

2026-2027

CREATIVE MINDS



WELCOME!

What is a living-learning community?

A living-learning community (LLC) is a group of students who share a common academic or theme interest and live together in a residence hall. Residence Life partners with faculty and staff across campus to implement special programming related to the LLC focus. Students living in the LLC also have the opportunity to get to know these partners outside of the classroom.



What should I expect as part of the LLC?

Your Resident Assistant (RA) will have information about a variety of activities and resources related to the topic of your LLC and academic support. Plan on being involved in various events and share your ideas for future programming! The more involved you are with the community, the more benefits you'll gain.

MEET YOUR RAS!



Connor Bishop

Major: Speech and Theatre Education

Hey everybody! My name is Connor Bishop, this is my first year as an RA and first year in an LLC! I'm a Sophomore BSed Educational Speech and Theatre. I'm super excited to get to work with the residents of the Creative Minds LLC. As my major suggests, I love theatre, but I also enjoy listening to music, playing video games, and wandering around aimlessly. I can't wait to meet you all and get to know you throughout the year!

Emilee Dees

Major: Chemistry

Take this survey
to tell Connor & Emilee
what events you want!
*you could win a \$50 gift
card!

Hello! I'm Emilee Dees and I'm from Reeds Spring, Missouri. I am a Chemistry major and a Criminology minor. Don't let my major fool you; I'm a creative mind and love all things crafty and fun. Whenever I'm free from classes, I mostly crochet or bake. Besides that, I will probably be re-arranging my room a million times! In the future, I would like to work in crime labs. I'm a huge fan of keeping up with the next mystery and listening to Crime Junkie, so it only makes sense to make that my career! Let's make this upcoming year one full of creativity and fun! We're going to have an awesome year together. GO BEARS!

MEET YOUR PARTNERS



Dr. Paula Patterson

Department Head: Music Department

I am Dr. Paula Patterson. I have worked at MSU and have been an active member of the performing arts community of Springfield for many years, including over 10 years as a Living-Learning Community partner. After working in Education Abroad for over 10 years, I joined the Music Department in 2007 and currently serve as the Department Head.

Kathleen Hains

Artist-in-Residence-Stage Management and Production Management

Kathleen Hains holds a BFA and MFA in Theatre Arts from Stephens College and The University of Iowa. Kathleen is an Artist-In-Residence for The Department of Theatre and Dance, where she is Production Manager during the Academic year. In addition, she is Past-Chair of MSU's Staff Senate, Past-President of the Associate Board for Springfield Little Theatre, Secretary for the Executive Board at Springfield Contemporary Theatre, Faculty Advisor for Tabula Rasa, the Department's transfer advisor, the Department's SOAR advisor, a 2022 MSU Board of Governors award winner for Excellence in Public Affairs, and is a member of Actor's Equity Association as a Stage Manager.



LLC PARTNERS

Nikki Ferry

Assistant Professor, Theatre & Dance

I am Nikki Ferry, and I am an Assistant Professor of Theatre specializing in acting performance in the Department of Theatre and Dance. This will be my fourth year at MO-State, being a proud Bear! I hail from the Bluegrass State of Kentucky, though I lived for many years in New York City. I hold a BFA in acting from Wright State University and an MFA in acting with a classical emphasis from Wayne State University. I am a member of the Actors' Equity Association and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. In addition to my work with Creative Minds LLC, I am a former MO-State Education Abroad Fellow who recently led an education abroad program to Greece. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, reading, photography, and being an amateur gourmand and chef.



CONCERT ON THE GREEN

Plaster Stadium

Sunday Aug. 16

7:00 PM



**THEATRE AND
DANCE MEET
AND GREET
DATE AND TIME TBD**

Emails with details sent
closer to event date





THE ARTS IN SPRINGFIELD

Within the Creative Minds LLC, you'll have plenty of opportunities to learn more about ways to engage with the arts in Springfield, MO! Check out this list below to start learning about a few of the amazing arts organizations that Springfield has to offer:

- First Friday Art Walk: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Art Museum: [HERE](#)
- Calendar of Upcoming Performances in Springfield: [HERE](#)
- High Tide Theatrical [HERE](#)
- Springfield Little Theater at the Historic Landers: [HERE](#)
- Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Symphony Orchestra: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Regional Arts Council: [HERE](#)
- The Creamery Arts Center: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Ballet: [HERE](#)
- Ozarks Lyric Opera Theatre: [HERE](#)
- Men's Chorus of the Ozarks: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Metro Chorus: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Chamber Chorus: [HERE](#)

This isn't an exhaustive list, ask your RAs and LLC partners about other arts organizations they love in Springfield as well!



Want to learn more about Woods House? Check out this video!

Your LLC Social will be on:

**Saturday, August 15, at
2:00 pm in Monroe**

Meet with your RA on your floor

You won't want to miss this
chance to meet your floor and
your LLC partners!



Our campus **Bear Line** service can help you get around once you get to campus! Check out the routes offered by our shuttles so you can figure out the best ways to get to class and around town. There is even an app you can download to track each Bear Line and see current wait times! To learn more, click

[HERE.](#)



**Join us to vision
board your semester
and enjoy snacks!**

Want to check out where your classes are and where to park on campus? Visit the campus map [HERE.](#)

WEEK OF WELCOME 2026!

It's time to celebrate a new year! Move in, meet new friends and enjoy a week full of events. Events include:



Thursday, August 13

Room Decor Bingo 7-9pm
PSU Theater

Sponsored by:



Friday, August 14

Snow Glad to See You
11-2pm (rain or shine)
Plaster Student Union Patio

417 Street Fest 6-8pm
Elm Street



Saturday, August 15

BearZEN 9-10am
Magers Health & Wellness Center 100

Grab a Scoop with FSL 12-2pm
Plaster Student Union Patio

Bear Bash 7-10pm
North Mall and PSU



Sunday, August 16

New Student Convocation 2pm
Great Southern Bank Arena

Campus Fest CMA 6:30-9pm
North Mall

And more! For the full list of events,
click [HERE!](#)