

The Keeler Family Intra-University Professorships

The Keeler Family Intra-University Professorships, a faculty development program for tenured faculty at mid-career, originated in the early 1980's. The program has been supported through a generous gift of the Keeler family in memory of W.W. Keeler, former president of the KU Alumni Association, chief executive officer of Phillips Petroleum Company, and principal chief of the Cherokees.

The purpose of the program is to provide the faculty member an opportunity to strengthen his or her knowledge of an academic specialty, to broaden or achieve greater depth in a defined field of scholarship, or to achieve competence in a new area of scholarly endeavor. This opportunity should lead to increased collaboration and synergy across disciplines, as envisioned in the KU strategic plan *Jayhawks Rising*.

Program Information

The program will provide one semester free of departmental responsibilities in order for the faculty member to engage in substantive exchange and interaction with faculty members in another discipline that will result in the development or expansion of ongoing interdisciplinary research and teaching collaboration.

The professorship may be taken in either the fall or spring semester of the next academic year. Activities that may be proposed in the fellowship plan include advanced study of research techniques or theory in the other discipline, joint planning, or piloting of innovative interdisciplinary coursework or preparation and project development for a multi-investigator interdisciplinary research proposal. In all cases, the need for and benefits of the additional expertise and training in the other discipline must be clearly established.

While teaching replacement costs are the responsibility of the department and/or school, the dean or the chair of the recipient's unit will receive \$12,000 to assist in meeting department instructional needs resulting from the award. After the visit, the faculty fellow will submit a brief report to the Provost describing the outcomes of the visit and offering suggestions for future planning.

Applicants must confer with both their home and host departments concerning their intentions to apply. Endorsement of the value of the experience and benefits to both units and the university are important considerations in the review process.

Applications for Professorships for the **2021–2022 academic year are due by Friday, April 9, 2021, 5 p.m.** Applicants, units/departments, and dean/vice chancellor offices must use the [online submission form](#) to transmit application documents to the Provost office.

Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to tenured faculty members on the Lawrence campus who:

- Have not held a sabbatical or other internal or external leave within the past five years
- Will not be on sabbatical leave during the 2021–2022 academic year
- Have not previously held a Keeler Professorship

Application Review

Applications will be assessed on the following grounds:

- **Clarity of the purpose and plan for the professorship**
- **Benefits of the project to the applicant:**
 - Significance of the project at this juncture in the faculty member's career
 - Potential for extending the applicant's knowledge and skills to facilitate multidisciplinary research and teaching
 - Potential for a positive impact on the faculty member's future career and productivity
- **Benefits of the project to the home and participating departments/schools and to the university:**
 - Potential for developing interdisciplinary research programs
 - Potential for enhancing instruction by generating new interdisciplinary courses or areas of study
 - Prior record and qualifications of the applicant to complete the plans as outlined

Application Materials List

Applications should be submitted electronically and include the following individual files saved in pdf format:

1. Proposal

- A 4-5 page proposal outlining
 - The purpose
 - Detailed Plan (Including timeline and specific activities)
 - Specific Outcomes for the Professorships
- The significance of the proposed plan in relation to the assessment criteria

2. CV

- Current CV of the applicant

3. Support Letter

Both the home and host departments (or from deans of schools without departments) must provide a support letter indicating:

- The mutual benefit of the professorship to the department and to the applicant
- The significance of the proposed plan in relation to the assessment criteria
- An evaluation of the faculty member's record of teaching, research and service from the home department/school chair or dean (in schools without departments)
- Endorsements from the applicant's dean and the host dean in schools/College that have departments.

The home and host departments need to collect the dean's endorsement (in schools/College that have departments) and include that endorsement with their Support Letter.

NOTE: The applicant submits 1 and 2. The Unit/Department submits 3

Electronic Submission

Applicants, units/departments, and dean/vice chancellor offices must use the [online submission form](#) to transmit application documents to the Provost office.

The applicant submits documents 1 and 2:

- Proposal
- CV

The unit/department submits document 3*

- Support Letter

**The unit or department may also collect all the documents and submit them for the applicant.*

Deadline

The application and all supporting documents must be received by the deadline. Review of all applications will be completed and announcement of the awards will occur prior to the end of the spring semester. This document is also available on the [Faculty Development Website](#).

Applications for the **2021–2022 academic year are due by Friday, April 9, 2021, 5 p.m.**

Questions

If you have any questions regarding submission of materials, please contact facultydev@ku.edu or 785-864-6489