

## Hosting a Watch Party and Discussion Facilitation Guide

Convocation is the first event 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 NFL star and K-State Alum, Tyler Lockett, Kansas State administrative leadership, and diverse leaders from the student body.

While we cannot gather as we would like, 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 host a **virtual** or **small face-to-face** gathering and a discussion facilitation guide in to create meaning around the event.

Convocation 2020 will be streamed live on Sunday, August 16 from 5:30-6:15 at [www.k-state.edu/convocation](http://www.k-state.edu/convocation).

### Hosting a Watch Party

#### Prior to the event:

We recommend that you reach out to your class, group, or organization to arrange your virtual or small face to face watch party with a brief welcome, explanation of convocation, and details in how to connect. Students may be feeling compounded unsureness around the start of school. An invitation to be in community with others while watching 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 on Zoom for a Convocation Watch Party this Sunday at 5:15 to stream the event together. Convocation is the kick-off event for incoming first year students. All you have to do to join us is click on this link. I will have the event ready to share. We are so excited you are here and look forward to seeing you.*

#### What you need for Face-to-Face Watch Parties:

- Appropriately sized gathering space. Consult University recommendations on how to maintain physical distancing found here. If you are unsure about a room's capacity to meet these requirements, email [rooms@ksu.edu](mailto:rooms@ksu.edu).
- Method to live-stream the event (computer/AV, projector screens, tv, etc).

#### What you need for Virtual Watch Parties:

- Decide the online platform you will use to watch together. Zoom is a great option:
- Make sure everyone has a link to your Zoom meeting. You will need to share a password or permit individuals to enter as the host.
- When sharing your screen on your desktop, go to the menu at the bottom of your Zoom screen once you're in your video call and hit "Share Screen."
- Be sure to tap on the window that has the event playing.
- Check the box "Share computer sound."
- Utilize the chat feature to discuss what's happening and encourage engagement!



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



#KStateWoW  
@kstatefirst

## Hosting a Watch Party (cont.)

### During the event:

Convocation watching is simple—tune in for the 45-minute event and watch together. The event will be pre-recorded; however, it is designed to engage students through multiple modalities such as videos, on-campus stops, and powerful welcome messages from members of our K-State campus community.

Additionally, 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.

- Use the chat function if doing a virtual event.
- Encourage students to write questions during the live event on YouTube. Student leaders will be responding throughout the event.
- Snap a pic of your face-to-face event and share it on social media - be sure to use #KStateWoW and tag @kstatefirst so we can share it too!

### After the event:

To further build community, we recommend creating time and space at the conclusion of the event for students to process and make meaning. Use our Discussion Facilitation Guide on the next page 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
  - Becoming stronger together through community, inclusion, and diversity
  - Growing through learning and difficult conversations
  - 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, navigating uncertainty
- What is a comment or point that resonated with you about the Convocation message? Tell us more?
- One prominent theme of Convocation was that of Diversity and Inclusion. What does it mean to you when you hear, “Our differences make us stronger”?
- Many of the speakers framed 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, used 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?
- Student Convocation speakers described their experience as leaders, both formally and informally across campus, what excites you about the opportunity to lead or be the change during your time at K-State?
- Additionally, student speakers talked about seeking support when things got tough. What resources do you feel like would help you during your first semester and why? What might you do if you get stuck?
- Many of the speakers described the challenge of navigating college living, learning, and engagement during the time of Covid, what tools do you have to help to help you approach college adaptively and navigate uncertainty?

