

Dean, William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications

Leadership Profile

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026



Executive Summary

The University of Kansas seeks a collaborative, dynamic, forward-looking, research and community-oriented leader to serve as the next Dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Applications, inquiries, and nominations are invited.

Since the first journalism class was offered at the University of Kansas in 1891, the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications (JMC) continues its long legacy of excellence in leading the way in student-centered teaching that prepares students for today's careers in media, digital marketing, advertising, and public relations. Located on the historic and picturesque Lawrence campus of the University of Kansas (KU) — the state's flagship university, a research intensive (R1) institution, and a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) — the JMC is a nationally recognized leader in journalism and strategic communications education. The JMC has more than 14,500 graduates in the United States and dozens of countries around the world. The School is ranked as the #1 Journalism School in Kansas, #4 Most Popular Journalism School in the U.S., and #13 Best Journalism School for a bachelor's degree by College Factual. These accolades reflect the school's commitment to academic excellence, student success, and its recognized leadership in journalism and mass communications education nationwide. Undergraduate students can pursue a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Mass Communications with concentrations in Multimedia Journalism; Digital Marketing Communications, Advertising and Public Relations; Media Arts & Production; or Sports Media & Society. Graduate offerings include an online master's in digital and integrated marketing communications and a Ph.D. in Journalism and Mass Communications, emphasizing research, innovation, and professional readiness across the evolving media landscape.

The Dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications reports to and collaborates closely with the Chief Academic Officer/Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of the Lawrence and Edwards campuses to advance excellence in education, research, and professional practice. The Dean will lead with a commitment to collaboration across the school's academic areas as well as with partners across the University and beyond. Key priorities include engaging faculty and staff in advancing the goals of Jayhawks Rising (the strategic plan for KU Lawrence and Edwards), and spearheading the school's fundraising efforts as part of the University's next campaign. The Dean will exemplify a lifelong commitment to learning, scholarship, and service, while inspiring and supporting the professional growth of others. The Dean must be committed to leading a culture that values the school's professional, scholarly, and academic dimensions.

As the School looks ahead to its next chapter, it does so with momentum. A recently completed [strategic plan](#) has focused on enhancing student success, expanding experiential learning opportunities, and deepening the school's research and creative output. With a legacy rooted in the values of its namesake, William Allen White, the school is poised to welcome a new Dean who will shape a bold vision for the future of journalism and mass communications education at KU. The next Dean must be a strong advocate for continuing to build public trust in the media by leading outreach initiatives that engage communities, while ensuring students are prepared to uphold transparency, ethical standards, and innovative practices demonstrating the media's essential role in society. A vibrant research culture is essential to advancing knowledge, informing practice, and elevating the school's national and global reputation. They must deeply value and actively practice shared governance, serving as a visible and accessible presence within the school, across campus, and in engagement with community and industry partners. They will be expected to foster and maintain a collaborative and collegial culture that supports the school's academic mission and community.

The successful candidate will hold an earned terminal degree in a relevant field, with a distinguished record of teaching, research, and achievement warranting a tenured appointment at the rank of full professor in the school.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.

Role of the Dean, William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications

The Dean serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, responsible for providing forward-looking, collaborative, and consistent leadership to ensure the School's continued success. The Dean reports to the Chief Academic Officer/Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for KU Lawrence and Edwards campuses. KU's team of academic leaders embraces innovation, advances excellence in teaching and research, and is charged with driving performance and impact across the University.

The Dean ensures the school attracts, retains, and develops outstanding faculty and staff in alignment with KU's goals and mission as an R-1, AAU institution. It is the Dean's responsibility to ensure the school operates in full compliance with all University policies, applicable regulations, and professional accrediting standards established by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC).

Working closely with university leaders, the Dean administers the School's budget and resources, serving as its chief advocate for external relations, advancement, and fundraising. To sustain excellence in research, teaching, and experiential learning, the Dean collaborates with KU Endowment, KU Alumni, and industry partners to secure private and philanthropic support and to advance the success of the University's comprehensive campaign.

The school consists of 37 full-time faculty, 21 part-time faculty, 13 staff members, six student advising staff, 1,005 undergraduate students, and 82 graduate students. The school's budget is approximately \$9 million. The Dean leads a dedicated administrative and academic team that includes:

- Associate Dean for Research & Faculty Development
- Associate Dean for Student Success
- Assistant Dean for Student Services
- Director of Professional Graduate Studies
- Director of Finance and Planning
- Outreach and Student Advancement Coordinator
- Senior Recruitment Coordinator/
Access and Belonging
- Communications Coordinator
- Network Administrator, Broadcast Engineer
- Executive Associate to the Dean
- Chairs/Academic Concentrations
 - Media Arts and Production
 - Digital Marketing Communications,
Advertising, and Public Relations
 - Sports Media & Society
 - Multimedia Journalism



Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Advance an Innovative Vision for the School

In a rapidly evolving media and higher education landscape, the next Dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas must build upon the school's current strategic plan, [JMC Rising](#), and help chart a bold course for the future. This includes leading faculty, staff, students, and community partners in refining and advancing a shared vision that aligns with KU's mission as a premier public research university.

The Dean will be expected to strengthen the school's commitment to student success by expanding enrollment, improving retention, and enhancing career readiness through experiential learning and robust internship opportunities. They will also support the school's efforts to foster a welcoming, accessible, and respectful environment for all students, faculty, and staff — advancing initiatives that promote a strong sense of belonging, ensure equitable access to opportunities, and sustain the school's morale and optimism during fiscal pressures and rapid industry changes.

In addition, the Dean will promote innovation in journalism and mass communication education by encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, supporting creative and community-based research, and leveraging the School's resources — such as [The Agency](#) and [Media Crossroads](#) — to enhance visibility and impact. They will play a critical role in recruiting and retaining top faculty, securing funding, and expanding the school's influence locally and globally. Ultimately, the next Dean must be a visionary leader who can honor the school's legacy while driving forward-thinking strategies that prepare students to be ethical, inclusive, and entrepreneurial leaders in the media industry.

Recruit, support, and retain talented students, faculty and staff

The school seeks a Dean who will lead efforts to attract and nurture outstanding individuals committed to advancing journalism and mass communication. The Dean will be expected to support and provide professional development opportunities that foster growth and excellence across all levels of the school. This includes supporting faculty and staff through thoughtful workload management and ensuring access to resources that promote career advancement and well-being. KU's proximity to the Kansas City media market offers a competitive advantage in recruitment and provides rich opportunities for collaboration, internships, and employment for students. The School must look beyond traditional markets when it comes to recruiting students, including expanding opportunities for adult learners, transfers, and other non-traditional students. The school's strong alumni network and industry partnerships further enhance its ability to prepare students for success in a rapidly evolving media landscape.

The Dean must also champion the professional growth and mentorship of faculty at all ranks, with particular attention to supporting early-career scholars and professors of practice. They should demonstrate a commitment to balancing attention across research, teaching, and service, while fostering an environment where faculty feel heard, respected, and supported. A willingness to listen to faculty concerns and communicate openly and transparently about decisions is essential. The Dean should celebrate others' successes and have the confidence to support colleagues in pursuing their own ideas. Above all, they must be committed to maintaining and enhancing a culture valuing the School's professional and academic dimensions.

Support for Teaching, Research and Creative Activities

The next Dean will play a critical role in strengthening the school's capacity for excellence in teaching, research, and creative activities. The next Dean will lead efforts to create a unified, forward-looking curriculum that reflects the evolving demands of journalism and mass communications. This includes working closely with faculty to align courses across sequences, eliminate redundancies, and ensure a clear progression of skills from foundational learning to advanced practice. The Dean must anticipate industry changes — such as the growing influence of AI

on writing, design, and media production — and integrate emerging technologies and ethical considerations into the curriculum. A strong balance between research productivity and creative media practice — both valued as essential to the school's identity—is expected. They must be thoughtful and creative in exploring new funding opportunities, especially as the federal funding landscape continues to shift and impact the university.

Forge partnerships and collaborations.

The Dean must be an outstanding partner and team member who thrives in a highly collaborative and collegial environment. KU's Deans and academic leaders are expected to work with university leaders and together across units to achieve the University's strategic initiatives such as innovative interdisciplinary programs and research that address emerging challenges and opportunities. They will also be expected to build and sustain strategic partnerships with media organizations, communication firms, nonprofits, and other external partners that can enrich the student experience through real-world learning, internships, and collaborative research, while also expanding career pathways for graduates and advancing the school's role in meeting the evolving needs of the media and marketing and strategic communications.

Lead Fundraising and Resource Development

In partnership with KU Endowment, the Dean will play a pivotal role in advancing the School's fundraising and resource development efforts, aligning them with university's strategic priorities. This includes cultivating philanthropic partnerships, securing external funding, and strategically enhancing the School's capacity to support innovative programs, student opportunities, and faculty excellence.



Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The University of Kansas seeks an accomplished, visionary, and collaborative leader to serve as the next Dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Building upon more than a century of journalistic excellence, the Dean will lead a close-knit and values-driven community dedicated to advancing the future of media, communication, and public engagement.

The ideal candidate will bring strategic clarity, emotional intelligence, and a deep respect for the school's legacy of ethical storytelling and public service, coupled with the creativity and courage to drive innovation in a rapidly evolving field.

Academic and Professional Excellence

- **Required Experience and Qualifications.** The successful candidate will hold an earned terminal degree in a relevant field, along with a distinguished record of teaching, research, and professional achievement that warrants a tenured appointment at the rank of full professor in the School.
- **Leadership Experience.** Consistent and progressive leadership experience in higher education, journalism, mass communications or a related field. This may include service as a department chair, school director, associate dean, dean, or other comparable experience.
- **Academic and Professional Expertise.** Deep understanding of both scholarly and professional media landscapes, including emerging trends in digital communication, technology, and civic engagement.

Leadership and Strategy

- **Strategic Leadership.** Proven ability to guide organizations through transformation while maintaining fidelity to mission, values, and institutional identity.
- **Vision and Innovation.** Capacity to articulate an inspiring and forward-looking vision for journalism and strategic communications that unites faculty, staff, students, and alumni around shared goals.
- **Fiscal and Operational Stewardship.** Demonstrated success in managing budgets, allocating resources effectively, and strengthening administrative and financial systems that support teaching and research.
- **External Relations and Fundraising.** Proven ability to cultivate partnerships with alumni, donors, and leaders of business and industry that expand opportunities for students and strengthen the school's impact.
- **Change Management and Institutional Agility.** Skilled in addressing challenges with decisiveness and empathy, guiding the school toward greater adaptability and innovation.

Community and Culture

- **Collaborative Management.** Dedication to transparency, shared governance, and inclusive decision-making that values diverse perspectives and fosters trust.
- **Faculty and Staff Support.** Commitment to cultivating professional growth, recognition, and balance among faculty and staff through strong leadership, advocacy, and mentorship.
- **Student-Centered Leadership.** A visible, accessible, and compassionate presence who prioritizes mentorship, belonging, and holistic student success.

- **Community and Culture Building.** Ability to foster a collegial environment rooted in respect, collaboration, and shared purpose; nurtures and supports a culture that values collective success over competition.

Integrity and Purpose

- **Advocacy and Communication.** Exceptional communicator who can articulate the school's mission, achievements, and aspirations with clarity, confidence, and authenticity.
- **Advocacy for Journalism's Public Mission.** Deep belief in journalism and strategic communications as essential to democracy, impartiality, and civic trust, and the courage to champion their enduring public value.



About the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications

The [William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications](#) is one of the nation's most respected centers for storytelling, media innovation, and public engagement. Named for the Pulitzer Prize-winning editor and reformer whose lifelong commitment to truth, character, and civic responsibility helped define American journalism, the school carries forward his enduring belief that words possess the power to inform, inspire, and transform society.

As part of the University of Kansas, the state's flagship research institution and a member of the Association of American Universities, the School reflects the university's broader mission of public purpose and discovery. It is home to approximately one thousand students, a distinguished faculty of scholars and practitioners, and more than 14,000 alumni working across the globe. Together, they form a creative and intellectually vibrant community that pairs professional training with a deep sense of social responsibility.

Since its establishment in 1944, following decades of journalism instruction that began in 1891, the school has remained at the forefront of professional and academic education. Among the first in the nation to earn accreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, it continues to be recognized for its academic rigor, ethical practice, and service to the public good.

The School's faculty and students share a devotion to inquiry, integrity, and imagination. They blend the timeless principles of journalism with the creative experimentation required in a rapidly changing media landscape. Grounded in curiosity and intellectual freedom, the School continues to illuminate the essential role of communication in a democratic society and to inspire those who believe that storytelling remains one of the most powerful forces for understanding and change.

Mission

We teach students to think critically and creatively while preparing them for careers in journalism, mass communications and related fields and for graduate study.

Values

This school values:

- A diverse, collaborative and dynamic student-centered environment.
- Excellence in learning, teaching and mentoring.
- Free expression and conscientious communication as cornerstones of a democratic society.
- Critical and creative thinking.
- Meaningful research and creative activity.
- Imaginative outreach and collaboration on this campus, in this state and beyond, and in the professions of journalism, mass communications and related professions.

Adopted unanimously by the full faculty on Nov. 7, 1997, and revised Dec. 6, 2022.

Learning Goals

Graduates of the school will:

- Employ critical and creative thinking in the practices of journalism, mass communications and related disciplines.
- Reflect the value of diverse societies and diverse workplaces in telling stories.
- Understand the value of freedom of expression and its importance in society.
- Use theoretical and practical skills in the application of ethical storytelling.
- Understand and use emerging media technologies and their impact on society.
- Incorporate research techniques for analysis, interpretation and reporting.
- Understand the functions of communications organizations, the economic and management issues they face, and how media decisions affect individuals and society.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the faculty on Sept. 3, 1998, and revised Dec. 6, 2022.

Strategic Vision and Goals

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications stands at a moment of intentional transformation. Guided by its strategic plan, *JMC Rising*, the School has charted a bold course that aligns with the University of Kansas' broader mission while advancing its own distinctive vision for the future of journalism and mass communications. The plan focuses on three overarching pillars: student success, thriving communities, and research and discovery.

At its core lies a simple but profound promise: every student will graduate prepared not only for a profession but to lead and shape it. Through immersive learning, close faculty mentorship, professional internships, and applied research, the School cultivates communicators who understand both the art and the ethics of storytelling.

The JMC Rising plan outlines a series of goals that sustain excellence and promote innovation across every area of the school's work:

- **Expand enrollment and access.** Strengthen transfer and nontraditional pathways while engaging a broader range of learners through targeted outreach and recruitment.
- **Enhance retention and completion.** Achieve first to second year retention of 85 percent and graduation rates of 75 percent within four years and 85 percent within six.
- **Ensure meaningful professional experience.** Provide each student with at least one significant paid internship or equivalent experiential learning opportunity prior to graduation.
- **Elevate faculty research and creative achievement.** Expand support for scholarship and creative work through internal grants, interdisciplinary collaboration, and industry partnerships.
- **Strengthen infrastructure and resources.** Increase philanthropic support to expand scholarships, invest in technology, and create endowed faculty positions that sustain long-term excellence.

These priorities express more than an administrative framework; they represent a vision for the future of media education: one that honors the school's journalistic heritage while embracing the possibilities of an evolving communication landscape. With a legacy of excellence and a renewed commitment to innovation, the William Allen White School is poised to lead its field into a new era of creativity, impact, and purpose.

Academic Offerings

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications offers a distinctive suite of undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs that prepare students to lead with creativity, integrity, and purpose. Across every pathway, students combine rigorous inquiry with hands-on learning to become skilled communicators and ethical storytellers.

Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Mass Communications (BSJ)

The school's flagship undergraduate degree cultivates storytellers and strategic communicators who are prepared for a rapidly changing media environment. Students gain a strong foundation in writing, ethics, and media law while developing advanced skills across digital, visual, and strategic platforms.

Each student selects one of four concentrations tailored to their career goals:

Multimedia Journalism prepares students to produce high-quality news and feature content across print, broadcast, and digital media. Coursework emphasizes reporting, writing, editing, and multimedia storytelling, blending traditional journalism principles with emerging technologies.

Digital Marketing Communications, Advertising and Public Relations focuses on brand storytelling, digital engagement, analytics, and audience strategy. Students learn to craft campaigns and communications that build trust and visibility for organizations across sectors.

Media Arts and Production combines creative storytelling with technical mastery in audio, video, and film production. Students explore cinematic storytelling, editing, and digital design, gaining hands-on experience with professional media tools and studio environments.

Sports Media and Society examines the intersection of athletics, media, and culture. Students learn to report on sports as a global industry, exploring issues of ethics, representation, and social impact while developing on-air, writing, and production skills.

Graduate Programs

Master of Science in Digital and Integrated Marketing Communications (MS-DIMC)

Offered fully online, this program serves working professionals across industries who want to expand their mastery of digital strategy, analytics, and integrated communications. Students learn to translate data into insight, manage multi-platform campaigns, and drive meaningful engagement in today's digital marketplace.

Doctor of Philosophy in Journalism and Mass Communications (PhD)

This research-intensive program prepares scholars to advance the field through original inquiry into the social, cultural, and ethical dimensions of media. Doctoral candidates work closely with faculty on research that explores media systems, persuasion and audience behavior, and the evolving role of communication in public life.

Student Enrollment

The school enrolls approximately 1,000 students, including both undergraduate and graduate learners. Students come from across Kansas, the nation, and around the world, bringing diverse perspectives to a shared passion for storytelling, media, and public communication. The school's inclusive and student-centered culture fosters close faculty relationships, strong peer collaboration, and a sense of belonging that reflects KU's commitment to access and opportunity.



Faculty

The school's community includes 37 full-time faculty and 21 part-time or adjunct faculty members representing a mix of tenured, tenure-track, and professional-track educators who combine scholarly excellence with industry experience. Together, they bring depth and diversity of perspective to the classroom, drawing from backgrounds in journalism, strategic communications, public relations, digital storytelling, and media production. Their expertise spans political communication, health communication, media ethics, gender and representation, sports and society, and the evolving dynamics of digital media. Many hold leadership roles in professional and academic associations, edit prominent journals, and have been recognized nationally for their teaching, research, and creative work. Through their mentorship and innovation, the faculty uphold the school's tradition of excellence while preparing students to lead and adapt in an ever-changing media landscape.

Alumni

More than 14,000 alumni of the school are shaping the future of media, marketing, advertising, and public relations across the globe. Graduates include Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, national correspondents, editors, producers, filmmakers, and senior executives in leading media and strategic communications organizations. The school's alumni network also extends into higher education, nonprofits, technology firms, and government, reflecting the broad reach and adaptability of a KU journalism and mass communications education.

Facilities

The school is housed in [Stauffer-Flint Hall](#), a recently renovated, state-of-the-art facility located in the heart of KU's historic Lawrence campus. The building features multimedia classrooms, digital production studios, editing suites, podcast labs, and collaborative spaces designed to mirror professional newsrooms and creative agencies. Key experiential learning environments include The Agency, a student-run strategic communications firm, and Media Crossroads, a working newsroom and studio where students produce live broadcasts, podcasts, and multimedia content. These facilities provide students with hands-on experience bridging academic learning and industry practice.

About The University of Kansas

Overview

The University of Kansas is the state's flagship university, an R-1 institution and a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU). KU consistently earns high rankings for academics and recognition as a premier research university.

KU pushes the boundaries of knowledge, transforms the academic experience, and creates solutions through innovative research and discovery. The Jayhawk community extends around the globe, united by more than 150 years of tradition and by a commitment to creating a better world. The University offers teaching and research that draws upon and contributes to the most advanced developments in the world.

KU has 10 graduate programs in the top 10 and 48 programs in the top 50 among public universities in the 2025 rankings from U.S. News & World Report. KU offers 5,000 course sections, 400 degree and certificate programs, and more than 200 fields of study.

Enrollment at KU Lawrence-Edwards was 27,212 students in fall 2025, with an additional 3,957 students enrolled at the KU Medical Center for a university total enrollment of 31,169 students, an all-time high for KU. KU students are from all 50 states and 112 countries. The University had 1,924 international students, comprising 6.1% of the student body at KU Lawrence-Edwards and 6.5% of students at KU Medical Center. In fall 2022, the University had 6,694 faculty members and 11,697 employees across all campuses. The student-to-faculty ratio is 17 to 1. KU's FY2025 operating budget for KU Lawrence-Edwards was \$855 million. As of June 30, 2024, KU's Endowment stood at \$2.8 billion.

The University provides more than \$72 million in scholarships and grants to students each year. KU students have won more Rhodes Scholarships, and more federally sponsored research is conducted at KU than at all other Kansas universities, combined.

In addition to KU's research-residential campus located on beautiful Mount Oread in Lawrence, the University has eight other locations across Kansas: Medical Center campus in Kansas City; Edwards Campus in Overland Park; Wichita Campus (School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy); Salina Campus (School of Medicine); Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center near Hutchinson; Juniper Gardens Children's Project in Kansas City; Life Span Institute in Parsons and a collaborative location with the Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth.

Strategic Plan

[Jayhawks Rising](#) is the KU Lawrence and Edwards strategic plan, the result of a highly engaging, multi-year planning process involving many groups and individuals.

Jayhawks Rising is organized around three institutional priorities, six campus goals, and multiple supporting objectives that are designed to create a clear and ambitious direction to fulfill our mission as a university.

The three mission-based institutional priorities for Jayhawks Rising are

1. [Research & Discovery](#)
2. [Healthy & Vibrant Communities](#)
3. [Student Success](#)

Education

The University of Kansas is committed to offering the highest quality undergraduate, professional, and advanced graduate programs comparable to the best available in the nation. KU fulfills its mission through faculty, academic, and research programs of international distinction; outstanding libraries; research labs; and engaging museums. These resources enrich the undergraduate experience and are essential for graduate-level education and world-class research.



Research

KU attains high levels of research productivity and engages in more than \$500 million of externally funded research annually. KU recognizes that faculty are part of a network of scholars who shape and teach a discipline. Research and instruction, as practiced at KU, are mutually reinforcing, with scholarly inquiry underlying and informing the educational experience at undergraduate, professional, and graduate levels.

Service

The University serves Kansas, the nation, and the world through research and discovery, education, and the preservation and dissemination of knowledge. KU provides service to the state of Kansas through its state and federally funded research centers, academic programs, workforce development, arts facilities, and public programs that provide cultural enrichment opportunities. KU Lawrence is also home to [KU Innovation Park](#), a public-private partnership to grow opportunities in technology and bioscience and bring them to market by leveraging KU talent and innovation.

Shared Governance

KU has a shared [governance system](#) with branches representing faculty, staff, and students. Representation from each senate forms the University Senate that focuses on rules, regulations, and policies that impact these groups.

International Engagement

KU is dedicated to preparing students for lives of learning and the challenges citizens will encounter in a diverse and increasingly complex global community. The University excels in global engagement, teaching more than 40 languages. KU faculty and students have access to more than 150 programs of international study and cooperative research in more than 50 countries. About 29% of undergraduate students study abroad during their KU careers.

Jayhawk Global

Jayhawk Global was launched in 2022 as the umbrella for all KU's online course offerings, ranging from traditional semester-long online classes to shorter, non-credit-bearing and workforce development programs for professionals. The University is expected to grow Jayhawk Global



significantly as an element of its overarching strategy to increase enrollment and impact.

Jayhawk Spirit

At KU, scholarship and discovery nourish minds while athletics and co-curricular activities uplift spirits. Basketball may have been born in Springfield, Massachusetts, but the game came of age in Lawrence. KU's first basketball coach was none other than the game's inventor James Naismith, and his 13 Original Rules of "Basket Ball" are enshrined on the campus. Jayhawks athletics' most recent national achievement was winning the 2022 NCAA Division I men's basketball championship.

A strategic area of the Lawrence campus is currently being reimagined as the [Gateway District](#). A bold new revision of the David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium will include a new fan experience, conference center, hotel, retail space, and apartments.

While six national championship banners hang in Allen Fieldhouse, the KU Debate program showcases six national championship trophies across campus in Bailey Hall. In basketball, debate, volleyball, track, soccer, music, arts, and more, Jayhawks set high standards and perform at elite levels.



Leadership

Douglas Girod, M.D., Chancellor



Douglas Girod, M.D., is the 18th Chancellor of the University of Kansas. Under his leadership, KU has established a new organizational model through the One KU initiative, grown federal research expenditures and student enrollments, and led KU in procuring additional funding from the Kansas Legislature, and established Kansas Team Health, a groundbreaking partnership that provides the best medical care possible for KU student-athletes.

Before becoming Chancellor, Dr. Girod served as Executive Vice Chancellor at KU Medical Center. A head-and-neck surgeon, he first joined the medical center faculty in 1994.

Chancellor Girod is chair of the board of directors for the Association of American Universities and previously chaired that organization's Advisory Board on Sexual Harassment in Academia. He currently serves as chair of the board of directors for the Big 12 Conference and has served as President of the American Head and Neck Society.

Chancellor Girod earned his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Davis and his medical degree from the University of California at San Francisco. He completed his residency and an NIH research fellowship at the University of Washington. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 1982 until 1997, rising to the rank of lieutenant commander and earning the Meritorious Service Medal.

Barbara A. Bichelmeyer, Ph.D., Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost



Barbara A. Bichelmeyer, Ph.D., an academic leader in the field of instructional design and technology, was appointed Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of the University of Kansas in February 2020. Bichelmeyer also holds an appointment as professor in the KU School of Education & Human Sciences.

As KU's Chief Learning Officer, she is primarily responsible for advancing the University's mission in concert with the Chancellor, administrators, faculty, staff, and students across KU Lawrence-Edwards. She leads KU in championing and furthering the goals outlined in the University's strategic plan, Jayhawks Rising. Under her leadership, KU has had its largest and most diverse freshman classes, while improving retention and completion rates of students.

Prior to joining KU, Dr. Bichelmeyer served as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, a position she held since August 2015. She had previously served as Executive Associate Vice President for University Academic Affairs for the seven campuses of Indiana University, as well as founder and Senior Director for IU's Office of Online Education. Bichelmeyer advanced through the tenure ranks to become a tenured full professor at Indiana University-Bloomington.

During her 30+ year career as a faculty member and administrator, Bichelmeyer examined the processes of performance-based instructional design and how technology is incorporated into classrooms to facilitate more personalized learning experiences.

Bichelmeyer earned bachelor's degrees in both journalism and English, a master's degree in educational policy and administration, and a doctorate in educational communications and technology, all from KU.



About Lawrence, Kansas

KU's research-residential campus is in the center of Lawrence, KS, a vibrant and culturally rich community — a quintessential college town. Visitors, students, and new employees from outside the area enjoy discovering the many wonders of Lawrence, including a thriving downtown, diverse local and regional events, area lakes, vibrant arts and music scenes, and an indelible history.

From tree-lined historic neighborhoods to no-maintenance communities, modern downtown lofts, and rolling acreage outside of city limits, Lawrence offers a wide variety of home options.

Lawrence has long been known for its active music scene, hosting many up-and-coming artists before they were big names. Several venues offer live music to suit almost any taste. A summer family favorite is the free Lawrence City Band outdoor concert series at the South Park Gazebo, where Lawrence residents of all ages bring blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the music.

Home to nearly 100,000 people, Lawrence is located 45 minutes west of Kansas City and 30 minutes east of Topeka, the state capital. Along with the music, arts, culture, and sports experiences offered at KU and in Lawrence, the short drive to Kansas City provides quick access to historic jazz clubs, museums, world-class music and theatre venues, and professional sports teams. Lawrence has also been named as ['America's Fastest Growing' Tech hub](#).



Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume, and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting the University of Kansas in this search. For full consideration, candidate materials should be received by **February 6, 2026**.

Applications, nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Jessica Herrington and Bree Liddell

KUDeanJMC@wittkieffer.com

The University of Kansas prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity, gender expression, and genetic information in the university's programs and activities. Retaliation is also prohibited by university policy. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies and is the Title IX coordinator for all KU and KUMC campuses: Associate Vice Chancellor for the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, civilrights@ku.edu, Room 1082, Dole Human Development Center, 1000 Sunnyside Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045, 785-864-6414, 711 TTY.