

Distinguished Alumnus David Dill receives Charles S. Lauer National Healthcare Award by B'nai B'rith International

*David Dill*

Murray State University distinguished alumnus David Dill was recently awarded the prestigious Charles S. Lauer National Healthcare Award for his dedication to

community service, excellence in leadership and outstanding philanthropic commitment to the healthcare community and beyond.

Dill was recognized at the B'nai B'rith International event held in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 30.

The award was established in 1983 to highlight the work of individuals and organizations that set the standards for health and education throughout the country.

Dill is chairman and chief executive officer of Lifepoint Health, a diversified healthcare delivery network consisting of 62 community-based acute hospitals, more than 60 rehabilitation and behavioral health hospitals and more than 250 additional sites of care. In this role, he is responsible for the development and oversight of Lifepoint's strategic priorities and organizational growth, advancing the company's mission and strengthening its culture enterprise-wide.

Dill is a 1990 graduate of Murray State University's Arthur J. Bauernfeind College of Business and a 2015 Murray State Distinguished Alumnus award winner. He currently serves as chair of the Murray State University Foundation Board of Trustees development committee, and is the national campaign chair for Murray State University's Be Bold: Forever Blue and Gold Centennial Campaign.



The Murray State University campus and broader community participated in a special groundbreaking event for the University's new School of Nursing and Health Professions building.

Murray State University hosts groundbreaking for new School of Nursing and Health Professions building

The Murray State University campus and broader community participated in a special groundbreaking event for the University's new School of Nursing and Health Professions building on Dec. 8, 2023.

The building will offer Murray State students expanded opportunities such as laboratories, simulation areas, larger classrooms and more study and collaborative spaces.

With the field of healthcare growing and seeing more demand, the new facility will help Murray State continue to meet the needs in the region for healthcare professionals.

In the last legislative session, the Kentucky General Assembly approved \$45.5 million in funding for the construction of the building, which is expected to open in January 2026.

"Today's groundbreaking for Murray State University's new School of Nursing and Health Professions building is a tremendous moment for our institution, the west Kentucky region, the Commonwealth and beyond," said Murray State President Dr. Bob Jackson. "We are very grateful to all of our legislators for their support as this initiative becomes a reality through the construction of this beautiful state-of-the-art facility. Through our excellent faculty and staff in the School of Nursing and Health Professions, we are continuing to prepare our students well as the next generation of healthcare professionals."

Murray State University Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions, Dr. Dina Byers, shared that the new building "will be a place for collaboration and innovation."

"We will provide healthcare education that is interdisciplinary and collaborative by using state-of-the-art technology and creative instruction," said Byers. "Graduates from these programs will have the knowledge and skills to provide care to complex patients in a variety of settings. Our graduates will be well-equipped to help meet the healthcare workforce needs of western Kentucky and beyond. The new space will allow the School of Nursing and Health Professions to expand and develop new healthcare programs."



3D rendering of the new School of Nursing and Health Professions building.



Murray State Centennial Logo

Murray State University receives award for marketing campaign highlighting University's centennial year

Murray State University has been recognized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) as an award winner for its marketing campaign highlighting the University's centennial year in 2022.

The CASE District III award, which encompasses a nine-state region in the southeast, noted Murray State's marketing communications initiatives within its University Advancement division as a collaborative effort engaging both the campus and greater community by generating excitement and involvement for the milestone 100th year.

The successful results and impact of the marketing campaign led to an increased institutional awareness of Murray State and its 100-year history; an increase in areas of private giving, alumni engagement and student enrollment and excitement among the campus body in addition to other key metrics to propel Murray State into its second century.



Chris Wooldridge (pictured third from right) won Commonwealth Champion for Economic Development.

Murray State University receives two awards at the Kentucky Economic Forum

Murray State University received two awards at the Kentucky Association for Economic Development's annual Economic Forum in Covington, Kentucky, in late October.

The University earned the Technology Award presented by GIS Web Tech.

Murray State, through its Cyber Education and Research Center, provides technology and cybersecurity leadership across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as it has done for more than two decades. As part of the Program of Distinction, the Cyber Center provides outreach and support to residents, businesses, local governments and state organizations.

"As the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Program of Distinction for Cybersecurity, the Cyber Center supports entities statewide



Dr. Michael Ramage

with technology and cybersecurity expertise including government, educators and economic developers," said Dr. Michael Ramage, director of Murray State's Cyber

Education and Research Center. "For me, this award provides validation that we are fulfilling that important responsibility."

Examples of current and former outreach provided by the Cyber Center at Murray State include:

- Co-founder of the Technology Council of West Kentucky, a regional technology advocacy organization for information technology (IT) in West Kentucky
- Co-founder of GroWest, a regional technology-based entrepreneurship organization

- Higher education lead for the PISCES Project, providing free cybersecurity network monitoring for local governments
- The annual Security Matters conference, the most prominent regional security-focused conference in West Kentucky, held since 2005
- The annual IT Matters conference held in Paducah since 2016
- Tech Mania, a high school IT competition that includes IT and cybersecurity competitions
- TEN @ 10, a weekly online video series highlighting various cybersecurity topics since 2021
- A monthly column on cyber-related topics in the Four Rivers Business Journal since 2014
- Cyber Bytes, a regular segment on WKMS, which discusses various cybersecurity topics
- Speeches at dozens of conferences, training sessions and events, including the Kentucky Institute for Economic Development since 2020
- Support for local government and business organizations on topics, such as cybersecurity and broadband, as needed to ensure communities continue to grow and thrive in Kentucky

Chris Wooldridge, director of the Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Development, won Commonwealth Champion for Economic Development.

Murray State has always been an activist and catalyst for economic growth and prosperity in the region and beyond through all of its academic and outreach programs.

Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation visits College of Education and Human Services

Murray State University's College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) and teacher preparation programs in the Jesse D. Jones College of Science, Engineering and Technology; the College of Humanities and Fine Arts; and the Hutson School of Agriculture received their final site visit report from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) this year. The site visit occurred Oct. 15-17. CAEP is comparable to a quality control agency for teacher training programs, evaluating and assessing that these programs meet certain standards to prepare educators. This final site visit report indicated no "areas for improvement" and no "stipulations" in every standard for its initial and advanced programs. A CAEP accreditation committee will meet in early spring 2024 to review the site visit team's findings. The CAEP accreditation council will also meet to review the site visit team's results and the recommendations made by the committee. The accreditation council will determine the final outcome of the accreditation review. In May 2024, a letter will be sent from the president of CAEP reporting the final status of its review. The ongoing accreditation of the COEHS program will last for seven years.

"This was a 'clean' report from the site visit team, which is the best review from a site visit team that I have experienced in my 39 years of teacher education," said COEHS Dean, Dr. David Whaley.



Alexander Hall