



Board of Governors
660-785-4100

McClain Hall 200
100 East Normal Avenue
Kirksville, MO 63501-4221

July 9, 2026

Dear Truman Community,

President Sue Thomas has informed the Truman State University Board of Governors of her decision to retire effective July 31, 2027. While we respect Dr. Thomas's decision, we are sorry to learn that she will be concluding her presidency after more than a decade of dedicated service to Truman.

During her tenure, Dr. Thomas led the University through a period of significant change while remaining steadfast in advancing Truman's mission as Missouri's only public liberal arts and sciences university. Her thoughtful leadership has strengthened the institution, expanded opportunities for students, and reinforced Truman's commitment to academic excellence, close faculty-student engagement, and preparing graduates for lives of leadership, service, and lifelong learning.

While it is not possible to recognize all of Dr. Thomas's accomplishments, her presidency has been marked by meaningful and lasting progress across the University. Under her leadership, Truman continued its long tradition of national recognition for academic quality and value, extending its ranking as the top public regional university in the Midwest by *U.S. News & World Report* to 29 consecutive years. The University also expanded its academic offerings with the addition of 16 undergraduate and 10 graduate degree programs designed to meet evolving student interests and workforce needs.

The Board also recognizes Dr. Thomas's effective stewardship of the University's resources. Since 2016, the University has invested more than \$67 million in campus facility and infrastructure improvements, with over 56% of that funding coming from federal and state sources and no additional University debt incurred. During the same period, Truman has significantly strengthened its financial position, retiring 61% of its debt over the past 10 years and maintaining among the lowest debt levels among its peers. The University also holds the highest Higher Learning Commission Composite Financial Index among its peers, and Foundation assets have doubled during this time, now totaling \$93 million.

Dr. Thomas also worked in collaboration with and in support of academic leaders and faculty to reorganize the University's academic structure. Supported by the University's strong financial position, the reorganization focused on strengthening interdisciplinary connections across programs and developing new programs that draw on faculty expertise in alignment with contemporary higher education needs, rather than on cost reduction.

The Kirksville community benefits from a number of impactful initiatives, including the Greenwood Interprofessional Autism Center, the Senator Roy and Abby Blunt SKILLS Center, the Kraft Heinz partnership, the Kirksville Community Connections group, and serving as a host site for the Special Olympics Missouri Summer Games.

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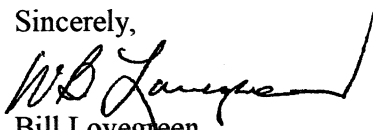
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Throughout her presidency, Dr. Thomas has been an engaged presence on campus and a strong advocate for Truman's students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Her personal engagement and genuine concern for their success have strengthened the Truman experience for countless students.

The Board appreciates Dr. Thomas's decision to provide a full year's notice, which will allow for a deliberate and comprehensive presidential search while ensuring a smooth leadership transition. We are committed to conducting a national search that reflects Truman's distinctive mission and values, and we look forward to engaging the University community throughout that process.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, we extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Thomas for her dedicated leadership and service to Truman State University. We are grateful for her many contributions and the lasting impact she has made on the University, and we look forward to working with her to ensure a smooth and successful transition for Truman.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Lovegreen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Lovegreen

Chair, Board of Governors