



## UM Connection | Summer 2023

### Update from Interim Chief Engagement Officer Chad Higgins

Happy Summer! Last month, I met with the UM System Four Campus Leadership Committee, along with other university leaders. It was wonderful to see them in person and share ideas. I look forward to many more opportunities to collaborate in the future.



One recent and impactful collaboration is the University of Missouri System Broadband Initiative, a coordinated effort to help more Missourians access affordable high-speed internet. As a partner with the [Missouri Office of Broadband Development](#), the initiative supports community planning for broadband deployment, digital skills training and utilization of broadband applications like telehealth, online learning and entrepreneurial efforts.

I am excited to share that the National Telecommunications and Information Agency recently announced Missouri will receive more than \$1.7 billion to support broadband expansion across the state. To learn more about the initiative's projects and tools, visit the [Missouri Broadband Resource Rail](#).

Thank you for your continued support of and advocacy for the University of Missouri. Please let us know how we can assist you as engaged leaders in your communities!

Sincerely,

Chad Higgins, Ph.D.

### In Memoriam

They were our colleagues, our friends and part of our UM System family. Together we remember those who shared their lives with us. Please keep their families in your thoughts. [View the In Memoriam list \(PDF\)](#).

### HR Updates


Annual Enrollment for retirees is October 23 – November 3. Retirees enrolled in university insurance will receive detailed information in the mail at the beginning of October.

Retirees are also invited to attend the retiree town hall where UM System staff and vendor partners will share 2024 retiree benefit plan information:



#### Retiree Town Hall

October 5, 2023  
1-2 p.m.



Information on accessing the town hall and additional event details will be available on the [UM System Retirees Associations](#) webpage closer to the event.



