2013
CHANELLOR'S
REPORT
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
We’re **change**ing the way we prepare students for success. And we’re **shar**ing the benefits of a research university with **our state** and world.

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**BOLD ASPIRATIONS**

**PEERS LIST**

These are KU’s peers among the 94 public comprehensive doctoral research universities:

- Indiana University
- Michigan State University (M)
- University at Buffalo, SUNY (M)
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- University of Florida (M)
- University of Iowa (M)
- University of Missouri-Columbia (M)
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (M)
- University of Oregon
- University of Virginia (M)

(M) indicates the university has a medical school.
FLAGSHIP UNIVERSITY

It’s a mark of distinction for the University of Kansas that carries with it special responsibilities. These are reflected in our mission: to lift students and society by educating leaders, building healthy communities, and making discoveries that change the world.

In this report and in the State of the University video, we’re sharing our progress and our plans.

We’re in the midst of a comprehensive effort to ensure that KU is recognized among the top tier of public international research universities. Through Bold Aspirations, our strategic plan, we’re changing the way we prepare students for success. We’re fostering research and scholarship across all disciplines. And we’re sharing the benefits of a research university with our state and world.

We have just begun the second year of implementing this plan, and already we’re seeing results. Our 2012 freshman class is the most talented and diverse in our history. We’re recruiting distinguished professors from around the world, and our multidisciplinary strategic initiatives will enhance our ability to meet global challenges.

All of this will raise our stature in relation to our Association of American Universities peers. But more importantly, it helps us better meet our responsibilities to our students and our society.

Bold Aspirations
boldaspirations.ku.edu

KU BY THE NUMBERS

1 of 34 U.S. public institutions in the Association of American Universities

50, 105, 101 States, Kansas counties, and countries represented by KU students

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little
EDUCATING LEADERS

FUTURE LEADERS
Our first priority as a university is to prepare our students for prosperous careers and successful lives. But our students don’t wait until after graduation to show off their talents.

Besides being the largest class since 2009, the fall 2012 freshman class set KU records for academic preparedness, with an average ACT score of 25.1; and for diversity, 21 percent being minority students. These gains reflect enhanced recruitment efforts and the benefits of the four-year renewable scholarships that were announced in 2011.

These new students will follow the path of their colleagues, showing the world that Jayhawks excel in a range of disciplines and competitions.

Once again, KU aerospace engineering students swept the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics Individual Aircraft Design Competition. KU has earned more first- and second-place awards in the 44-year history of this competition than any other university.

Throughout 2012, preparations continued on campus for the School of Music’s Wind Ensemble to perform the world premiere of “In the Shadow of No Towers,” written by critically acclaimed composer Mohammed Fairouz. The group will present the piece March 26, in Carnegie Hall’s Isaac Stern Auditorium in New York City.

Four KU students, all from Kansas, were named Goldwater scholars, and five more students earned prestigious Fulbright grants to study and conduct research abroad.

Jayhawks around the world turned their eyes to London as junior Diamond Dixon won an Olympic gold medal with the U.S. women’s 4x400-meter relay team. And we all cheered when our men’s basketball team

KU students are guided by faculty who are leaders in their fields and whose research and scholarship enhance their teaching.
reached the National Championship game, our women’s basketball team reached the Sweet 16, and our volleyball team reached the second round of the NCAA tournament.

**LEADING SCHOLARS**
As they pursue their degrees, KU students are guided by faculty who are leaders in their fields and whose research and scholarship enhance their teaching.

- Joe Lutkenhaus, distinguished professor of microbiology, molecular genetics, and immunology, earned a 2012 Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize, widely considered a precursor to the Nobel Prize.
- So-Min Cheong, associate professor of geography, won the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the foundation’s most prominent prize for junior faculty.
- Doug Ward, associate professor of journalism, was named the national journalism professor of the year by the Scripps Howard Foundation.
- Laura Moriarty, assistant professor of English, saw her novel “The Chaperone” rise to the top of many critics’ lists.

**KU BY THE NUMBERS**

- **2 National rank** for NIH research funding to School of Pharmacy
- **40 Languages taught annually**
- **48 Nationally ranked graduate academic programs**  
  — U.S. News  
  *(More than all other public Kansas universities combined)*
ROLE MODELS
Visits by distinguished alumni and leaders also benefited students.

At the invitation of Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos returned to campus in September, meeting with students and emphasizing how his time at KU shaped his life and prepared him to lead his nation.

At the 2012 Commencement, the university bestowed its first honorary degrees on four individuals who have made distinguished contributions to society.

- Sheila C. Bair: Doctor of Laws, for notable contributions to financial policy
- Robert J. Dole: Doctor of Laws, for notable contributions as a statesman and advocate for the rights of all
- Kirke Lewis Mechem: Doctor of Arts, for notable contributions to choral music and opera
- Alan R. Mulally: Doctor of Science, for notable contributions to engineering and the transportation industry

Bair, former chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.; Dole, longtime Kansas senator and majority leader; and Mulally, CEO of Ford Motor Co., are KU alumni. Mechem is a native of Topeka.
A NEW FOUNDATION

As part of the Bold Aspirations strategic plan, we’re enhancing undergraduate education and helping students stay on track to graduate.

The KU Core Curriculum, the first universitywide undergraduate curriculum, will ensure that students receive a comprehensive education while providing a new academic flexibility. Some requirements, for instance, may be met with either classes or experiences.

A range of new first-year experiences will help students start college right. The KU Common Book creates a shared community experience, while First-Year Seminars give students the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in a faculty-led, small-group setting.

To encourage student achievement in high school and increase the number of students who arrive prepared to earn their degrees, new admission standards will go into effect in fall 2016. Unlike current standards, which apply to all Board of Regents universities in Kansas, these new standards will only apply to KU.

KU Core Curriculum
kucore.ku.edu

First-Year Experience
firstyear.ku.edu

Admissions
admissions.ku.edu

KU BY THE NUMBERS

$74.7 million in scholarships and tuition grants. (Most in Kansas)

$289.6 million in financial aid and scholarships to 18,850 students

Author Eula Biss discusses “Notes From No Man’s Land,” the collection of her essays that was KU’s first Common Book.

SEE MORE
Watch Common Book author Eula Biss discuss her book.
report.ku.edu/biss
State workforce needs require expanding enrollments in several key areas.
BUILDING FOR TOMORROW
Talented students and faculty need classrooms and laboratories that enable them to reach their full potential, and state workforce needs require expanding enrollments in several key areas.

The School of Engineering broke ground in October for a new teaching building. This state-supported facility is part of an expansion to meet the needs of engineering-intensive businesses in Kansas that resulted in a 22 percent increase in the size of the school’s freshman class this year. The new building will be adjacent to a sustainability facility, opened in fall 2012, that provides research space in fields ranging from biofuels to remote sensing of ice sheets.

The School of Business is on track for a new building, thanks to a $20 million lead gift from the Capitol Federal Foundation. The university also is seeking state support for expanding the KU Medical Center’s ability to educate physicians and health professionals to address provider shortages, especially in rural areas.

Finally, McCollum Residence Hall will be replaced by two new freshman-focused residence halls, slated to open in August 2015. The new halls will be west of Lewis and Hashinger halls on Daisy Hill, creating a green common area for the four halls.

EDUCATING LEADERS:
SELECTED GOALS

• Raise the student retention rate to 90 percent
• Increase the four-year graduation rate to 70 percent
• Enrich experiential learning
• Increase graduate-student appointments
Roy Jensen, director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, led the drive for KU’s National Cancer Institute designation, granted in July 2012.

ADVANCED CARE CLOSER TO HOME

Cancer patients deserve access to advanced care closer to home, which is why achieving National Cancer Institute designation in July was such an important accomplishment.

This milestone will bring clinical trials and world-class care to patients throughout the region, oftentimes in their own communities through our partners in the Midwest Cancer Alliance.

Thank you to everyone who supported this statewide effort, which was led by director Roy Jensen and his team at the University of Kansas Cancer Center.

*The University of Kansas Cancer Center*

kucancercenter.org

SEE MORE

Watch highlights from the official NCI designation announcement on July 12.

report.ku.edu/nci
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR KANSAS
To serve Kansans’ health needs, the School of Nursing has signed a partnership with 18 community colleges, providing nurses who have an associate’s degree in nursing from a participating college the opportunity to receive their bachelor of science in nursing from KU’s online RN-to-BSN program.

We also welcomed our second class of students to the innovative School of Medicine-Salina and our second class of first-year medical students to the expanded School of Medicine-Wichita. That school is now led by Dean Garold Minns, a physician who also is professor and program director in internal medicine.

And in December, we announced that Douglas A. Girod will become the new executive vice chancellor for the KU Medical Center on Feb. 1. A surgeon, Dr. Girod joined the KU faculty in 1994; he has been chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and senior associate dean for clinical affairs. He is enormously respected by his colleagues, his students, his fellow physicians, and our community, and his vision will undoubtedly lead to more significant transformations at the medical center in the years ahead.

FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP
A community’s health is also measured by its prosperity, which is why we’re fostering entrepreneurship and turning discoveries into jobs.

Faculty attended “Entrepreneur Boot Camp” to learn the skills needed to become entrepreneurs. We have launched the KU Strategic Partners Program to build bridges between the university and businesses. The main Bioscience & Technology Business Center on west campus has reached capacity ahead of schedule, and planning has begun on an expansion.

To help keep rural communities strong, the School of Business launched RedTire — shorthand for the Redefining Retirement program — to match retiring business owners with graduates who want to own a business, ensuring those firms can continue in their original locales.
KU continues to serve communities by bringing the benefits of a flagship university to people across Kansas.

Starting this year, the School of Social Welfare will offer its Advanced Standing Master of Social Work through classes in Hays and Garden City, helping practicing social workers enrich their education and better serve their communities.

The Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute at KU is providing grain-engulfment rescue training to grain workers and first responders via a truck equipped with a grain bin, grain hopper, and rescue equipment.

SAFE, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES
KU continues to serve communities by bringing the benefits of a flagship university to people across Kansas.

SEE MORE
Watch the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute showcase its mobile grain-engulfment rescue trailer.
report.ku.edu/rescue
Communities are also made more vibrant through the arts and humanities, which KU provides through programs like Musical Theatre for Kansas, sponsored by the Department of Theatre and KU Alumni Association. This program brings students to theaters across Kansas to perform an original production for local audiences.

*KU Works for Kansas
kuworks.ku.edu

**BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- NCI designation for The University of Kansas Cancer Center
- 23rd and 24th active start-up companies developed from KU research
- 200 new invention disclosures and material transfer agreements in FY2012

**KU BY THE NUMBERS**

- 7,920 Firefighters and first responders trained annually by KU
- 8,050 Law enforcement officers trained annually by KU
- 164,570 Alumni in Kansas
MAKING DISCOVERIES THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

RECORD HEIGHTS
Research universities have a special role in higher education and our society. The scholarship and creative works of our faculty members not only inform their teaching but also contribute to our well-being and prosperity.

Increasing scholarly work across all disciplines is a priority of Bold Aspirations, as is increasing our external research funding. Last spring we announced another record-setting year for federal research funding. In FY2011, KU conducted $256.1 million in externally funded research.

Bold Aspirations
boldaspirations.ku.edu

LIFE-CHANGING RESEARCH
We’re working to expand scholarship in every discipline because we know ideas and discoveries truly can change the world. They also change lives, such as those of the children who will benefit from a new initiative designed to improve the way K-12 schools educate all students, including students with disabilities.

Wayne Sailor, associate director of the KU Life Span Institute’s Beach Center on Disability and professor of special education, will direct this effort with Associate Research Professor Amy McCart. The project is funded by a $24.5 million federal grant — the largest research grant in KU history.

This is just one of the ways KU is changing lives, as well as improving our understanding of the world and ourselves.

BOLD ASPIRATIONS
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

• Sustaining the Planet, Powering the World
• Promoting Well-Being, Finding Cures
• Building Communities, Expanding Opportunities
• Harnessing Information, Multiplying Knowledge

We’re working to expand scholarship in every discipline because we know ideas and discoveries truly can change the world.
MAKING DISCOVERIES THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

Amy McCart (center) and Wayne Sailor lead a research project for K-12 schools that is funded by a $24.5 million grant, the largest in KU history.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCHERS

• Hui Zhao, associate professor of physics, has made discoveries in the area of electron detection that have applications for renewable energy technologies.

• Christie Befort, assistant professor of preventive medicine and public health, examined the factors behind an increased rate of obesity among rural residents.

• David Frayer, professor of anthropology, worked with an international team on a breakthrough giving us new insights into Neanderthals’ brains.

• Kristine Williams, associate professor in the School of Nursing, studied how to use technology to aid families caring for Alzheimer’s patients.

• Andrew Torrance, professor of law, advised the National Academies on intellectual property in the field of synthetic biology.

KU BY THE NUMBERS

$256.1 million in externally funded research grants and contracts in FY 2011. (More than all other public Kansas universities combined)

FACULTY ACCOLADES

We’re proud to be home to faculty members who are leaders in their fields and who have been honored for their research, scholarship, or creative work.
We’ve achieved enough administrative savings through the Changing for Excellence review to fund **22 additional** faculty members.

These faculty include:

- Joseph Heppert, professor of chemistry, and Jeff Aubé, University Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, who were named American Chemical Society Fellows.

- Kij Johnson, assistant professor of English, who won a prestigious Hugo Award for science fiction writing for her novella “The Man Who Bridged the Mist.”

- Darren M. Canady, assistant professor of English, who was recognized as one of the nation’s top emerging playwrights by the American Theatre Critics Association.

And KU honored five of its researchers with the second annual University Scholarly Achievement Awards: Cory Berkland, chemical and petroleum engineering; Jeffrey Burns, neurology; Donna Ginther, economics; Jeffrey Moran, history; and Russell Swerdlow, neurology.

**ADDING TO OUR TALENT**

Talented faculty members drive teaching and discovery at KU, which is why we’re recruiting for 64 new faculty positions.

A dozen of these will be distinguished professors, thanks to funding approved by the legislature and Gov. Sam Brownback. These Foundation Professors will advance our four strategic initiatives and strengthen our membership in the Association of American Universities.

We’ve achieved enough administrative savings through the Changing for Excellence review to fund 22 additional faculty members. We also are recruiting 30 engineering professors as part of the state-supported effort to meet the need for more engineering graduates.

**Foundation Professors**

foundation.ku.edu

**Changing for Excellence**

cfe.ku.edu

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**MAKING DISCOVERIES: SELECTED GOALS**

- Increase federal research expenditures to $175 million
- Increase national academy members to 12
- Increase national faculty awards to 14
Dan Rockhill (left), who is J.L. Constant Distinguished Professor of Architecture and a Foundation professor, heads Studio 804, an award-winning design/build program for graduate students.
All these academic, research, and administrative efforts are supported by donors to *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*, the $1.2-billion comprehensive fundraising campaign we launched last spring. This campaign will advance KU and the University of Kansas Hospital by expanding scholarships, supporting professorships and faculty research, and helping us provide the services and care that benefit people here in Kansas and around the world.

We also rely on help from policymakers, alumni, and friends. With their support, we’ll ensure the University of Kansas is recognized among the top-tier of public international research universities.

We have bold aspirations. We’re changing how we prepare students for success. We’re fostering research and scholarship across all disciplines. And we’re sharing the benefits of a flagship university with our state and world.

That’s our mission as the University of Kansas.

*Chancellor’s Report*

[report.ku.edu](http://report.ku.edu)

*Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*

[farabove.org](http://farabove.org)
SEE MORE
Watch the State of the University video at report.ku.edu/sotu2013
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