

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

September 1, 2026



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

INFORMATION



Graduate Tuition and Fee Waivers



Eric Schick

Chief Financial Officer





Educational Assistance Exclusion Internal Revenue Code (IRC §127)

Under the Educational Assistance Program provisions of IRC §127, up to **\$5,250** in graduate tuition and fee waivers provided during a **calendar year (January through December)** to benefits-eligible employees, their dependents and graduate students is excluded from taxable income.



Any graduate tuition or fee waiver amount exceeding **\$5,250** during the calendar year is considered taxable compensation unless it qualifies for another applicable exemption under the IRC.

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State*



Non-Taxable Graduate Tuition Waivers (IRC §117(d))

IRC §117(d) provides an exception that allows certain graduate tuition waivers exceeding the \$5,250 limit to remain non-taxable when they are provided to graduate students performing qualified teaching or research activities.



Missouri State University considers the following positions to qualify for this exception:

- Graduate **Teaching Assistants (GTAs)** performing teaching activities.
- Graduate **Research Assistants (GRAs)** performing research activities



Teaching Activities

Teaching activities include, but are not limited to:

- Providing or coordinating classroom or artistic instruction.
- Leading laboratory, discussion, or recitation sections.
- Tutoring students.
- Grading examinations and assignments.
- Proctoring examinations.
- Developing instructional materials.

Research Activities



Research activities include, but are not limited to:

- Applying research concepts, methods, and scholarly practices.
- Conducting experiments.
- Collecting, organizing, and analyzing data.
- Presenting research findings.
- Collaborating on scholarly publications.
- Conducting institutional research for an academic or administrative unit.



Assessment of Taxable Graduate Tuition Waivers

For employees, dependents and graduate students who do not qualify for the IRC §117(d) exemption, any graduate tuition and fee waiver amount exceeding **\$5,250** during the calendar year will be included in taxable wages. Applicable federal, state, and employment taxes will be withheld through payroll in accordance with IRS regulations and the employee's Form W-4 elections.

To reduce the impact of tax withholding, the taxable value of the tuition waiver will be allocated across payroll periods according to the following schedule:

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- **Spring Semester:** March (1/3), April (1/3), May (1/3)
 - **Summer Semester:** June (1/2), July (1/2)
 - **Fall Semester:** October (1/3), November (1/3), December (1/3)



Who can I contact about specific questions regarding taxation of graduate tuition waivers?

- **General assistantship questions may be directed to the graduate school at (gradassistantship@Missouristate.edu)**
 - **Specific questions concerning withholdings may be directed to the Payroll Office at (payroll@missouristate.edu)**
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Masterplan Project Updates

September 2, 2026



Mark S. Wheeler – AIA, LEED AP
University Architect and Director of Planning, Design and Construction



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1899

State Fruit Experiment Station –
Mountain Grove, MO

1905

Main Campus Founded
Normal School #4

1906

First Class of 543 students start in off-
campus facilities

1907

Cornerstone is laid for first campus
building

1909

Academic Hall is completed

PROJECT INFORMATION

28,000 SF+ Facility

Architect: Dake-Wells Architecture

Construction Manager: JE Dunn

Total Project Cost:

\$26M

Construction Start: Feb/March 2025

Construction Completion: Fall 2026



Clifton M. Smart III University Advancement Center



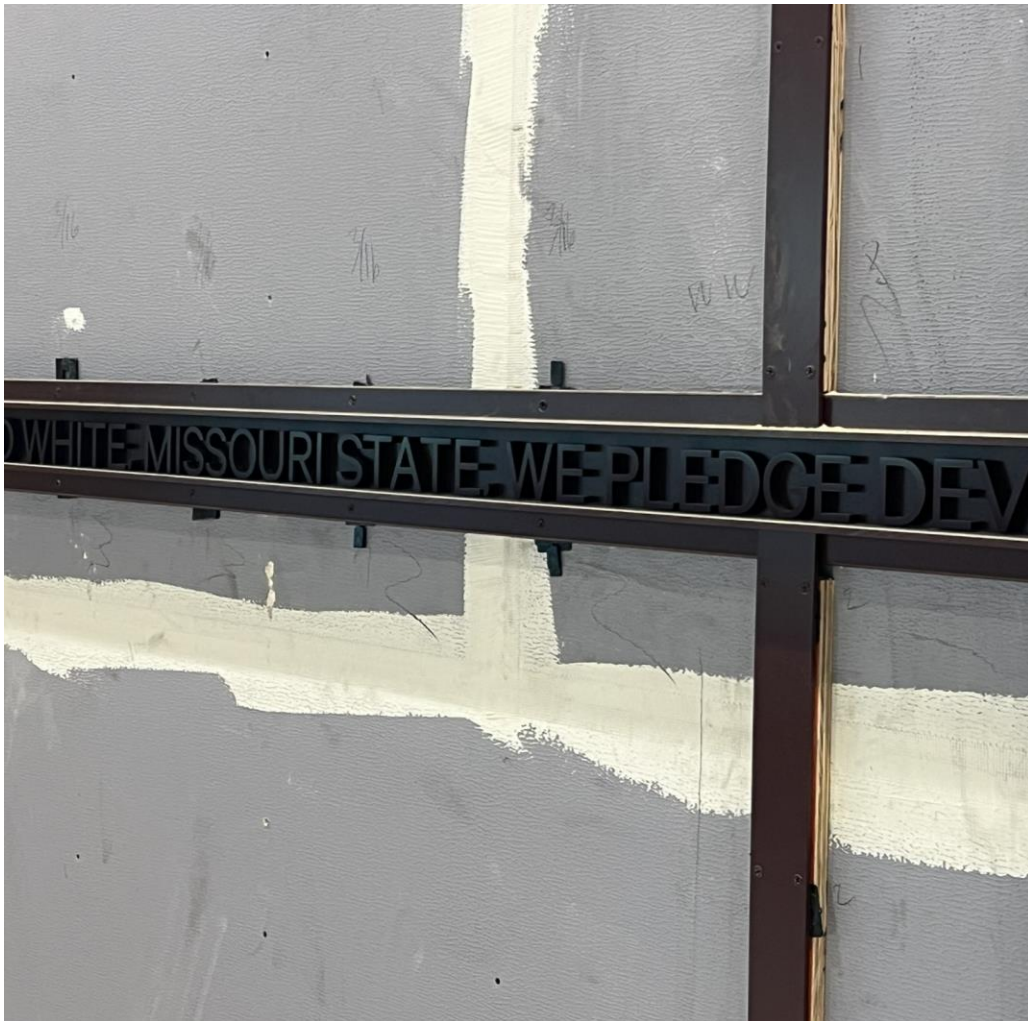
Clifton M. Smart III University Advancement Center

Missouri State
UNIVERSITY



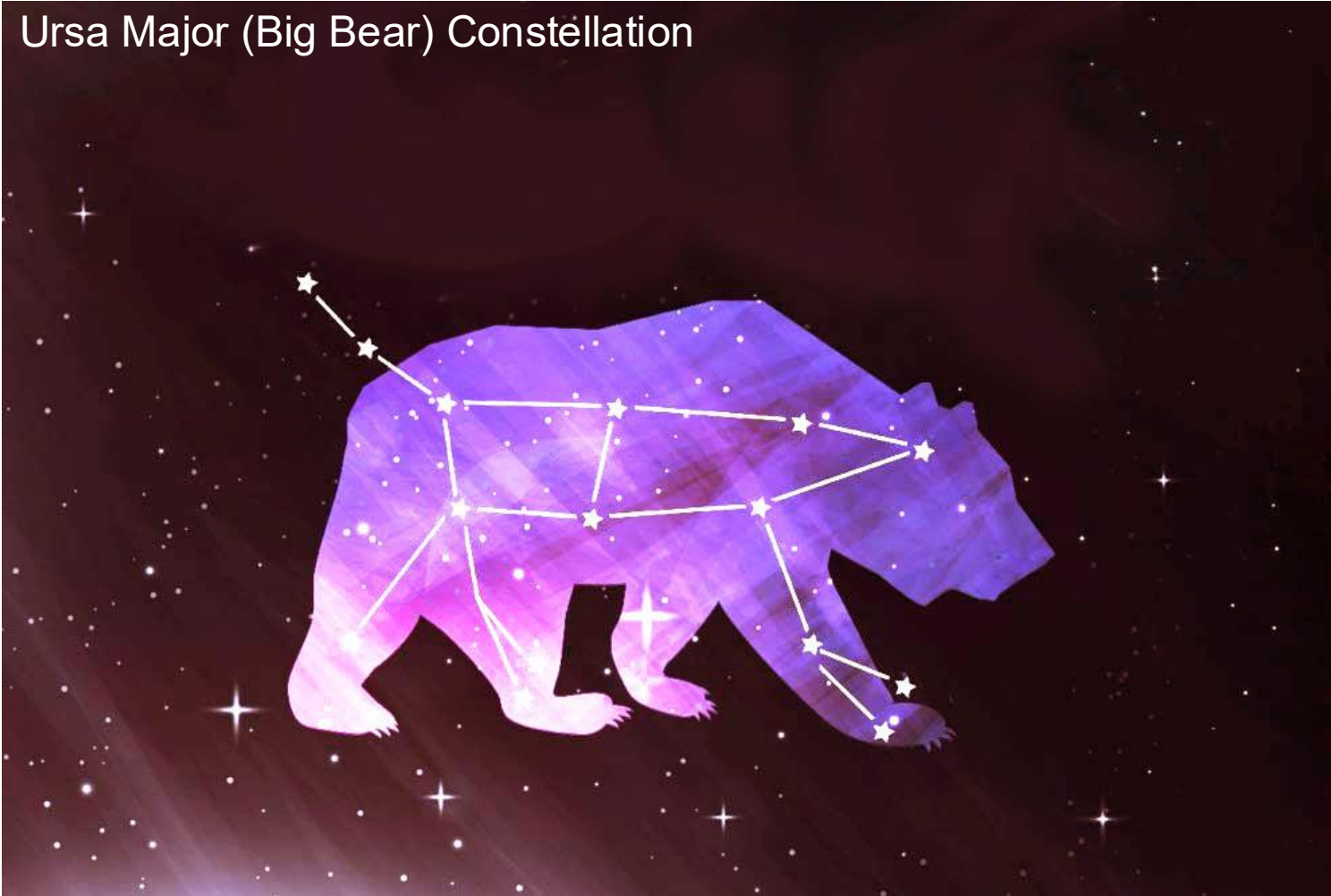
Clifton M. Smart III University Advancement Center

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Clifton M. Smart III University Advancement Center

Ursa Major (Big Bear) Constellation



North Stair Light Installation



Clifton M. Smart III University Advancement Center



Clifton M. Smart III University Advancement Center

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Kampeter Hall



Cheek Hall

Center for Transformational Education for Life, Physical and Health Sciences

Board Resolution Approved - February 17, 2023



Center for Transformational Education for Life, Physical and Health Sciences

Board Resolution Approved - February 17, 2023



PROJECT INFORMATION

Phase II Renovation, Center for Transformational Education for Life, Physical, and Health Sciences
2nd and 3rd Floor Renovations

Consultant: Hood-Rich Architecture

General Contractor: Crossland Construction Company, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$7.9M

Construction Completion: Summer 2026

Kampeter Hall, Phase II Renovation

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PROJECT INFORMATION

24,000 SF+ Facility
Black Box Theater
Dance Studios
Student Collaboration Spaces

CM: JE Dunn

Total Project Cost w/ Craig:
\$37M

Construction Start: January 2025
Construction Completion: Fall 2026

Judith Enyeart Reynolds Complex

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Judith Enyeart Reynolds Complex

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Judith Enyeart Reynolds Complex

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Judith Enyeart Reynolds Complex – Craig Hall



Roy Blunt Hall Addition – Phase II Renovation

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Consultant: BNIM

Construction Manager:
Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.

Phase I Completion: May 2025
Phase II Completion: August 2026

Total Project Budget:
Phase I Addition: \$80M
Phase II Renovation: \$41.1M





PROJECT INFORMATION

Consultant: BNIM

Contractor: Nabholz Construction

Schedule: BOG Approved August 2026
Construction Complete: Summer 2027

Total Project Budget:
\$2.25M

Repairs to Building Envelope – Glass Hall

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DISCUSSION

WELCOME WEEK & CONVOCATION

WEEK OF WELCOME 2026



Welcome to MoState 2026

Monday, August 10-12- URSA

Thursday, August 13- Move-in with Bear Crew, One Day SOAR, Room Décor Bingo

Friday, August 14- Move-in with Bear Crew, Bear Flow, SAC Snow Glad to See You, BearsLead Orientation

and 417 Street Fest

Saturday, August 15- Move-in with Bear Crew, Bear ZEN, See You Later Lunch, FSL Grab a Scoop, Transfer Popcorn Social, BearPress Pop-up and BEAR BASH

Sunday, August 16- Convocation, Back to School Splash and Campus Fest CMA

Monday, August 17- Classes began, Student Organization Festival, Welcome Back Class Photo and Movie Night at the Stadium

Tuesday, August 18- SAC Stuff a Boomer, Home Sweet Home, and NPHC Meet the Greeks

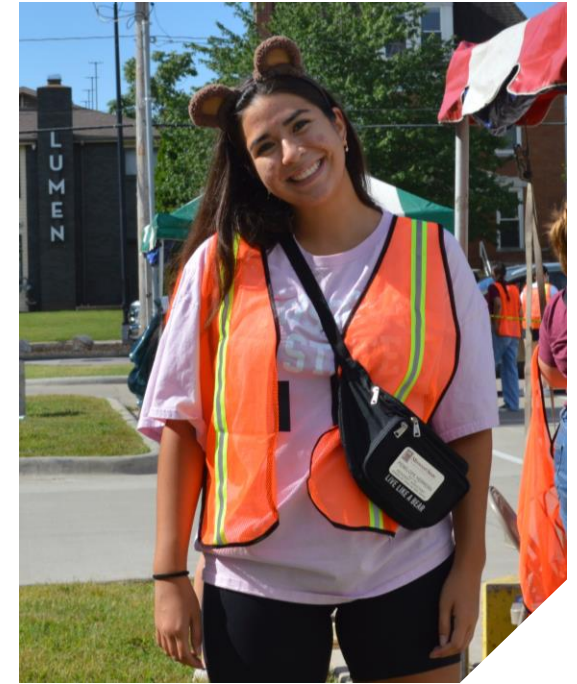
Wednesday, August 19- Sample Springfield, Bear Wear Bingo, and Panhellenic Recruitment

Thursday, August 20- Boomer's Block Party

Friday, August 21- Fresh Check Day Counseling, Campus Rec After Dark and Bookstore Midnight Madness

MOVE-IN 2026

- **560** Bear Crew Volunteers, **23** Bear Crew Leaders, and 70 Faculty/Staff Volunteers
- Over **1,967** Bear Crew volunteer hours
- **6,464** meals served in the dining centers
- **2,054** retail meals
- **58** work orders and trouble tickets completed
- Over **570** hours at the Move-In Tents
- **7,522** hours of staff training



Week of Welcome 2026

- Post Assessment is Live Closes
 - September 4, 2026
 - Total number of response
 - 427
- Total Numbers of Events Hosted
 - 25 Events
- Total Number of Attendees
 - Over 15,000 Student Attendees
- Largest Events Attended
 - Sample Springfield, Bear Bash, Campus Fest, Convocation, Rec After Dark



Save the date!

CONVOCATION



Sunday 8/16 – Arrive by 1:30 pm

Hammons Student Center

*To register to attend Convocation, please email:
deanofstudentsoffice@missouristate.edu*

DISCUSSION – AI

- How are you using AI in your position?
- Is there guidance you need on how to use AI at work?
 - If so, what kind of guidance would be helpful?