

## **Economic & Community Development at UMSL**

As the University continues to grow and change to be responsive to the needs of the campus and community, new structures are being implemented to support faculty, staff, students and the broader community. One of these is the formation of the Office of Economic and Community Development (ECD) under the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic & Community Development.

Drawing on the University's land-grant mission and role as an anchor institution, ECD supports the University's commitment to engage and apply its economic and human capital to drive positive community impact and economic opportunity in North St. Louis County, the St. Louis region, and beyond. ECD at UMSL does this by leading and supporting community-university partnerships and initiatives, facilitating community investment, cultivating and maintaining strong community relationships, strengthening a culture of engagement on campus, and by measuring and communicating the University's community impact.

ECD team members convene and support partners and stakeholders across campus, the University of Missouri System, and in neighborhoods and communities to improve areas such as health and mental health, education, local government, business development, and workforce development to strengthen the well-being and economic resiliency of the region. They also support training for engaged teaching and research and civic engagement for faculty, staff, and students to develop and increase their involvement and impact in the community.

### **The ECD team includes:**



Karl Guenther  
Assistant Vice Chancellor  
of Economic & Community Development  
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Karl supports the development and execution of UMSL's Anchor Institution Initiative which aims to increase access to jobs, purchasing contracts, health, and educational opportunities for residents in the neighborhoods surrounding UMSL toward strengthening equity and vibrant, whole communities. Karl works closely with university and local and regional partners to extend the economic and community impact of UMSL in the region.



Prima Wagan  
Senior Manager  
Economic Development Projects  
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Prima works with local government and economic development partners on initiatives that improve the physical footprint and economic vitality of areas surrounding UMSL. Her expertise is in data analysis and mapping.



Patricia Zahn  
Director of Community Engagement and Outreach  
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Patricia supports community engaged partnerships and has long worked to create opportunities for faculty engagement with community organizations through the Des Lee Collaborative Vision and the Community Engagement Council. She works with faculty and staff to build capacity in engaged scholarship and facilitates civic and voter education initiatives on campus. She also serves as the UMSL legislative liaison.

UMSL has a long tradition in community partnership, engagement and impact. Karl, Prima and Patricia have been a part of supporting that strong tradition for many years. They are committed to working with faculty, staff, students, and administrative leaders to continue to advance this work and to leverage the university's expertise and resources toward strengthening the St. Louis region and beyond.