

K-STATE FIRST

NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION

Attending Convocation and Discussion Facilitation Guide

Convocation is one of the first major events to bring the incoming class of K-Staters together to mark and commemorate the beginning of the college journey, welcome students to campus, and story tell around what lies ahead. The event will feature Kansas State administrative leadership and diverse leaders from the student body and our alumni.

K-State First would like to offer support in how to creatively build community for our first-year students during this important occasion. Below you will find simple tools to attend Convocation with your students and a discussion facilitation guide in to create meaning around the event.

Convocation will be in Bill Snyder Family Stadium at 5 pm on the Sunday before the fall semester begins. Be sure to arrive early when the gates open at 4:30 pm! You can find more information about the event at www.k-state.edu/convocation.

Attending Convocation

Prior to the event:

We recommend that you reach out to your class, group, or organization to encourage your students to attend together and to make a plan to join them. You might include a brief welcome, explanation of convocation, and details on how to connect by arranging a place to meet and either walk together to the stadium or meet at a designated spot there. Students may be feeling compounded unsureness around the start of school. An invitation to be in community with others while attending Convocation is a perfect way to allay fears, create connection, and start the semester off positively.

Example:

Hi! My name is Jess and I will be your Learning Assistant for University Experience this fall. We will be getting together in front of Ford hall at 4:15 pm to walk over to Bill Snyder Family Stadium to attend Convocation Sunday evening. Convocation is the kick-off event for incoming first year students. We are so excited you are here and look forward to seeing you.

During the event:

Convocation watching is simple — find a spot in Bill Snyder Family Stadium for the event and watch together. The event is designed to engage students through multiple modalities such as videos, music, and powerful welcome messages from members of our K-State campus community.

Additionally, you might find ways for your students to engage with the event as it is happening and with the points and conversation being highlighted by the speakers.

- Discuss what is happening in a GroupMe or Discord channel that you have set up for your class.
- Encourage students to write questions or their thoughts as they are listening.
- Snap a pic of you and your group and share it on social media - be sure to use tag @kstatefirst so we can share it too!



Snap a pic of your group, share a quote from your students, & engage with us!



@kstatefirst



After the event:

To further build community, we recommend creating time and space at the conclusion of the event or during one of your first class periods for students to process and make meaning. Use our Discussion Facilitation Guide to talk about Convocation, its place in a students' journey, and themes for what lies ahead.

Discussion Facilitation Guide

Now that you have shared in this powerful moment of K-State campus life, there is an opportunity to move beyond watching, to process, create meaning, and build community. Here are some discussion questions you may use to facilitate deepened student engagement with Convocation. You can use the discussion questions as given, modify, or add your own to suit the needs of your group.

- **Themes**
 - Building community and a sense of belonging
 - Breaking down barriers around the college experience
 - Being the change and leading where you are at during your time at K-State
 - Finding helpers and building a support team
 - Approaching college adaptively and navigating uncertainty
- What is a comment or point that resonated with you about the Convocation message? Tell us more?
- Many speakers frame their message around the topic of building community; what is a group or organization you would like to connect with during your time at K-State?
- Andrew Smith, the MC for Convocation, uses the term "translator" to describe his role during the event. What surprised you about some of the people you met during the event? How will you uncover hidden meaning or understanding when you don't know something during your time as a student?
- What excites you about the opportunity to lead or be the change during your time at K-State?
- Some speakers talk about seeking support when things get tough. What resources do you feel like would help you during your first semester and why? What might you do if you get stuck?
- How have your experiences and perspectives up to this point in your life helped to prepare you for your time at K-State? How will you help to shape our university community?
- Many speakers describe the challenge of navigating college living, learning, and engagement. What tools do you have to help to help you approach college adaptively and navigate uncertainty?