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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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Governor Greitens Makes New Selections For Board of Curators

**KATY RIDDLED**
**Editor-in-Chief**

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators has three new nominations for vacancies left unfilled last year, after the State Senate would not confirm the nominations made under former Governor Jay Nixon. Governor Eric Greitens rejected Nixon’s nominations and made his new ones on February 15. The new nominees are Darryl Chatman, Jeff Layman, and Jamie Farmer.

Governor Greitens released the following statement: “We have the potential to make Missouri's higher education system a national model. Our state has excellent students, talented teachers, and a people committed to education. There are also many areas where higher education can be improved. We can encourage more intellectual diversity and become the best state in the country at preparing students for rewarding careers. These curators bring knowledge and real world experience to the table. They will be important voices for our students and families.”

Chatman is an attorney and former deputy director of Missouri’s Department of Agriculture. He received a BS and MS in animal science at the University of Missouri-Columbia where he was also a linbacker for the football team. He has an MBA in public administration from North Carolina State University, an MS in agriculture economics from Mizzou, and a JD from Mizzou.

Layman is the senior vice president at Morgan Stanley in Springfield, Missouri, and earned his bachelor's in business administration and management from Missouri State University. He also studied business at Mizzou.

Farmer is the president of Farmers Holding Co. She received a BS and MS in animal biology from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

University Hopes to Increase Enrollment Yield After Seeing Decreasing Enrollment

**LORE DEESENR**
**News Editor**

Declining enrollment trends have continued into the spring 2017 semester at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The university saw a 7.2 percent decrease in on-campus enrollment from fall to spring and a 4.1 percent decrease in total enrollment from last spring to this spring. For the first time in five years, however, the university saw a slight increase of 3.8 percent in new freshmen from last spring.

Alan Byrd, dean of enrollment, said that enrollment is down slightly more than expected this semester. “We expected to be down around 6 percent since we were down 6 percent in the fall, so if we had our normal attrition and a normal number of new students, we would stay about the same, but we were slightly down this spring,” he said, noting that some of the decline can be attributed to the recent graduating class.

He said that the focus this spring is figuring out how to improve the enrollment yield at the university for the upcoming fall semester, and the university has set a goal to increase enrollment by roughly 1 percent for the fall semester.

“Right now it’s looking like we’re going to have a record number of freshmen applications from high school students for the second year in a row, so the key there is if they’ll actually enroll... We had a record number last year and we had a very low enrollment yield. So we won’t be satisfied with those numbers until they actually matriculate and come to fruition,” said Byrd, who added that campus tours have increased by five percent.

He explained that transfer numbers are down slightly this year, as the university’s top feeder school, St. Louis Community College, has seen decreased enrollment numbers.

“We’re putting most of our hope this year in...the graduate school doing well and attracting more international students and students from outside of the state,” said Byrd.

According to the Spring 2017 Enrollment Report, the university’s priority is to enroll 2,150 new undergraduate and 825 new graduate and professional students and increase total enrollment to 17,200 students in the upcoming fall semester.

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Trayvon Martin’s Mother Sybrina Fulton Speaks to UMSL

**JANICE WOODSON**
**Staff Writer**

On February 26, 2012, an unarmed 17-year-old African American man named Trayvon Martin was fatally shot by a 28-year-old volunteer neighborhood watchman, just 75 feet from the safety of the Sanford, Florida townhome in which he was staying. Much attention has since been given to the ensuing trial and the political ideologies of the shooter, and the event sparked millions of responses on social media and in support of the proceedings.

Five years later, several organizations at the University of Missouri—St. Louis felt that the community could benefit from a representative voice for the victim, a voice that transcends the circumstances of his death. The Office of Student Involvement and the Associated Black Collegians (ABC) hosted a presentation by Martin’s mother on Wednesday in the J.C. Penney Auditorium. Brandi Fields, senior, nursing, and president of ABC, remarked, “Despite the intense struggle of losing a child, Fulton has become a role model by turning her grief into advocacy.”

Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin and Jahquisa Fulton, focused upon the happiness Trayvon brought to her life as a child and young man. Fulton recalled that her son was steadfast in his affection, even as he got older. “I didn’t want him to be in the grocery store, he was at the park, he was at the school; if he wanted a hug and a kiss, he got a hug and a kiss,” she said.

The audience chuckled along as Fulton remembered her son’s excitement about getting older, growing a beard, and being noticed by girls. Fulton recalled that Martin would make soup for her when she was sick, was always playful with his cousins, and was quick to help people with things they could not do themselves. Fulton told the audience that her son’s character, corroborated by many who knew him, does not fit the narrative that he was a “thug,” as some media outlets presented him. She said, “If I were saying my son’s name—Trayvon Martin—and what happened to my son makes you uncomfortable, then I guess you’ll be uncomfortable.”

Many of Trayvon Martin’s happiest moments in life are recorded in a book titled “Rest in Power,” co-authored by Fulton and Martin’s father, Tracy Martin. According to Fulton, the book also discusses the failures of the American legal system to procure justice for people who are prey to common racial and linguistic stereotypes. “Trayvon was not on trial, which a lot of people don’t understand,” Fulton said. She also discussed her dissatisfaction with the treatment of Rachel Jeantel, a friend of Martin’s who spoke to him on the phone seconds before his death. Jeantel’s Haitian Creole and variation of English led prosecutors to largely discount her statements. Fulton expressed her disappointment that the court lessened the credibility of Jeantel because she came from a linguistic background unfamiliar to many of the jurors. Although translators are typically brought into court for cases that involve people speaking languages other than standardized American English, the court made no accommodations for Jeantel.

“People wanted us to do more to bring home and be quiet. They didn’t want us to speak out on behalf of Trayvon,” Fulton said. She continued to praise social media as a medium for the victims of senseless shootings to be kept alive, and as a platform for support.

Fulton recalled feeling heartened as thousands of teenagers posted pictures of themselves wearing t-shirts that read “I Voted.”

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Math Problem of the Week

A bacteria population doubles every day. If it takes 100 days to achieve its full population, in how many days will it reach half its final population?

Email guesses and responses to covertdj@umsl.edu.

Office of Student Involvement Column

Welcome to the weekly Office of Student Involvement column! Each week, the OSI will provide info here about upcoming programs and events, as well as important announcements for involved students. Be sure to return each week to stay in the know on OSI.

Join us for our Alternative Spring Break from March 27 to 31 in Indianapolis, Indiana. We are excited to take a group of students to Indianapolis to serve and see the sights! A $25 refundable deposit to the OSI completes your application. Selected applicants will pay the $175 for the trip, and those who are not selected will be refunded. Applications are being accepted through February 28. Learn more at https://orgsync.com/59704/forms/238195.

Come join the OSI and the Emerging Leaders this week for a workshop on the intersection of diversity and leadership. As leaders, you want to recognize the strength of others and think well for a group as various factors of diversity play a huge role. The Diversity Awareness Partnership Group from the St. Louis area will lead this workshop and teach individuals how to incorporate leadership practices through the lens of diversity. To RSVP, visit https://orgsync.com/139019/events/1623533/occurrences/3774373.

Demystifying the Divine 9 is happening on February 27 at 6 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center Pilot House. Join UMSL Fraternity & Sorority Life to learn the history behind Divine 9 organizations and to have an open panel discussion with peers.

Do you have an interest in facilitating change on campus? Do you want to assist in governing the student body? File your candidacy to run for Student Government Association Senator or Executive Officer positions? The filing deadline is March 3 at 5 p.m. All required forms can be found in the SGA Portal on TritonSync.

The Office of Student Involvement can be contacted at 314-516-3291 or studentinvolvement@umsl.edu.
At 12:49 a.m. an UMSL student reported that their wallet had been stolen at the Ox Hall. At 3:30 a.m. two vehicles were involved in an incident in the West Drive Garage; there was minor damage and no injuries. At 6:59 p.m. two more vehicles were involved in an accident on West Drive; there was minor damage and no injuries.

February 17: A delayed report was taken by UMSL PD regarding an UMSL staff member who reported developing a reaction to an insect bite that he received on February 16. The individual was sent to Consumer Affairs & Business Building (SSB) medics at the Research Building.

February 16: At 12:22 a.m. a fuel credit card found at the Social Sciences & Business Building (SSB) was turned in to UMSL PD and held for safekeeping.

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**UMSL Men's Golf Team Places Fifth in Newberry Invitational**

LANCE JORDAN  
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri–St. Louis' men's golf team placed fifth at the Newberry Invitational February 20 and 21 to compete in the Newberry Invitational. The team came in fifth place in a 16-team field at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Austin, Texas.

UMSL men's golf team returned February 20 and 21 to compete in the Newberry Invitational. The team came in fifth place in a 16-team field at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Austin, Texas.

At the end of one round, UMSL sat in first place with a 3-stroke lead on Saint Joseph's College, and the team claimed sixth place in an 18-team field at the Kiawah Kiawah in Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

As of Thursday night, the Tritons hold the record of 15–11, 10–8 GLVC.

Kevin Swanson goes for the lay-up in their game versus Maryville.

**UMSL Basketball Moves Towards GLVC**

LANCE JORDAN  
Sports Editor

UMSL's second day that day was delayed until the next day due to darkness. Julien de Poyen, senior, international business, put away a 3-pointer with 1:10 left in the game, the Saints could not close the gap, 22–30.

Early in the second quarter, Robnei Jordan, junior, business management, scored the most for the team. The Tritons continued to put on a show in the second quarter as the team actually outscored the Saints by 27 points, while the Tritons finished with 68.

In the second half, the Saints got more competitive with the Tritons, as the team actually outscored the Tritons by 27 points, while the Tritons put up 26. However, the Saints only finished with 48 points, while the Tritons finished with 68.

Steven Davis, junior, business management, scored the most for the Tritons, knocking down 12 points. Davis put away four 3-pointers, tying for second place on the program's single season charts with 84.

Hunter Reine, senior, criminal justice, tallied up nine points with eight rebounds, while Kevin Swanson, senior, liberal studies, and Wat Johnson had eight points apiece.

As of Thursday night, the Tritons hold the record of 11–7, 5–3 GLVC.

On February 26 in the Mark Twain Building the Triton women's basketball team played the first round of the GLVC tournament against Saint Joseph. The Tritons men's basketball team traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana in the first round GLVC tournament match.
In the new collection, Allen builds upon the familiar themes of sex, gender, and the role of the unconscious in the creation of art. Her poems seem to ely effortlessly between material and metaphysical realms, often existing in both at once. After the reading, The Current was able to ask Allen a few questions about “Imagine Not Drowning” and her writing process in general.

**The Current (TC):** When did you start writing poetry?

**Allen:** From the beginning.

**TC:** You reference a lot of poets in your work; among them Emily, Rilke, and Wallace Stevens. Are there any other writers who you feel have had a formative effect on your writing?

**Allen:** I have studied the proverbial knee of Robert Bly, William Stafford, Luci Murphy, and Gail Wiler. These four poets have offered me the most in terms of deep image and attention to the natural world. That said, I’d say the experience I’m referring to starts with the body, first. I am concerned with physical and imagic expression, both, when making poems. I do not attempt to escape my past and I do not try to retell the old stories and myths that shaped what I have become. Instead, use the old masters as voices set around some fire far older than I’ll ever be.

**TC:** In “Otherwise, Soft White Ash” you write, “Speaking means falling into the pretty black bath, first universe to request aid from the other Batman. So far, the “Injustice 2” storyline seems to build around Batman and his allies working toward a common goal to put the pieces of society back together and, of course, struggling with it. In the midst of it all, a new threat, Brainiac, appears. The story is still a little unclear to some people. Many speculate that dark Superman either escapes—or is released—and is again out for blood. It also seems to some that Batman is beginning to condition villainous actions, turning a blind eye. While the storyline of this series is up for debate, the real mystery lies in the gaming graphics and structure. After the release late January, became available to those who had the chance to register. Though it is now closed, most of the gaming community has had an opportunity to experience or at least witness the actual gameplay.

**The introduction of all-new characters, like Black Canary and Swamp Thing, means a bigger Injustice League to play with. This development is exciting to the fan base, and many players have given due credit to the creators for expanding the universe. However, it’s hard not to notice that some characters received a lot more layout in terms of build and quality than others. Whereas there is nothing to be psyched about as it pertains to Wonder Woman’s visual design, Blue Beetle has a sleeker design and stronger features. Even Superman has turned gears in facial and body structure since the first game. He looks older, which is a good touch—if it is on purpose. That being said, it is hard to tell if the creators simply could not decide on an exact face or if they tried to balance actor Henry Cavill’s facial structure with the first Injustice Superman’s face.

The outcome is underwhelming, and while, yes, it is still a beta, Superman seems again to be lacking in moves. Supergirl—though comic book-wise she was always the strongest—holds more flexibility and usage when attacking than he does. Most of the characters’ facial structures are satisfactory. There is not much to say about it except that the expressions and skin quality are a little dull. Indeed, the graphics are nothing special, and the render time is efficient but a little choppy at moments. With the year being 2017, you would think that the creators would have stepped up their game; instead, much of the clear and sharp quality is sacrificed for the cut-scenes during story moments or fatal moves.

We are talking about a beta, but typically, with regards to gameplay graphics, whatever you see in the official announcement is what you get when you buy the game. It is quite exciting that the female characters are recently being brought to the spotlight, but it is also quite exciting to see how many more characters and skill sets are going to be brought to the table. For those wondering, the mobile version has also been confirmed. “Injustice 2” will be available on Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Android, and iOS.
The Problem With the Regressive Left

Chris Zuver
Staff Writer

The term “regressive left” has been floating around the media lately, though not yet on a large scale. A few journalists and media personalities like Bill Maher and Dave Rubin have directed their attention toward it, but for the most part, the major news outlets have avoided the topic.

When you think of the word “liberal,” you probably associate it with diversity, the Democratic party, and progressive ideals. However, the pursuit of progressive ideals has begun to backfire on many on the left. These days, a more appropriate association may be of the word “liberal” with another: oppression.

There is a kind of hubris that has overtaken many social movements in the Western world. Some of these movements, including liberalism, were once well-meaning attempts to advocate for minorities and discriminated members of society. However, they have recently become so militant in their actions that they have sought to silence anyone who thinks in any way contrary to their agenda and ideology. In many instances, they have become bigoted and discriminatory, not judging people by character, but instead prioritizing them based on factors such as race, gender, religion, or sexual preference.

This is how progression has become regression. You have probably heard of the term “Social Justice Warrior” (SJW) on the internet. This is a loose term that is applied to extremist advocates for a number of causes. The oppressive, authoritarian school of thought to which the term applies has invaded many social movements, including LGBTQIA rights, third wave feminism, and Black Lives Matter.

I may need to clarify here that I am not dismissing the aforementioned movements but rather criticizing the hypocrisy practiced by many of their representatives. Many, though not all, of these groups started with the good intention of working toward equality and acceptance. What makes many of these invasive advocates a problem is their inability to tolerate the nuance of a person’s opinion. In their eyes, you are either with them or you are an enemy. What was once meant as a call for equality has now become an attack on anyone outside of the “progressive” echo chamber.

This cheapens the platform for those who identify with liberal causes yet do not affiliate with this new authoritarian train of thought. The “regressive left” identity has been conflated with all who identify with being socially liberal.

The left is eating itself and it does not look like it is planning on stopping any time soon.

The left is eating itself and it does not look like it is planning on stopping any time soon. You might recall from a few weeks ago that the recently-resigned Breitbart editor, Milo Yiannopoulos, was to appear at UC–Berkeley for a public talk. Yiannopoulos, a conservative provocateur, is an opponent to many who claim to hold liberal values. Campus administrators were forced to cancel the pundit’s public speaking event in the wake of a massive protest that broke out before the event. The protest-turned-riot resulted in $100,000 in damages to the campus and Yiannopoulos was not given a chance to speak.

You may also know of a recent fiasco between YouTube celebrity Felix Kjellberg (PewDiePie) and the media. Three journalists from the Wall Street Journal wrote a hit-piece on Kjellberg in an attempt to damage his commercial reputation. In the article, the writers cherry-picked nine instances in which Kjellberg made jokes in his videos that they deemed to be in bad taste and, thus, immoral. The jokes revolved around Nazi references that Kjellberg was putting in his videos, simply to taunt the media, who had recently deemed him a racist based on other jokes he had made. After the Wall Street Journal’s piece was published, several stories from other media outlets followed, many of which made similar claims against Kjellberg.

What do these two events have in common? They are two of many instances in which the left has attempted to silence someone simply because they do not agree with their collective set of ideals.

I could go on and discuss how this type of liberal-bias mentality has corrupted media outlets but, since that seems pretty obvious by now, I will instead leave you with one last thought. The British philosopher and grandfather of liberalism John Stuart Mill once wrote: “Truth, in the great practical concerns of life, is so much a question of the reconciling and combining of opposites … and it has to be made by the rough process of a struggle between combatants fighting under hostile banners.”

Mill was not talking about physical confrontation when he spoke of a struggle. He was talking about the openness of public debate, something that was once associated with the left and, more importantly, with justice.

It’s not too early to start planning for summer.

Summer registration is now open! Keep working toward your degree this summer with courses from UMSL. Choose from hundreds of online and on-campus course offerings. Earn credit in as little as four weeks, with plenty of time left to enjoy your break.

For more information or to register today, visit us at umsl.edu/summer.
Or contact us at summer@umsl.edu.

University of Missouri—St. Louis
Serious education. Serious value.
Students Build Solutions at Hack-A-Thon

Trayvon Martin’s Mother Speaks At UMSL

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Leah Jones
Features Editor

Students build their careers and realize their own university education. Most of the time, constructing their lives requires a process of trial and error. Mohamed Langi, senior, information systems major, president of the Information System Programming Club (ISPC), did not know what he wanted to do when he left high school and changed his major three times before settling on information systems. While learning to write and construct his own way through college, he has now also learned how to write computer and web applications. Now he is helping to build the first ever computer science Hack-A-Thon at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The 48-hour Hack-A-Thon will begin on March 3 and continue over the weekend to March 5. The event is free to all UMSL and LaunchCode students. "If you need help writing your code or figuring out the technologies, you can ask for help and we will have people on hand to help you debug your code," said Langi. "It will be available in this garage or there is a helpdesk on campus."

Langi said that the real issue is how to solve different problems. So for example, at UMSL problems that we have are parking, or whether to expand the garage or there is a space in a semester of college," Langi said.

While students can try to many of the problems they face, such as lack of parking or professors who try to solve other problems from around campus. "Because we need help, but there is not as much as we need," Langi said. "This is how we can solve the can be generalized and spread beyond UMSL’s campus."

Mirchandani said that they expect 60 to 70 participants at the Hack-A-Thon. At that size, he said that it will be a small enough event that students can bond and not be intimidated, but that it will be big enough for students to generate many ideas.

The Hack-A-Thon will also welcome LaunchCode students. LaunchCode operates in St. Louis, St. Louis, Florida City, Ridge Island, Seattle, and Portland, offering free information systems, technology, and software training to qualified applicants, who may now have the funding to attend college. LaunchCode then connects these students with apprenticeships at one of their more than 300 partner companies, which range in size from Fortune 500 companies to small startups. Like the Hack-A-Thon, LaunchCode seeks to solve a real-world problem—social inequality—through technology. Dean Charles Hoffman of the College of Business Administration helped to create a partnership between UMSL and LaunchCode to provide LaunchCode students a space in which to hold their classes. Mirchandani said that the Hack-A-Thon is a way for students to get to know each other, that they’ll learn from each other, and that this will make them better students.

"It’s [my hope that the event is] not only going to be a learning experience for students, but that they’ll get to know each other, that they’ll learn from each other, and that they’ll learn how to get things done because you have deadlines to meet. So, I want them to have that experience, that even if they fail, they tried to do their best by determining leadership structure and other important business features. The second place team will receive $3,500, while the team did not place, Langi said, "After that they can use the Hack-A-Thon as a way of getting a job, to take the skills that they learned and spread beyond UMSL’s campus."

"The idea could actually become the basis of a company, so we also want them to think entrepreneurially—that the application that they make could potentially be used at other universities and other organizations. So, then it could be used at other universities and other colleges, and also working as a part of team at other universities and colleges."

Margaret Mirchandani, chair of the Information Systems Department, said that they hope that the Hack-A-Thon will provide resources and mentorship to the teams that have the best applications to form companies. They [will] need some guidance to create a company. UMSL will help provide resources and mentorship to the teams that have the best applications to form companies. They [will] need some guidance to create a company. UMSL will help provide resources and mentorship to the teams that have the best applications to form companies. They [will] need some guidance to create a company. UMSL will help provide resources and mentorship to the teams that have the best applications to form companies. They [will] need some guidance to create a company. UMSL will help provide resources and mentorship to the teams that have the best applications to form companies. They [will] need some guidance to create a company. 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March 7: Primary Candidates for St. Louis City Mayor and Comptroller

Mayoral candidates (from left to right): Antonio French, Lews Reid, Tishaura Jones, Lyda Krewson, Jeffrey Boyd, Jimmie Matthews, Bill Haas, and Andrew Jones.

Not pictured: Jim Osher, Andy Karandizoff, Robb Cunningham, and Jonathan McFarland.

Kay Riddler
Editor-in-Chief

Please remember to mark your calendars for March 7, the primary election. You will have the opportunity to vote for your favorite candidates for St. Louis Mayor and Comptroller. There are seven Democrats running, ten Republicans running, and the Green Party candidate is Jonathan McFarland.

Democratic Candidates

Antonio French

French, an alderman from Ward 21, received national attention for his social media presence during the Ferguson protests. In 2012, he was elected to the St. Louis City Council. French has been an advocate for social justice issues and has worked to improve the quality of life for St. Louis residents. He has also been a strong supporter of education reform and has fought for increased funding for schools.

Jeffrey L. Boyd

Boyd is the alderman for Ward 22, representing the 10th District of the U.S. Army and retired as a Master Sergeant in 2005. He currently serves as a staff member for the Board of Aldermen and is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America.

Lews Reid

Reid is the Board Chair for the Democratic Party of Missouri. He has been a strong advocate for labor rights and has fought to preserve the rights of workers across the state. He has also been a vocal supporter of progressive policies and has worked to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Jimmie Matthews

Matthews is one of the most experienced aldermen in the city. He has served on the City Council for over two decades and has been a strong advocate for affordable housing and economic development in the city.

Republican Candidates

Lyda Krewson

Krewson is a personal injury attorney and former circuit attorney for the 22nd Judicial Circuit. She has been a strong advocate for law enforcement and has fought to ensure that our streets are safe for all residents. She has also been a vocal supporter of education reform and has worked to improve the quality of education in St. Louis.

Bill Haas

Haas is a businessman and former county auditor. He has been a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility and has fought to ensure that our government is transparent and accountable.

Andrew Jones

Jones is a retired police officer and former police chief. He has been a strong advocate for law enforcement and has worked to ensure that our streets are safe for all residents. He has also been a vocal supporter of affordable housing and economic development in the city.

Lewis Reed

Reed is a member of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. He has been a strong advocate for affordable housing and economic development in the city. He has also been a vocal supporter of education reform and has worked to improve the quality of education in St. Louis.

Antonio French

French is a former alderman for the 23rd Ward. He has been a strong advocate for social justice issues and has worked to improve the quality of life for St. Louis residents. He has also been a vocal supporter of education reform and has worked to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Tishaura Jones

Jones is a former State Representative for District 63, the 13th Ward. She has been a strong advocate for social justice issues and has worked to improve the quality of life for St. Louis residents. She has also been a vocal supporter of education reform and has worked to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Jeffrey Boyd

Boyd has been a member of the Missouri House of Representatives since 2001. He has been a strong advocate for affordable housing and economic development in the city. He has also been a vocal supporter of education reform and has worked to improve the quality of education in St. Louis.

Jimmie Matthews

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