

**Director, KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural
History Museum**

Leadership Profile

Fall 2022



Executive Summary

The University of Kansas (KU) seeks outstanding applicants for the position of director of its Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum. The **Biodiversity Institute (BI)**, which includes the **KU Natural History Museum**, studies past and present life on Earth to educate, engage and inspire. An internationally recognized center for research, graduate education and public outreach in systematics, evolutionary biology, paleontology and archaeology, the institute accomplishes this mission through the acquisition, curation and study of collections of plants, animals, fossil material and cultural artifacts for undergraduate, graduate and public education, as well as research and public and professional service. More information can be found at: <https://biodiversity.ku.edu/about>.

The University of Kansas is the state's flagship university, an R-1 institution and a member of the Association of American Universities, with 40 graduate programs ranked by US News. Founded in 1865, KU enrolls 28,500 students, employs nearly 2,900 faculty members and offers its programs in eight locations, including online through Jayhawk Global and at its research residential campus on beautiful and historic Mt. Oread in Lawrence, Kansas.

The Director reports to KU's Vice Chancellor for Research, sets the strategic direction for the Institute, and oversees budgets totaling more than \$15M, including \$10M in grant funding, and manages a staff of 19 curators and scientists, most of whom are jointly appointed in related academic departments, 13 collections care and support professionals, 6 museum staff, 4 administrative staff, 6 postdoctoral researchers, and 35 graduate students. The Director is expected to contribute to the collective goals of the Institute & Museum:

- To maintain and improve collections to meet the research, educational, and service needs of scientists, students, the public, cultural organizations and agencies of the public.
- To enhance research and graduate education programs so they represent the breadth, scientific rigor and promise of systematic and evolutionary biology and archaeology.
- To increase participation in the relevant academic programs of the university, principally Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Geology, Anthropology and Museum Studies.
- To continue developing public education and related services in ways that encourage the public's understanding and appreciation of the natural world.
- To increase understanding and support of the museum through public relations, membership and development programs and the activities of the Biodiversity Institute Advisory Board.
- To create an environment that supports the recruitment, retention and inclusion of a diverse faculty, staff and student body and facilitates a culture of belonging.

The successful candidate will provide visionary leadership to guide faculty, staff and students of this designated research center and public museum to its next phase of achievement.

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 Director

The Director of the KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum reports to and serves as the pleasure of, the Vice Chancellor for Research. The director position has the opportunity to hold a tenured joint appointment with the Biodiversity Institute and the Natural History Museum (0.8 FTE) and an appropriate academic department (0.2 FTE) as a tenured, full Professor, if interested and qualified.

The director is responsible for the following:

Administration

- **Vision, Strategic Planning and Values:** Develop a shared vision consistent with established institutional values, mission and strategic priorities to guide administrative decisions; provide leadership in strategic planning and organizational structure, to facilitate the execution of the BI/NHM mission; promote an open, diverse and inclusive working and learning environment that upholds institutional values and fosters the achievement of institutional priorities.
- **Policies and Processes:** Periodically review existing institutional policies and processes and revise as needed, developing new policies and processes when appropriate; periodically review existing bylaws and revise as needed to align with KU policies and procedures.
- **Collection Stewardship and Development:** Encourage the advancement of state-of-the-art practices in the care of the BI's collections to ensure collections and their associated data are valued for research, education and service; promote the visibility, engagement and awareness of the value of the BI's collections to campus, state and international communities; advance short and long-term strategies for collections storage, access, curation and growth; cultivate BI collections leadership in international cyberinfrastructures.
- **Research:** Further the development of the BI as an international center for collections-based research, knowledge dissemination and informatics by encouraging and advocating for high-quality research in systematic biology, archaeology and related fields; obtain a broad understanding of the role of the BI in the university and science communities; assess priorities and needs of current research programs and identify directions of future growth; promote the free interchange of ideas and provide intellectual leadership to the BI community; represent the BI to the university community, the scientific community, external agencies and the public; promote appropriate use of the BI's resources and information.
- **Student Mentorship:** Facilitate the intellectual growth and development of students; cooperate with degree-granting programs and departments to further the recruitment, education and training of students; enhance support of students.
- **Natural History Museum:** Support the museum's operations and informal science education programs; further the contributions of the NHM to the education and service missions of the BI, the broader university and to the field of informal science education; encourage the participation of BI researchers in NHM informal science education programs; advocate on behalf of the museum at the

university level, in the state and region; promote collaboration with other KU entities and external organizations in alignment with strategic priorities.

- **Advocacy:** Represent the interests of the academic and professional staff of the BI/NHM in front of all audiences.
- **BI Board of Advisors:** Guide activities of the board to align with BI/NHM strategic priorities; serve as an *ex officio* member of the board's Executive Committee.

Personnel and Supervision: Serve as the first point of contact for conflict resolution; recruit and retain top talent; supervise unclassified academic and professional staff, completing annual performance evaluations; foster a community of collegiality and excellence; support staff professional development.

Finances: Oversee and evaluate budget preparation, including the management and distribution of annual operating funds, endowment income and other funds beyond state allocations; in consultation with administrative staff, consider requests for funds from BI employees and students.

Reporting: Prepare annual reports, mission statements and other documents requested by the Vice Chancellor for Research.

Fundraising: Provide strong leadership and active engagement in strengthening the financial resources available and in building a broad base of support for the BI/NHM within and outside the university. The director should be an effective advocate of the BI to university administration, KU Endowment Association, KU alumni and outside the university. The director should aggressively pursue external funding from federal, state and local government, community and foundation-based sources. The director should encourage maximum use of the resources of the Biodiversity Institute Board of Advisors and Friends of the Museum members, and encourage an innovative, entrepreneurial approach in marketing the BI/NHM to the public.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Vision

KU's Biodiversity Institute is one of the world's most comprehensive biodiversity research centers and among KU's most distinctive assets. Since its founding, the Institute has grown, evolved, and served as a significant resource to countless scientists and educators in pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the natural world. As the state of Kansas, the nation and the world face daunting environmental challenges, the work of the Institute has never been more relevant or valuable. The transition to new leadership is an opportunity for the Institute, its constituents and the university to reimagine the Institute as a modern, innovative, world-class center for biodiversity research, education and policy. The Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum seeks in its new director a person of vision, energy, passion and leadership ability to work collaboratively with its community and constituents to shape the institute's future.



Leadership

As the lead administrator of a complex enterprise, the director provides leadership in strategic planning and organizational structure while facilitating and executing the mission of the BI and its Museum. A strategic planning process, expected to conclude in spring 2023, will provide the new director with an operational framework for planning and resource allocation decisions. Amongst the priorities, the director will be tasked to address physical space needs to house the university's extensive collections; accommodate the technology and infrastructure to attract, retain and support talented scientists, graduate students, and museum staff; and support and expand exhibits and programming. The director will want to align the BI's priorities and new initiatives with KU's strategic plan Jayhawks Rising, the master campus plan, and the financial plan, all aimed at advancing KU toward its vision to be an exceptional learning community that lifts each member and advances society. This will require a director who can focus on strategy, planning and resource development. The new director will need to build a team and organizational structure to ensure planning, budgeting, reporting and hiring are effectively carried out while promoting a community of collegiality and excellence. The Director sets the tone and expectations for excellence in collections care, collaboration and engagement of its advisory board and external audiences. Finally, the director is the chief advocate and fund raiser for the Institute, engaging donors, the

scientific community, KU leadership, external agencies and the public.

Research and Education

The director facilitates the education and research mission of the BI and promotes an open, diverse and inclusive learning and working environment that nurtures the growth and development of students, staff, affiliates and visitors. It is important that the director models and fosters intellectual growth and development of graduate and undergraduate students associated with the BI, cooperates with degree-granting departments and enhances support of students. If interested and qualified, the director may sponsor graduate students and serve on graduate student committees.

The BI seeks a director who will continue the BI's development as an international center for collections-based research, knowledge dissemination, and information technology through encouraging and advocating for high-quality research in systematic biology and related fields and strengthening the role of the BI in the university community and natural sciences. The director is expected to assess priorities of current research and the directions of future research for the unit. The director promotes the free interchange of ideas and provides intellectual leadership to the BI community and promotes appropriate use of the BI's resources and information by governmental and private agencies.

Exhibits and public programs

As the primary overseer of the museum's education, outreach, and exhibit programs, the director is expected to further the contribution of the KU Natural History Museum to the education and service missions of the BI and the broader university, as well as to the field of informal science education. The director advocates on behalf of the museum at the university state and regional levels and promotes collaboration with other KU entities and external organizations.

Collections development and stewardship

The BI seeks a director who will encourage the advancement of state-of-the-art practices in the care of the BI's collections to ensure the collections and their associated data are valued for research, education and service. The director promotes the visibility, engagement and awareness of the value of the BI's collections to campus, state, national, and international constituents. The director advances short- and long-term strategies for collections storage, access and curation; promotes responsible collection growth; and cultivates BI collections leadership in international cyberinfrastructures.

Resource development

KU operates in a resource-constrained environment like most public universities during this time of economic uncertainty. Thus, fundraising is an important future source of funds for supporting the BI's needs and strategic priorities. The director will be expected to lead and actively engage in strengthening the financial resources available, building a broad base of support for the BI and KU

Natural History Museum within and outside the university and cultivating donors. The director should be an effective advocate for the BI to the university administration, KU Endowment, KU Alumni and outside the university. The director should aggressively pursue external funding from federal, state and local government, community and foundation-based sources. The director should encourage maximum use of the resources of the BI Advisory Board and membership, and encourage an innovative, entrepreneurial approach in marketing the museum to the public.

Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging

KU strives for a campus where greater fairness, care and belonging are integrated into learning and workplace practices and all have opportunities to meet their academic and professional goals. The director will be expected to set a tone throughout the organization that models these values, as well as to create an environment that supports the recruitment, retention and inclusion of a diverse faculty, staff and student body.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

Required Qualifications

- Doctorate degree or terminal degree from an accredited college or university
- Leadership experience in developing teams and implementing transformational change Demonstrated experience in the administration of an organization, including the management oversight of finances, personnel and program development
- Record of entrepreneurial leadership
- Demonstrated capacity to build support through private philanthropy, grants and public sources
- Excellent communication skills as demonstrated through application materials and interviews
- Experience working with multidisciplinary constituencies
- Record of inclusive leadership, demonstrated commitment to the values of diversity, equity, accessibility and belonging and demonstrated ability to bring different constituencies together
- Experience in a collections-based institution or experience with collections-based research

Preferred Qualifications

- Eligibility for tenured appointment at the rank of full professor in a related academic department
- Demonstrated teaching experience at both the undergraduate and graduate levels or experience in developing educational programs or initiatives
- Demonstrated record of thought leadership or scholarly achievement in a field related to biodiversity, as demonstrated by refereed publications
- Holistic approach and ability to connect strategic priorities, initiatives and units to advance the university's mission
- Vision for the future of collections-based research and the role of museums
- Knowledge of museum operations, including collection management, public education, exhibits, and research

- Professional association with the national and/or international museum community as evidenced by a record of service in a museum or through museum activities of an appropriate professional organization
- Experience in graduate or undergraduate mentoring in a scientific discipline or museum studies program
- Administrative experience in a comprehensive doctoral degree-granting university, university museum or other natural history museum
- Administrative-level knowledge of sub-disciplines of biodiversity informatics and the international biological museum data community

About The BI/NHM

The KU Biodiversity Institute is an internationally recognized center for research and graduate education in systematics, evolutionary biology, paleontology and archaeology. In addition to the collection and curation of recent and fossil animals and plants, the BI is a world leader in the field of biodiversity informatics, including the development of global data architectures and platforms for the processing and research analysis of species data.



The KU Natural History Museum is the iconic public face of the BI and serves public audiences including K-12 schools, families and adults, the university and the informal science education community. The Natural History Museum shares, interprets and educates diverse audiences about the natural world through engaging and innovative exhibits, programming and projects.

The Biodiversity Institute consists of the divisions of Archaeology, Biodiversity Modeling, Botany (McGregor Herbarium), Data Management, Entomology, Herpetology, Ichthyology, Informatics, Invertebrate Paleontology, Invertebrate Zoology, Mammalogy, Ornithology, Paleobotany, Phylogenetic Modeling and Vertebrate Paleontology. These divisions collaborate with the departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Geology, Anthropology and the Museum Studies Program in research, education and public service programs.

The Biodiversity Institute employs 19 (10.35 FTE) curators and research scientists, many of whom are on joint appointments in related academic departments, along with 57 adjunct, courtesy and emeritus researchers. They collectively provide a rich intellectual resource for the museum's 6 postdoctoral staff, 35 graduate students and 36 undergraduate students. The Biodiversity Institute also employs 13 professional collection care and support staff (13 FTE); 6 museum staff (6.0 FTE); and 5 administrative staff (4.8 FTE), including the director position.

Research

At the Biodiversity Institute, about 100 scientists and graduate students study the planet's living and extinct species, ecosystems and past cultures. Their work is critical to understanding the diversity of past and present life and for predicting the future: changes in populations and entire ecosystems, threatened species, the spread of disease and the influence of pest species.

Graduate Education

The Biodiversity Institute is one of the leading organizations in the United States training the next generation of biodiversity scientists and evolutionary biologists.

Research scientists at the Institute, who are also faculty members in academic departments, advise students, include them in research expeditions and serve on their thesis and dissertation committees. Areas of study at the institute include patterns and processes in phylogenetics, systematics, ecology and evolution. Taxonomic areas of study include birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, mammals, plants, sea anemones, parasites, insects, fossil plants and animals.

Most of the 50-60 students in residence conduct collection-based research toward their master's or doctoral degrees and are typically enrolled in one of the following KU academic units: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Geology, Geography, Anthropology, or Museum Studies. Interested students are encouraged to contact faculty members with complementary research interests.

Most graduate students receive a funding package that includes a combination of graduate teaching (GTA), research (GRA), and curatorial assistantships (CA). These appointments nearly always include tuition sponsorship and sometimes include fee sponsorship as well. In addition, graduate students compete for federal funds through the National Science Foundation and other organizations, and for local small-grant competitions funded by private donors.

The facilities of the Biodiversity Institute include laboratories, student research areas and workspaces and institute collections. The collections of about 9 million plants and animals and 1.2 million archaeological artifacts are housed in seven buildings across the KU campus. Additional facilities include the classrooms and laboratories affiliated with the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the KU Field Station and Ecological Reserves.

Research Laboratories

Research labs at the KU Biodiversity Institute provide state of the art facilities for biodiversity scientists. Each research laboratory is a shared-use facility available to all KU biodiversity scientists.

Specimen Labs

The BI's [laboratories for specimen-based research](#) include facilities designed specifically for morphological research, preparation and investigation of wet and dry vertebrate specimens and imaging of biological specimens.

Molecular Genetics Lab

The BI's [molecular genetics laboratory](#) is a full service shared-use facility used for applications ranging from microsatellite genotyping to generation of libraries for next generation sequencing.

Computing Labs

The BI's [computational labs](#) include a GIS laboratory with high-end computational and graphical capabilities and a biocomputation lab with high memory workstations for analysis of genomic sequence data.

Dyche Hall

With an architectural design and exterior ornamentation reflecting the Venetian Romanesque style that graced eleventh- and twelfth-century European churches, Dyche Hall may be the most striking and unique building on the campus of the University of Kansas.

Before there was a Dyche Hall, there was Lewis Lindsay Dyche, once a student of natural science professor (and later chancellor) Francis H. Snow, who, in 1889, became a professor at KU in his own right.

Officially serving as the University's "Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, Taxidermist and Curator of Mammals, Birds and Fishes," Dyche rose to national and, indeed, international renown after his display of North American mammals wowed audiences at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago. According to KU historian Robert Taft, Dyche "had collected many specimens of the larger mammals of the West" and uniquely, had mounted them "not in the stiff, formal position of ordinary museum exhibits, but in natural lifelike occupations against a convincingly real background of their natural habitat."

Following its opening in 1903, the Museum was formally named the Museum of Natural History, although in 1915 following Lewis Lindsay Dyche's death, it took on the informal name of the Dyche Museum. The institution quickly became a popular tourist attraction and, as Henry Bennett had predicted, brought great credit to the University. After a ceiling collapsed in the Kansas State Teachers' College of Pittsburg, the State Board of Regents ordered all school buildings inspected for possible structural flaws. When it came time for the Museum of Natural History to be given the once-over, Radostinsky found that the floors and ceilings, built at the turn of the century with wooden beams and reinforced woven wire, were simply too weak to support themselves much longer.

The restoration of Dyche occurred over a painfully long time (nine years), but considering that most of this period corresponded with the Great Depression, the slow going is certainly understandable. Funding trickled in, on and off, from 1933 till 1940, principally from the state legislature, but also from federal



agencies, such as the Public Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration, and from private donors.

The day of Dyche's grand reopening finally arrived on June 6, 1941, and nearly 400 people joined in the festivities which, incidentally, coincided with the University's 75th anniversary celebrations. The complex was doubled in size after a 1963 addition and, on July 14, 1974, Dyche Hall was entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

Before 1995, the Museum of Natural History at KU was a repository exclusively for vertebrate organisms, living and fossil. Since then, however, it has merged "with the McGregor Herbarium, the Snow Entomological Museum, and the Museum of Invertebrate Paleontology to become the Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center," according to Leonard Krishtalka, a former museum director.

Today, the museum is home to internationally respected collections, now totaling seven million distinct specimens, and welcomes more than 30,000 visitors each year.

Partnerships and Collaborations

The KU Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum has alliances and partnerships with many organizations at KU. They include:

- **The Departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Anthropology and Geology (KU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences).** Most Biodiversity Institute faculty-curators have joint appointments and/or courtesy appointments in one or more of these academic departments, dividing their time across teaching, mentoring, research and service.
- **The Kansas Biological Survey (KBS) and KU Field Station.** Botany scientists hold joint appointments with the KBS, and the KU Natural History Museum conducts joint public events with KBS and Biodiversity Institute scientists at the KU Field Station, located north of Lawrence.
- **The Paleontological Institute.** Publisher of *The Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*, the Paleontological Institute is housed in Lindley Hall. An international encyclopedic reference for invertebrate paleontology, the *Treatise* has been published for 50 years and comprises 49 volumes.
- **The Spencer Museum of Art.** The Spencer Museum is a comprehensive academic art museum, stewarding more than 47,000 artworks. The Museum facilitates arts engagement and arts research integration through exhibitions, artist commissions and residencies, interdisciplinary projects, and free admission and programming.
- **The Hall Center for the Humanities.** One of 12 designated research centers affiliated with KU's Office of Research, the Hall Center helps support, create, and disseminate Humanities research, providing an intellectual hub for scholars and students. Through its public programming, the Hall Center makes visible the significance and continued relevance of Humanities research, engaging diverse communities across the state in dialogue about local, national, and global issues.

- **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences –The Commons.** The Commons, based in Spooner Hall, is dedicated to exploring nature and culture across the sciences, humanities and arts, and was established to be a catalyst for unconventional thinking, interdisciplinary inquiry, and unexpected discoveries.
- **The KU Center for Research.** KUCR is the entity responsible for submitting all proposals for external support of research, instructional and service projects. In addition, KUCR helps research investigators by negotiating contracts, providing proposal and post-award services, administering compliance oversight, managing and constructing research facilities, and handling financial services, including investment of corporation resources.

Collections

The Biodiversity Institute collections include 10 million specimens of plants, animals and fossils collected worldwide and 1.5 million archaeological artifacts. Collections at the Biodiversity Institute are available for study by qualified researchers from academic institutions, museums and other organizations.

For more than 140 years, KU scientists and students have collected and studied life on Earth. Their specimens of plants and animals — prehistoric to living species, microscopic to colossal — have been gathered from every continent and ocean. Their archaeological artifacts document the past cultures of the Great Plains. Biodiversity Institute collections include DNA samples, sound recordings, images, tissues, skeletons and field notes. With powerful tools of information technology, they harness the data associated with their collections to forecast critical environmental events, such as the spread of diseases, invasive species and agricultural pests, and the effects of climate change.

Specimens are housed in several facilities at the University of Kansas. Ethanol-based collections are housed in a state-of-the-art fluid collection facility, which opened in 1996. The facility has 2,400 sq ft of collection storage space on four floors. The collection storage environment is maintained at 65°F year-round. Specimens are protected by an overhead sprinkler system, an HVAC system with 100% air make-up, and UV-shielded lighting.

Many specimens are housed in high-density compactors on both the main campus and west campus. In addition, Dyche Hall has a nitrogen-based tissue storage facility.

About The University of Kansas

Overview

The University of Kansas is the state's flagship university, an R-1 institution and one of just 65 invited members of the prestigious 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 draw upon and contribute to the most advanced developments in the world.

KU has 21 programs ranked in the top 25 among public universities by *U.S. News & World Report*, including #1 rankings for graduate programs in public administration and special education. KU has 65 ranked graduate programs and is ranked 24th in best value among public institutions in 2022. KU offers 5,000 courses, 400 degree and certificate programs and more than 200 fields of study.



Enrollment at KU Lawrence-Edwards was 23,958 students in fall 2021, with an additional 3,727 students enrolled at the KU Medical Center for a university total enrollment of 27,685 students. KU students are from all 50 states and 112 countries. The University had 1,862 international students comprising 7.2% of the student body at KU Lawrence-Edwards and 3.7% of students at KU Medical Center. In fall 2021, the University had 2,786 faculty members and 13,008 employees across all campuses. Student to faculty ratio is 17 to 1. KU's FY2022 operating budget for KU Lawrence-Edwards is \$607 million. As of

June 30, 2021, 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 General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth.

At KU, scholarship and discovery nourish minds while athletics and co-curricular activities uplift spirits. Basketball may have been born in Springfield, Mass., 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 achievement was the 2022 NCAA Division I men's basketball championship.

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, music, arts and more, Jayhawks set high standards and perform at elite levels.

Mission

We educate leaders, build healthy communities, and make discoveries that change the world.

Vision

To lift each other and advance society.

Strategic Plan

KU's University Strategic Plan is in the development phase, and will encompass the Lawrence campus strategic plan, *Jayhawks Rising*, and the KU Medical Center strategic plan, *Lead the Nation*. Objectives were identified under the three mission-based institutional priorities of Educate Leaders, Healthy & Vibrant Communities and Research & Discovery. University leaders are working with key constituents across all campuses to receive input, develop and implement strategies into operation, make positive change, and monitor progress and success.

Instruction

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 \$290 million of externally funded research annually. KU recognizes faculty are part of a network of scholars who shape a discipline as well as teach it. 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, arts facilities and public programs that provide cultural enrichment opportunities.

University 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.

KU Leadership

Douglas Girod, M.D., is the 18th chancellor of the University of Kansas, a leading research institution comprising 28,000 students across three campuses, including a medical center. Under his leadership, KU has established a new budget model, recruited the most academically talented classes in university history, helped KU procure additional funding from the Kansas Legislature and established Kansas Team Health, a groundbreaking new 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 a member of the board of directors for the Association of American Universities and chaired that organization's Advisory Board on Sexual Harassment in Academia. He is on 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.



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 and diverse 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.

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 fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by December 16, 2022.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer's [candidate portal](#).

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Lucy Leske and Jenna Brumleve
KUDirectorBINHM@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 persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies and are the Title IX coordinators for their respective campuses: Associate Vice Chancellor for the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, civilrights@ku.edu [<mailto:civilrights@ku.edu>], Room 1082, Dole Human Development Center, 1000 Sunnyside Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045, 785-864-6414, 711 TTY (for the Lawrence, Edwards, Parsons, Yoder, and Topeka campuses); Director, Equal Opportunity Office, Mail Stop 7004, 4330 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Fairway, KS 66205, 913-588-8011, 711 TTY (for the Wichita, Salina, and Kansas City, Kansas medical center campuses).