



**FEBRUARY PROGRAM
UPDATES**

**INTERNSHIP
UPDATES**

**MARCH & APRIL
EVENTS**

FEBRUARY PROGRAM UPDATES

*by Rachel Heinz, Director
and Hannah Peak, Graduate Assistant*

“
*Surround
yourself with
the dreamers,
and the doers,
the believers,
and thinkers,
but most of
all, surround
yourself with
those who see
the greatness
within you,
even when
you don't see
it yourself.”*

EDMUND LEE

Welcome to the February “Bear With Us” Bear POWER Newsletter! This is a series of monthly newsletters that we will be sending to students, Ambassadors, parents, MSU faculty and staff, and community partners. The team is excited to be sharing programmatic updates with you. Thank you for your continued support to Bear POWER at Missouri State University.

Vocational Rehab: Jennifer Kincaid from Vocational Rehabilitation met with our students via Zoom on February 3rd to discuss the in-take process for receiving and utilizing services from Vocational Rehabilitation as they transition into employment. Students are now filling out release forms so that Bear POWER can send documentation to VR. Monthly meetings will start in March and will include students, VR staff, and Bear POWER staff. We are excited about this partnership as it will offer many benefits and support to our students.

Board of Governor Meeting: Students and staff presented at the February MSU Board of Governors Meeting. Bear POWER students and one of our Ambassadors were on a panel and answered questions from the board about their experiences with the program. Both members of the Board of Governors and other leaders at MSU were excited to hear from our students and provided words of encouragement. If you are

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FEBRUARY PROGRAM UPDATES (CONT.)

by Rachel Heinz, Director
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*Photo description:
Students,
Ambassadors, and staff
presented at the Board
of Governor's Meeting
in February to give
program updates and
testimonies*

interested in watching the meeting, you can view it [here](#). Bear POWER presented in the first 30 minutes of the Programs and Planning Committee meeting.

Graduation: Due to the high volume of Spring 2021 graduates, there have been some changes to the graduation ceremonies happening in May. Graduations have been extended into Thursday, May 13th and will continue on Friday, May 14th. Students will be allowed up to 4 guests and masking will still be required. The College of Education graduation time has moved to 5 PM on Friday, May 14th but could be subject to change. Program staff will keep you updated on any other related changes.

Bear POWER students will still be receiving support in applying to graduation and will still be able to receive programmatic support up to 6 months after graduation! We also highly encourage students to utilize the MSU Career Center to also help prepare students to enter the workforce. Finally, our Bear POWER Ambassadors will continue planning events during Graduation Week for students and families. For general MSU graduation updates, please check out the MSU Commencement page [here](#)!

Community Engagement: Bear POWER students and staff are getting engaged in the campus and Springfield community! Missouri State's Public Affairs mission has three pillars, one of which is Community Engagement. To align with the institutional and Bear POWER mission, we are partnering with different organizations on- and off-campus to



*Photo description:
Students,
Ambassadors, and
staff had an ice
cream night at
Braum's and had lots
of fun*

INTERNSHIP UPDATES

by Angie Sachse,
Internship Coordinator

Students are continuing to thrive in their internships on campus and in the community. We navigated a few wintry weeks but surely Spring is quickly approaching! Bear POWER staff has received many notes sent in by Internship Site Supervisors commending the responsibility, commitment and hard work ethic that the students exhibit in their employment. It is wonderful to see the continued partnerships and networks forming for our students within the campus community and area businesses. The [MSU Career Center](#) has visited Internship Seminar twice this semester, to offer more insight on job search strategies and the services they offer through their office. Students also attended a virtual Career Fair Prep workshop, sponsored by the Career Center, to gain insight on how to best prepare for virtual interviews that seem to be happening more frequently. Initial steps are being taken by Cohort 1 to begin the intake process for Vocational Rehabilitation services to help students transition into employment upon graduation. We look forward to sharing developments in the coming months. If you see a Bear POWER student-ask them about their internship! They are doing amazing things and have a lot to share!



UPCOMING BEAR POWER EVENTS

Bear POWER March Lunch
March 5, 2021
11:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Plaster Student Union

Bear POWER Leadership Retreat
March 6, 2021
8:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Virtually via Zoom
***for prospective students*

Bear POWER Guided Paint Night
March 11, 2021
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Virtually via Zoom
Zoom link coming soon!

Spring Break - NO CLASSES
March 13-21, 2021

Bear POWER Bingo Night
March 30, 2021
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Virtually via Zoom
Zoom Link coming soon!

Bear POWER Pottery Night
April 12, 2021
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Location TBA

Bear POWER Relay Game Day
April 25, 2021
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
The Quad/Hill Hall

MSU MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FEBRUARY PROGRAM UPDATES

*by Rachel Heinz, Director
and Hannah Peak, Graduate Assistant*



*Photo description:
Students Mason Deterding, Jonathan Thornburgh, Susie Dains, and Ambassador Natalie Olson prepare to present at the Board of Governor's meeting*

help the communities we belong to. As part of this initiative, Bear POWER will be participating in two separate events: a needs-based food drive for the MSU Bear Pantry as well as a team volunteer day. The needs-based drive will run from March 8th through the 22nd and will be collecting items such as pre-packaged food, toiletry items, canned goods, clothing, and hygiene items. If you are interested in helping us collect goods to donate or want to help via other means, please visit our office in Hill Hall 216 or email Caleb Hatz at calebhatz@missouristate.edu. Along with the Drive, Bear POWER will be working with the Bear Pantry on March 22nd and hopes to engage with other organizations in the local area too. If you are interested in partnering with us, you can email us at bearpower@missouristate.edu.

Taco de SOMO: Who doesn't love tacos? During the month of May, local restaurants will be participating in the Taco de SOMO event to help raise funds for local families supporting students with developmental disabilities. Interested persons can buy a Passport that will provide different coupons for local restaurants and food trucks in the Southwest Missouri region. Each restaurant will "stamp" your passport, and earning 3 stamps enters you to win prizes, including a \$250 grand prize! Taco de SOMO Passports go on sale on April 1st and will be valid May 10-30th. If you are interested in ordering a passport and supporting local families, check out the [Taco de SOMO website](#).

Please follow us Bear POWER Facebook page and our Bear POWER Blogs to stay connected and up to date on any new program news!



*Photo description:
Students, Ambassadors, and staff take an ice cream selfie at Braum's*