



MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

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Morehead State holds dedication ceremony for new eagle statue

While Morehead State has several iconic landmarks and structures familiar to students and alumni, there is now a new focal point on campus that truly soars.

In November 2023, MSU added the bronze Centennial Eagle to the Adron Doran University Commons area in a special dedication ceremony for students, alumni, and the surrounding community during the 2023 Homecoming weekend.

MSU alum **Ronald "Ron" Cartee (Class of 1965)** and the Cartee Family provided a special gift for creating the statue recognizing the University's 100 years as a public institution in Kentucky. World-renowned artist **Sam McKinney (Class of 1973, 1992)** crafted a bronze Eagle statue honoring MSU's Eagle mascot and the school's commitment to helping students soar higher.

"We are thrilled to officially unveil and dedicate this amazing piece," said **Rick Hesterberg (Class of 1980)**, vice president for university advancement. "Thanks to the Cartee family's generosity and the talents of Sam McKinney, our campus now has a lasting marker to our beloved mascot - the Eagle."

With a wingspan nearly 12 feet wide, McKinney spent a year working on the statue from concept to completion. While he has sculptures and artwork displayed across the country and in other parts of the world, he said it is special to have a piece of himself on the campus that helped shape him as an artist.

"It's just so rewarding to finally have a piece there," McKinney said. "It's going to be there long after I'm gone and hopefully appreciated by new generations."



Office of the President

202 Howell-McDowell Admin. Bldg. | Morehead, KY 40351

Phone: 606-783-2022 | president@moreheadstate.edu

www.moreheadstate.edu/president

Morehead State moves forward with new residence hall

MSU recently completed a feasibility study for a new residence hall and the Board of Regents authorized construction and bonding for the project.

“Our campus continues to push forward with new facilities and infrastructure,” stated MSU President Dr. Jay Morgan. “This new residence hall will be a welcome addition.”

The board also heard an update on the new science and engineering building, scheduled to break ground in 2024.

Agricultural sciences receives usda grant for swine facilities

Morehead State’s Department of Agricultural Sciences is the recipient of a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to upgrade equipment in its swine production facility at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex.

The nearly \$47,000 grant from the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will pay for updated equipment used for animal husbandry, specifically sow nutritional management and the care of sick piglets.

“These upgrades will make our students more marketable upon graduation as they will have not only the animal husbandry skills to care for the livestock but also the technical experience of working with equipment found in modern swine facilities,” said Dr. Flint Harrelson, associate professor of animal science. “These upgrades can also expand the opportunities for industry applied research which can aid students in gaining valuable life skills along with building more industry connections and options for graduates.”

Dr. Tathagata Ray receives NSF grant for wind energy research

Morehead State Assistant Professor of Construction and Civil Engineering Technology, Dr. Tathagata Ray, was recently awarded a grant from the Kentucky National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to support his research project exploring ways to mitigate roof damage caused by high winds.

Ray visited Florida International University (FIU) in October 2023 and conducted a set of experiments utilizing the NSF Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) Wall of Wind (WoW) Experimental Facility. The controller was fabricated for Ray by The Honey and Bee Connection, a local wood workshop in Morehead. Ray worked with Undergraduate Research Fellows Ryan Justice from Pikeville, a senior construction and civil engineering management major, and Hunter Cook from Bidwell, Ohio, a sophomore majoring in space systems engineering.

In addition to these two students involved, James Bradley, lab and facilities manager for the School of Engineering and Technology Management, was also involved in the initial small-scale testing at MSU. The trials entailed testing those specimens on the MSU campus using a wind tunnel purchased with NSF KY EPSCoR grant funds.