test, in addition to training materials. The DVDs were mass-produced and combined with the additional resource materials. This ACT Tool Kit then was made available to 23 counties in our region (including those in surrounding states). In fall 2009, the university incorporated the ACT Tool Kit into a CPE College Readiness grant, so the CPE is assisting in that project now as well.

We are currently working with our media services staff to get the DVD revised into an online format so that the information will be available statewide. In addition to the ACT Tool Kits that have been produced for the region over the past three years, MuSU provides ACT preparation courses on campus throughout the year for students in the region. These workshops are conducted by faculty and staff through the Center for Continuing Education and Academic Outreach.

Four Rivers Scholarship Program — This is a newer project with our “river county” school districts to explore specific career options in the health sciences and applied career fields and transition students to postsecondary education through the provision of college advisors, bridge courses, financial assistance and related programming that would start in the 8th grade and continue until matriculation after 12th grade. The stated goal of 4RSP is to increase enrollment in regional postsecondary institutions by 20% over a 5-year period.

Other initiatives operated at academic college/departmental levels include the following:

Project ACCESS (School of Agriculture) — Extends the associate degree program in agricultural technology at community colleges into a transition to a four-year bachelor’s degree from MSU. This “at a distance” program helps to establish a wide-entry, multiple exit and seamless agricultural educational system to meet the agriculture workforce needs of our service region.

Great Kids Summit (GEAR UP/Office of Regional Stewardship) — Conference shares with local high schoolers the knowledge and tools necessary to succeed in life and business, and helps them to build confidence and belief in their own abilities. Each summit emphasizes five fundamental points: caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, marketable skills and opportunities to serve.

World We Create (College of Science, Engineering and Technology) — An exhibit for K-12 students to explore applied science, technology and engineering in hands-on activities that are fun, educational and focused on creative problem solving.

Project Lead The Way (College of Science, Engineering and Technology) — PLTW is a nationally recognized middle and high school curriculum that focuses on project and problem-based contextual learning aimed at cultivating students interested in pursuing careers in engineering and engineering technology. It currently focuses on the development of STEM skills preparing students for pre-engineering education. Eight schools in West Kentucky have implemented the program.

Project Leadership (College of Business and Recruitment Office) — Approximately 500 student leaders from 14 high schools throughout the 18-county service region spend a day on campus, learning about college life and exploring study areas in the college of business at MSU.

Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour (College of Business) — This event creates awareness for college students on navigating through college successfully, while also preparing them for their future careers. Young entrepreneurs share with students how they became successful in their careers, citing their experiences, hurdles to overcome and what they learned in the process.

Entrepreneurial Fair (College of Business) — The fair provides grade 5-12 students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in creating a new business while learning grade-specific Kentucky Core Content in economics and consumerism. Participating students increase initiative and self-confidence, enhance learning by using technology, acquire practical living skills, learn to solve problems and about business in the real world, and improve their social skills. Fairs can be held in a classroom, at a school or on the Murray State University campus.

Hooked on Science (College of Science, Engineering and Technology) — This project strengthens our partnership with the Calloway County Conservation District to provide science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in every school in the region. Jason Lindsey, known as “The Science Guy” from News Channel 6, will travel to schools each Wednesday to teach the importance of STEM.

Girls in Engineering (College of Science, Engineering and Technology) — Middle school girls work in teams to solve an engineering obstacle. They learn practical problem-solving skills, teamwork, quantitative skills of measurement, engineering design, and economics in a supportive environment.

Community College Program (Center for Continuing Education and Academic Outreach) — Prospective students can request diagnostic testing in English, math and reading to ensure appropriate placement in college courses. Additionally, the program offers support classes and peer tutoring for both traditional and adult students in most core curriculum courses.