K-State First Faculty Director: Position Description

K-State First (KSF) is the university’s first-year experience program and the home to signature K-State academic experiences, including first-year seminars, learning communities (known as the CAT Communities), the common reading program (K-State First Book), and New Student Convocation. It is an integrated effort to create an outstanding university experience for every first-year student at Kansas State University. Positioned within the Office of Student Success, K-State First benefits from an ecosystem of programs and colleagues committed to supporting new student transitions. The program provides new students with a transition to college-level learning and college life in four important ways:

• By fostering campus community and feelings of belonging
• By offering opportunities for diverse activities and interactions
• By raising academic expectations with engagement and compassion
• By empowering students with a strong sense of personal responsibility and social agency

Bringing together exciting small classes taught by exceptional faculty with a vibrant student life experience, K-State First helps students establish the foundation for a successful college career.

The Faculty Director provides leadership K-State First, its programs, professional staff, faculty, and students. This leadership includes supervision of a full-time assistant director and a part-time coordinator of the K-State First Book program, while also providing team building, mentoring and support to the whole K-State First team, which includes a full-time Learning Assistant Coordinator, Graduate Assistants, and student workers.

The Faculty Director is a crucial liaison with and communicator to the rest of the campus and various stakeholders, including the Provost’s Office, the colleges, the faculty, the advisory Workgroup, Housing and Dining Services, the Office of Recruitment and Admissions, the Registrar’s Office, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, donors, student groups, among others.

The KSF Faculty Director coordinates curriculum and instruction for the first-year seminars and CAT Communities, providing resources and faculty development as well as leadership for scheduling and enrollment of new students.

The KSF Faculty Director prepares and oversees the budget for the program; leads fundraising efforts; leads the effort to organize New Student Convocation; and plays a central role in the program’s assessment, research, and publication efforts.
Qualifications:

- Demonstrated evidence of commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with diverse populations, including students from backgrounds historically underrepresented in higher education
- Knowledge of best teaching and learning practices in higher education, including high-impact educational practices
- Tenure
- Understanding of supervisory fundamentals
- Demonstrated ability to build relationships with faculty, professional staff and advisors, university administrators, students, alumni, and donors

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience teaching with K-State First
- Familiarity with student success research and literature
- Supervisory, leadership experience

This is a part-time (0.25-time) position that comes with a course-release each semester and an add-pay stipend as well as professional development opportunities. The KSF Faculty Director reports to the Vice Provost for Student Success.

To apply for this opportunity, please submit a CV, teaching philosophy statement, and letter of intent that responses to these prompts:

- Discuss your interest in the K-State First Faculty Director position.
- How does this role fit into your professional goals?
- Share your ideas and vision for how K-State First can help the university achieve its goals of becoming a next generation land-grant institution.

Application materials are due March 1, 2023 and should be submitted to studentsuccess@ksu.edu. The successful candidate will need departmental support to accept the position.