

NEWS RELEASE

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Your Co-Worker Might Be a Mule

WARRENSBURG, Mo. (April 16, 2018) — University of Central Missouri alumnus Jeff McClanahan talks about the frequency of encountering other UCM graduates during his career path to becoming director of Enterprise Learning and Development. This originally appeared on LinkedIn. Join UCM's group to connect to thousands of other alumni.

Your Co-Worker Might Be a Mule — by Jeff McClanahan

I recently shared a post about UCM alum Delanie Walker winning the Offensive MVP Award for the Pro Bowl. As a football fan and UCM grad, I get excited about that kind of news, just like I did when UCM alum Jeff Wright went to 4 Super Bowls with the Buffalo Bills. I still remember Jeff coming to the Todd Hall cafeteria, where I worked, to eat.

Not all UCM grads are famous, but they are just about everywhere.

After graduation, I spent 10 years in the food industry with Yum Brands. After that, I went to work for Papa John's. I worked my way up in the organization and met a lot of great people. Along the way, I stayed connected to UCM as much as possible.

One day, I opened my alumni magazine and read an article about a successful grad and Papa John's franchisee named Keith Sullins. I had known Keith for several years and had no idea he was a UCM grad. I called Keith to share our connection and he told me about another successful

Papa John's franchisee and UCM grad, Brad Pryor. Keith and Brad are two of the best franchisees in the Papa John's system.



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After 12 years helping build the Papa John's brand, I went to work for Direct Energy Home Services where I worked with an incredible team of people that were passionate about developing others. One of my fantastic trainers was UCM grad Phil Wright. You just never know when you are going to run into a Mule!

I now work for Service Experts/Enercare in the Dallas, Texas, area. When I joined the company, a company-wide email was sent out introducing me and detailing some information about me, with one item being the university I attended. Imagine my surprise, when one of the first people to welcome me aboard was our Chief Financial Officer, and UCM grad, Ken Kempker. It is a small world!

I say all of this to encourage other UCM/CMSU alums to be on the lookout throughout your lives and careers. That person you work with, go to church with, or do business with just might be a Mule or Jennie.

The UCM Foundation (DBA UCM Alumni Foundation), is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to cultivate, manage and distribute resources in support of the University of Central Missouri. Since being established in 1979, the foundation has generated more than \$100 million benefiting the university and its students. For more information, please visit ucmfoundation.org.

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