

**Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Expedited Internal Search**

Kansas State University invites applications and nominations from current K-State employees for the position of Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The successful candidate must have the experience and vision to inspire, guide, and facilitate the College's faculty and staff in the advancement of high-quality teaching, research, and service/engagement while providing leadership that assures the integrity, excellence, relevance, and success of the College's multi-faceted programs. The Interim Dean reports directly to the Provost and Executive Vice President, [Jesse Perez Mendez](#), and serves as a member of the Academic Leadership Council and Deans Council.

This position is ideal for a forward thinking, learner-centric leader with a proven history of successful growth initiatives, strong partnership and collaboration skills, strategic vision, and results-focused leadership. The Interim Dean will be required to continue to grow the College's excellence in teaching, research, and engagement; promote a team-oriented leadership approach; and cultivate internal and external partnerships to propel advancement of the College's [Next-Gen K-State Strategic Plan](#).

**About the College of Arts and Sciences**

As part of Kansas State University, a comprehensive land-grant institution, the College of Arts and Sciences is committed to advancing the mission and vision of the University and the College to become a [Next-Generation Land-Grant University](#).

As the academic home to 20 departments, the College offers programs that span the arts and humanities, natural and quantitative sciences, and social and behavioral sciences. Together, our faculty, staff, and students work to foster discovery, creativity, and innovation while preparing graduates to make meaningful contributions in their fields and communities.

As the heart of the university, the College of Arts and Sciences touches nearly every aspect of K-State's academic mission. Our multidisciplinary environment supports teaching, research, advising, and student success across a broad spectrum of disciplines. We are committed to fostering a welcoming, respectful, and vibrant workplace where faculty and staff feel supported and valued. Please visit the college website (<https://artsci.k-state.edu/>) for additional information regarding the College, its departments and their program offerings.

**Responsibilities:** The Interim Dean will serve as the chief academic and administrative officer of the College and is responsible for fiscal oversight and direction of teaching, research, and outreach, including relations with the external professional community. The Interim Dean must be able to articulate a vision and exert leadership in the development, implementation, growth, and expansion of disciplinary and interdisciplinary opportunities in both undergraduate and graduate programs. The Interim Dean should also demonstrate a commitment to strengthening the college's long-term vitality through strategic enrollment growth, thoughtful stewardship of resources, shared governance and the advancement of a financially sustainable future for the college.

**Specific responsibilities include:**

- leading all academic programs in the College;
- promoting high-quality undergraduate and graduate experiences for resident and online students;
- building continued excellence and growth in research in alignment with the expectations of an R1 institution;
- enhancing engagement initiatives with partners and communities;
- supporting effective academic advising;
- being actively involved in the recruitment and retention of high caliber students, faculty, and staff to the college, as well as promoting Principles of Community and a welcoming environment;
- working productively with students, faculty, staff, department heads, deans, administrators, and the broader community on interdisciplinary and collaborative initiatives;
- providing strategic leadership for developing and advancing the College's strategic plan/goals aligned with the University's vision to become a Next-Generation Land-Grant University;
- proactively working to address budget planning, resource allocation, and the financial management needed for the College to thrive;
- providing strategic leadership for fundraising in collaboration with the K-State Foundation by articulating priorities, engaging key stakeholders, and serving as a principal ambassador for the College, with a high degree of personal involvement;
- maintaining and strengthening strategic relationships with the community, alumni, benefactors, and industry; and
- working closely with constituents on issues related to the enhancement of the College and the University.

**Required Qualifications:**

- Ph.D. or terminal degree in a discipline represented in the College of Arts and Sciences, or in a closely related field.
- A strong record of distinguished academic achievement that merits appointment as a tenured, full professor in one of the College's departments.
- Proven success as an innovative and strategic leader (program, department or college level) with the ability to plan, coordinate, articulate, and execute a strategic vision and initiatives while engaging others.
- Demonstrated success as a strategic and creative planner and an outstanding collaborator and relationship builder with exceptional communication and interpersonal skills.
- A proven record as a successful administrator with responsibility for guiding strategy, evaluating personnel, motivating faculty, resource acquisition and allocation, engaging external constituencies, and fostering teamwork to create collaborative relationships.
- A demonstrated commitment to all aspects of a land-grant mission, including teaching, research, and extension/outreach.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Share the values and culture of the university, and its commitment to the land-grant university mission
- A proven ability to develop and implement successful interdisciplinary and/or international programs.
- A commitment to the breadth of the College of Arts and Sciences, with the ability to advocate for excellence across the sciences, social sciences, arts, humanities, and interdisciplinary programs.
- An understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing the College of Arts and Sciences, including enrollment, shared governance, graduate and undergraduate education, and integration of liberal arts and STEM fields.
- Proven ability to initiate, lead, and facilitate transformational change and innovation initiatives, be adaptable with changing conditions, and comfortable with the ambiguity that accompanies a large public university.
- A firm grasp of the opportunities and advantages of an R1 university with land-grant status.
- Proven record of success in fund development, external fundraising, and financial management during challenging times.
- A history of building, enhancing, and sustaining partnerships across the university, local communities, state, region, and nation.

**Search Process:**

This interim position is an internal search open to current employees of Kansas State University. Anticipated start date is July 1, 2026. The term of service as Interim Dean may be between 6-12 months. Application for the position of or appointment as Interim Dean will not preclude an individual from applying for the permanent Dean of the College.

Applications should be electronically submitted on [K-State's internal job listing website](#). In the application, please include the following: a letter of interest addressing how your skills and experiences match the qualifications listed in this position announcement, a curriculum vitae, and three professional references.

The deadline to apply is 5 PM on May 27, 2026, with campus interviews anticipated to take place during the second and/or third week of June.

Questions about the interim search should be directed to the committee chair, Dr. Debbie Mercer, at [dmerc@ksu.edu](mailto:dmerc@ksu.edu).

If you have a nomination or questions about applying for the position, please contact Rosie Greco, HR Talent Acquisition Senior Strategic Partner, at [rkgreco@ksu.edu](mailto:rkgreco@ksu.edu).