

MOSO CAPS Monthly

Issue #12 Winter 2025



A Message From Your MOSO CAPS Director

Thankfully, our area has not been stuck in a perpetual state of winter like other parts of the country and a new season is just around the corner. MOSO CAPS Student Associates started this semester by presenting their takeaways from their fall semester industry partner experiences to their peers. The four three-week experiences go by quickly but allows the students to capture a glimpse into what a specific career could look like from four different industry partner perspectives. Some students identified that the career they thought they wanted was not for them. When this happens, MOSO CAPS allows students to pivot and experience new placements in a different career field with great success. With Spring Break upon us, many MOSO CAPS Student Associates are preparing to begin their second extended industry partner placement this semester. This incredible year-long journey would not be possible without the support of our 180+ industry partners.

According to AI, "growing pains" refers to "temporary difficulties or struggles that occur during a period of developmental growth..." In the last newsletter, I stated that MOSO CAPS continues to see steady growth and that we should reach our target goal of 90 students within the next few years. We opened our 25-26 application on Monday, January 13 and have over 140 applicants for 90 seats! This is definitely a milestone in the program and discussions are already being held to address how we can expand MOSO CAPS beyond 90 seats. MOSO CAPS partner district counselors play an integral role in identifying which students meet the

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The Industry Partner Impact

Since last September, each MOSO CAPS Student Associate has spent over 120 hours with Industry Partner experts enhancing important career skills and building their professional network. Below are a few impact statements students have shared about their experiences.



"My internship at the Joplin Chamber of Commerce gave me hands-on experience in how PR affects the rest of how a business operates and how important it really is. It taught me that this field is a good fit for me and a good direction to take my future career. - *Alynna, Business, Communication and Technology strand*

"My rotation at Fyzical Therapy and Balance Center helped me with my future because I learned how a balance test works. The patient is hooked up to a rope and they go through an obstacle course. I learned how to correctly place electrodes and give heat therapy, and I learned how to give a balance with vision test." - *Brody, Health Sciences strand*



"Getting to intern at CGA Architects helped me better understand the many roles an architect upholds, and I gained an even better understanding of the practices architects and

similar occupations utilize on the daily basis. - *Brayden, Business, Communication & Technology strand*



"This [rotation at Mercy] has impacted my future career by showing me this is what I do want to do. It has shown me that I like to help those in need and the excitement and fast paced environment is for me. I would like to be an emergency department nurse in the future." - *Faith, Health Sciences strand*

"This rotation experience has impacted me in such a great way! I finally know what I want to do when I grow up and I can't wait to begin that journey after I get my degree from college. I have absolutely loved being with the first-grade students! I have built great relationships with them and also the teacher. I really enjoy going there and seeing their smiles, it makes my whole day! I remember at first, I was just going to go into ministry and maybe a coffee shop for the fun of it, but I knew that God wasn't calling me to that. I didn't even want to give education another chance after being with the 6th and 7th grade classes, but I'm truly grateful that the other rotations didn't work out as expected, because now I have finally found something that I love!" - *Jasmine, Human Services strand*



Director's Message (continued)

criteria for the program. A huge THANK YOU to each of them who have worked closely with our program. Their collaboration is greatly appreciated.

Corporate Sponsorships have an enormous impact on MOSO CAPS Student Associates. The financial support allows equitable access to our program. If you or your business is interested in becoming an individual or corporate sponsor, please email us at mosocaps@mssu.edu or call 417-625-9623. A \$1,000 gift will provide scholarships to two students which will offset the cost of their tuition for the 2025-2026 academic year. Thank you for making a difference and supporting MOSO CAPS.

There are several special events on our schedule:

MOSO CAPS and Missouri Southern State University is excited to host the second annual [Science to Jobs \(S2J\) Summer Academies](#) in June. Students currently in grades 5th through 7th can apply for the two-day middle school academy and students currently in 8th and 9th grade can apply for the three-and-a-half-day residential high school academy. Registration opened on March 1 and will close on

March 31. Mrs. Debra Schow-Kwolek and Mr. Matt Beaver are the 2025 Academy Co-Directors. This year we have added two one-day middle school academies for districts hosting summer school. We already have districts secured for this summer but let us know if your district is looking for an engaging one-day field trip for the Summer of 2026. Faculty created science activities and the MOBIO Life Science Discovery Trailer and Mobile Labs provide engaging and quality experiences for S2J participants. You can find more information on our [S2J website](#).

Mark your calendars for the [MOSO CAPS End of Year Celebration and Senior Recognition](#) scheduled for Friday, May 9 at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall. This is one of the highlights of the semester along with our "Senior Shout Outs" currently being posted on the MOSO CAPS Facebook and Instagram pages which celebrating our Seniors.

MOSO CAPS Student/Parent Orientation for the 25-26 academic year will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2025, in the Billingsly Student Center ballroom on the MSSU campus.

- THIRD ANNUAL - Interviews & Expectations Day

Wednesday, April 2

~ TWO SESSIONS ~
8:30AM-10:30AM
& 12:30PM-2:30PM

MSSU Ballroom

MOSO CAPS and NEWcaps are joining efforts to host a 1-day mock interview event for our Student Associates!

If you're interested in volunteering to help build tomorrow's work force, sign-up to be a mock interviewer by clicking below!

[SIGN-UP FORM](#)



Each year as a finale to the MOSO CAPS fall semester, student associates participate in a 1-day "acts of service" project aimed at giving back to the Missouri Southern campus or a member of our local community. This year we were able to do both!

ABOVE LEFT: Morning student associates pose with staff from the Lion Cub Academy at Missouri Southern after spending the morning relocating and organizing the Academy's children's library. Students moved dozens of tubs filled with hundreds of books so classroom teachers and aides had easier access to reading materials for their young learners.

ABOVE RIGHT: After lending a hand to clean the warehouse space at the Joplin Empire Market, afternoon student associates take a photo with project coordinators. These young professionals worked hard hauling items to roll-off dumpsters, picking up trash, shoveling dirt, sweeping floors, and helping prepare the space for an upcoming construction project. Students also helped rework the garden area, pulling weeds and plants for the winter, and then swept the market floor so it was ready for the market on Saturday.

Where Are They Now?

MOSO CAPS Student Associates are gaining real-world experience from area professionals across a diverse array of careers! Check out these awesome selfie shots at some of our 180+ Industry Partner locations!

RIGHT: Carly, Health Sciences strand student associate, stands outside her “ride” during her rotation at Metro Emergency Transport System (METS), which is the primary emergency medical transportation service provider for western Jasper County in Missouri. Carly joined METS personnel on both emergency and non-emergency calls during her rotation.



BELOW: Human Services strand student associate, Alex, got a front-row seat to experience “a day in the life” of a Carthage Police Officer during his rotation. From patrolling the streets to responding to calls, it’s hands-on learning at its best when you’re riding shotgun with the law!



LEFT: Future diesel shop mechanic and Business strand student associate, Gage, took a moment to pose with Missouri Department of Transportation Supervisor, Stephen Smith, before they began an inspection on a MoDOT Southwest District truck.

RIGHT: Emily, Human Services strand student associate, spent time with Jasper County Clerk Charlie Davis and his staff, learning about the main responsibilities of the County Clerk’s office and gaining insights into the local election process and other key functions of the office.



ABOVE: After spending time in the Mercy lab, Health Sciences strand student associate, Brenna, said, “I was able to learn a whole new perspective of the medical field, and was able to see more of what happens behind the scenes. I would never want to work in a lab, but spending time there was a great and really educational experience.”

RIGHT: Business strand student associate and inspiring museum curator, Nik, didn’t waste any time making friends during his rotation at the Spiva Center for the Arts where he learned about gallery displays, lighting, event planning, and more.



CAPStone Project Update

As part of the MOSO CAPS program, student associates participate in a CAPStone Project each spring, either individually or in a group. CAPStone Projects are service-minded projects that showcase student creativity and problem-solving skills while supporting the local community.

This year the morning MOSO CAPS Student Associates were given the task of adopting one of the many flowerbeds located on the MSSU campus. Students were split into three groups and each group was assigned a specific bed with a budget and timeline to cleanout, plant and mulch their flowerbed.

Students had to appoint a project manager, bed designer, budget manager, mar-

keting manager, tool manager, physical plant/facilities manager, ordering manager, and bed prep manager. They also had to assemble a timeline, conduct research, meet with a project “stakeholder”, create a bed design, notify campus facilities, meet with Alberts nursery, and that was just to clean out the beds! There is lots more to do!

Stay updated on each flowerbed CAPStone Project via Instagram—[bloom.at.mssu](https://www.instagram.com/bloom.at.mssu), [spiva.flower.power](https://www.instagram.com/spiva.flower.power), and [flowersofhearnes](https://www.instagram.com/flowersofhearnes)!

The afternoon MOSO CAPS Student Associates are working on CAPStone Projects as well. Their work with Downtown Joplin Alliance will be featured in the next issue.

RIGHT: The CAPStone Project team [bloom.at.mssu](https://www.instagram.com/bloom.at.mssu) pose with their cleanout “haul” in front of one of their team’s flowerbeds located at the 1st floor entrance to Hearn Hall.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Dear Alumni,
How has your CAPS experience shaped your story?

The CAPS Network and its partner programs like MOSO CAPS are deeply impacted by each student who engages in the CAPS experience.

We love to tell the stories of the incredible experiences student associates have while in CAPS.

Now, we want to hear the stories of our awesome alumni network!

Where are you now? How has your CAPS experience shaped your studies and career? Your story matters. It will help us ensure that we continue to serve all our stakeholders.

We are looking for CAPS alumni at all stages of their post-CAPS experience to share with us by taking this quick, voluntary, and confidential

[Alumni Survey.](#)

Applications Accepted
MARCH 1-31

S2J Middle School Summer Academy

Mark your calendar for an exciting adventure this summer at the 2025 Middle School Science To Jobs (S2J) Academy!

Who: Current 5th-7th grade students
What: A two-day exploration into the world where Science meets careers!
When: June 9-10, 2025

- 8:00am: Check-in
- 3:00pm: Parent Pick-up

Where: Missouri Southern State University
Cost: \$75 per participant

Apply Today!

Academy is limited to 60 participants. Deadline to apply is March 31.

Imagine a journey that goes beyond textbooks, opening doors to a realm where Science transforms into exciting job possibilities. S2J is not just an academy; it is an invitation to discover the thrilling connections between Science and the diverse careers that await!

Scan the QR code to learn more or visit www.ScienceToJobs.com

Applications Accepted
MARCH 1-31

S2J High School Summer Academy

Mark your calendar for an exciting adventure this summer at the 2025 High School Science To Jobs (S2J) Academy!

Who: Current 8th-9th grade students
What: An exploration into the world where Science meets careers!
When: June 2-5, 2025

- Students will check in at 5:00pm on June 2
- Overnight residency is required

Where: Missouri Southern State University
Cost: \$225 per participant

Apply Today!

Academy is limited to 30 participants. Deadline to apply is March 31.

Imagine a journey that goes beyond textbooks, opening doors to a realm where Science transforms into exciting job possibilities. S2J is not just an academy; it is an invitation to discover the thrilling connections between Science and the diverse careers that await you in your own backyard!

Scan the QR code to learn more or visit www.ScienceToJobs.com

Upcoming Events

Save the date and join us at our next MOSO CAPS event!

Wednesday, April 2 Interviews & Expectations

Roughly 100 MOSO CAPS and NEW-caps student associates will be attending. Volunteer interviewers are needed. [Sign-Up Now!](#)

Registration Ends March 31 Science To Job (S2J) Summer Academies

High School S2J Academy
June 2-5

Middle School S2J Academy
June 9 & 10

These immersive learning academies will provide attendees the opportunity to explore science-related activities and careers! For more information or to register, visit <https://www.sciencetojobs.com>

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THANK YOU

MOSO CAPS Industry Partners

The support of our MOSO CAPS Industry Partners is crucial to the success of the CAPS program. These experts in their fields provide invaluable guidance to our student associates, assisting them in exploring various career options related to each student's identified profession.

Each year, our student associates log over 160 hours with Industry Partners, securing individualized immersive learning experiences that greatly benefit CAPS students.

Thank you to our Spring MOSO CAPS Industry Partners!

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| Access Family Care Dental | Mercy Behavioral Health |
| Access Family Care Women's Health | Mercy Emergency Department |
| American Ramp Company | Mercy ICU/Cardiovascular ICU |
| AMI Radio | Mercy Nursing |
| Aspen Dental | Mercy Occupational Therapy |
| CAPS Network Student Media Agency | Mercy Operating Room |
| Carl Junction Jr. High Health Teacher | Mercy Pediatrics/Pediatric Clinic |
| Carl Junction Primary School | Mercy Pharmacy |
| Carthage Police Department | Mercy Physical Therapy |
| Central Pet Care | Mercy Radiology |
| City of Joplin, Planning, Development & Neighborhood Services | Mercy Stone's Corner Clinic |
| CGA Architects | Mercy Wound Care |
| Diamond School 7-12 Art | Midwestern Interactive |
| The Flanagan Group | Missouri Department of Transportation |
| Freeman Healthcare Administration | MSSU Beimdick Recreation Center |
| Freeman Anesthesia | MSSU Kinesiology Department |
| Freeman Emergency Department | MSSU Spiva Library |
| Freeman Nursing (Ortho/Neuro) | New Heights Kindergarten |
| Freeman Mother/Baby | Newton County Ambulance District |
| Freeman Oncology | Neal Group Construction |
| Freeman Operating Room | Olsson Engineering |
| Freeman Physical Therapy | OWN Engineering |
| Freeman Radiology | Redemption Motorsports |
| Freeman Social Services | Spiva Center for the Arts |
| Freeman Yellow Pod | Steve's Frame & Body Shop |
| George Washington Carver National Monument | Stevenson Law Office |
| Grand Falls Center for Recovery | Uncommon Orthodontics |
| GO Sports Therapy | Uneath Potential |
| Hardy, Wrestler & Associates | Webb City Dental |
| Heritage Tractor | Webb City Fire Department |
| KGCS-TV (MSSU) | Webb City School Nurse |
| Jasper County Record Center | Webb City Truman Elementary |
| The Joplin Globe | Webb City Webster Elementary |
| Joplin Humane Society | Zimmer Marketing |
| Joplin Police Department | |
| Joplin Royal Heights Elementary | |
| METS Ambulance Service | |

Interested in becoming a MOSO CAPS Industry Partner? Give us a call at 417-625-9623 or email mosocaps@mssu.edu to learn more.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-25 CORPORATE SPONSORS

