



UMKC is committed to expanding outreach programs and increasing the diversity in enrollment in professional schools of medicine, dentistry, law, business and computing and engineering. This is a critical priority for anyone committed to justice and our community's future economic prosperity. That's why the UMKC Forward process is worthy of support.

— RAMÓN MURGUÍA, chair, Greater Kansas City Hispanic Development Fund
March 4 Kansas City Business Journal article

Building a new and better future for Kansas City, the state of Missouri and the world in a post-COVID age will require excellence from UMKC. The university must provide our students with the best educational experience and our faculty and staff with the best resources and support to continue their world-class work.

With UMKC Forward, we seek to re-envision the university as a dynamic and financially stable institution. After a collaborative process of discussion and reflection, we are ready to invest.

We commit \$50 to \$60 million in five key investments over five years, as well as \$5 million in hiring tenure and tenure-track faculty over three years.



PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY ESCALATORS™

We are investing in our students on the academic journey, so they can achieve their goals quickly and efficiently and enter the workforce prepared for career success.

Investment Markers

- Multiple points of entry for high school, First Time College (FTC) and transfer students
- Signature student experiences with applied learning and internship opportunities
- Core, personalized student supports in advising and career services, and mentorship by community professionals and expert faculty
- Preparation for applying to professional school and employment
- Leadership badges and co-curricular transcription opportunities



CENTER FOR ADVANCING FACULTY EXCELLENCE (CAFE)

We are investing in our faculty, creating a comprehensive program of mentoring and training so we can attract and retain high quality and engaged faculty.

Investment Markers

- Teaching and learning programming, pedagogy development and instructional support
- Grant mentorship, research proposal support and innovation incubators
- Year-long new faculty orientation and midcareer NextSteps programming
- Leadership development and department chair support and training
- Community-engaged learning, community-engaged research and creative work support



BLUEPRINT FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

We are investing in our research capacity and infrastructure, identifying high-impact research collaborations, training and mentoring researchers as well as investing in faculty hiring.

Investment Markers

- Strategically hire faculty to align with high-impact, interdisciplinary research strengths.
- Build faculty research skills and capacity through mentorship and development.
- Invest in start-up packages and hire more grant writers and pre- and post-award staff to support research enterprise.
- Build data-science strength through the NextGen Data Science and Analytics Innovation Center (dSAIC), a UM System-supported research facility.



CAREER EXPANSION THROUGH UMKC TALENTLINK

We are expanding TalentLink, our adult learner and corporate development program, by adding a robust offering of badges and certificates alongside high-quality professional, online and continuing education opportunities.

Investment Markers

- Leverage UMKC strengths to offer programs to adult market in data analytics, leadership and diversity and inclusion.
- Partner with regional corporations to increase individual and workforce talent through enhanced professional skills.
- Support re-education, training, professional development and personal growth with targeted badges and certificates.



STUDENT AND FACULTY ENGAGEMENT NETWORK

We are investing in our community, connecting students with civic, business and nonprofit organizations for service learning, internships and career development.

Investment Markers

- Leverage community network to focus on increased student engagement.
- Grow number of student opportunities for service learning, internships and volunteer work in the community.
- Support faculty in community-engaged scholarship and service.
- Facilitate mutually beneficial collaborations with our community.



The goal of the UMKC Forward plan is realizing the best UMKC possible – the version of Kansas City’s university which will effectively meet the needs of the whole community. The effective implementation of the UMKC Forward plan means long-term success for this institution, present and future students and the Kansas City metropolitan community.

– KAREN KING, senior grants coordinator, School of Education and chair, UMKC Staff Council

The heart of any university is the relationship of the student to the faculty. Our current administration has embraced the goal of putting the student/faculty relationship first and foremost. Investing in our faculty to better secure student success is a winner, and I’m very excited to see how impactful and productive this new approach can be for UMKC.

– TOM MARDIKES, Professor and head of graduate sound design, UMKC Conservatory

We took COVID-19 as an opportunity to reimagine how our campus works. UMKC Forward is going to be the initiative that continues to push the university into the future, even further than we previously thought.

– MAHREEN ANSARI, SGA president

