Vice Provost and Founding Dean of the Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development

2022
Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) is seeking a bold and visionary leader of the Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development. A spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, and the land-grant mission of economic development and outreach are Missouri S&T’s DNA, and the Vice Provost and Founding Dean is therefore expected not only to lead the new college but also to collaborate with other members of the senior leadership team in all matters of academic strategy and shared operations.

This is an exciting time in Missouri S&T’s history, with fresh leadership, a focused vision, and the transformational opportunities afforded by several significant philanthropic gifts. The dean will join the university’s leadership team of Chancellor Mo Dehgani, Provost Colin Potts, Vice Chancellor for Research Kamal Khayat, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Operations, Alysha O’Neil, and the new deans of Missouri S&T’s other two colleges: the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education, and the College of Engineering and Computing. All are working toward four “north star” goals: to increase enrollment significantly, especially in graduate education; promote student success, thriving, and retention; broaden the research base, and achieve Carnegie R1 status; and elevate Missouri S&T’s national and international stature and reputation. Several significant endowed positions are being filled in all three colleges, enabled among other gifts by a transformational donation of $300 million by Fred and June Kummer, and Missouri S&T has embarked on the building of an ambitious Arrival District complex of buildings and public spaces. Four major research centers have been created in trans-disciplinary, problem-focused areas that will bring basic and translational researchers together to address socio-technical challenges: advanced and resilient infrastructure, resource sustainability, advanced manufacturing, and artificial intelligence and autonomous systems. Public and philanthropic commitments have recently been made to support a satellite campus devoted to manufacturing outreach and cooperative research.

In summary, Missouri S&T’s future is bright and assured. Although the groundwork is already in place, there is ample opportunity and freedom to define and refine the college’s vision and its role in shaping the future of the university. We are seeking a dynamic leader who is eager to accept that challenge and make a long-term difference.
About Missouri S&T

Missouri University of Science and Technology is one of the nation’s top technological research universities and one of four distinct universities of the University of Missouri System. Missouri S&T is a public university with three academic colleges: the College of Arts, Sciences, and Education; the Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development; and the College of Engineering and Computing. The University offers quality educational opportunities, with 101 different degree programs in 40 areas of study in engineering, science, computing and technology, business, social sciences, humanities, and education. Together, the colleges are home to almost 400 full-time faculty, in addition to part-time faculty. Missouri S&T has total student enrollment of 7,271 for Fall 2021 with graduate student enrollment of approximately 1,545. There are 552 doctoral students pursuing one of 22 programs offered in STEM fields, and over 832 students enrolled in graduate programs serving working professionals. Missouri S&T is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a doctoral university with high research activity, and at the close of FY2021, research expenditures at S&T were $53,315,090. Approximately two-thirds of funding comes from federal sources and the remaining one-third of funding comes from industry/private partnerships.
History of Missouri S&T

Founded in 1870 as the University of Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, the school, known as MSM, was one of the first technological institutions in the nation. MSM was established as part of the land-grant movement established by the federal government through the Morrill Act. In 1963, following the establishment of the UM System, the school became known as the University of Missouri-Rolla, or UMR, and the university’s national reputation was established under that name. In 2008, the university changed its name to Missouri University of Science and Technology to broadcast more clearly its position as a leading STEM-focused university dedicated to discovery, creativity, and innovation to benefit the citizens of Missouri, the nation, and the world. As one of the original land-grant universities in the state, and the only space-grant university in the UM System, Missouri S&T is poised to capitalize in the coming years on the growing importance of STEM education throughout the state and the nation.

Missouri S&T Today

Missouri S&T has a unique constellation of comprehensive programs that benefit Missouri, the region, and the nation.

Research

Missouri S&T receives federal funding for externally sponsored research from the National Science Foundation (NSF), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Defense (DOD), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), among others. The university is home to two U.S. DOT University Transportation Centers, a DOE SunShot consortium, and an FAA Center of Excellence. With NSF, Missouri S&T has a long history of successes in the MRI program, CAREER awardees, and EAGER and GOALI awards. It is also home to an I-Corps site and both CyberCorps®: Scholarship for Service (SFS) and Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Programs.
Missouri S&T is well known for its industry-focused research programs. Currently there are six active industry consortia, three of which have more than a dozen industry members. The three largest consortia are: the Center for Electromagnetic Compatibility (NSFI/UCRC), the Center for Aerospace Manufacturing Technologies, and the Kent D. Peaslee Steel Manufacturing Research Center. This industry activity is supported by an active Economic Development/Technology Transfer Office.

The scholarly productivity of the faculty goes well beyond the STEM disciplines to provide rich benefit and international recognition to S&T. With prestigious grants funded by such agencies as the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Fulbright Program, S&T is home to some of the most highly productive social science and humanities scholars in the state of Missouri.

**Corporate Partnerships**

Numerous corporate partners worldwide support Missouri S&T’s academic programs. The university has relationships with nearly 3,000 companies and government agencies that hire our students, provide internship and co-op experiences, sponsor research, and collaborate in degree and non-degree education.

Companies such as Boeing, Apple, Google, Honeywell, Nucor, ArcelorMittal, Caterpillar, Black & Veatch, Burns & McDonnell, Chevron, Conoco Phillips, ExxonMobil, Garmin, Anheuser-Busch, Cisco Systems, PepsiCo, and General Motors are among the more engaged corporate partners. The HyPoint Industrial Park in Rolla is home to several high-tech small businesses that also work closely with the university. In addition, Missouri S&T fosters partnerships with numerous federal agencies including Sandia National Laboratories, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the U.S. Army via its nearby base at Fort Leonard Wood, and others.

**The Kummer Institute**

The Kummer Institute for Student Success, Research and Economic Development was established in October 2020 through a gift of $300 million from June and Fred Kummer, longtime benefactors of Missouri University of Science and Technology. Part of the gift will support the establishment of four new research centers at Missouri S&T: Artifical Intelligence and Autonomous Systems, Advanced Manufacturing, Resource Sustainability, and Advanced and Resilient Infrastructure. These research centers will elevate Missouri S&T’s national reputation, position Missouri S&T as a leader in their respective fields, and leverage, build and grow academic-industry-government partnerships to lead the economic transformation of the region, state, and nation.
The Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development

The Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development is a new kind of academic school for the mid-21st century. The Kummer College will be established in the summer of 2022, consisting of the Departments of Business and Information Technology, Economics, and Engineering Management and Systems Engineering, providing those departments’ existing degree programs at BS, MS/MBA, and PhD levels with new interdisciplinary programs soon to follow. In addition to its permanent faculty, faculty members from the other colleges will be eligible for affiliate faculty status, particularly at the intersection of STEM applications, arts, and innovation. Robust graduate certificates such as Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation; AI, Machine Learning, and Automation in Business; Financial Technology; and Management and Leadership will prepare students for leadership roles in fast-changing tech industries. Innovative new degrees and emphasis areas will be developed in alignment with the vision of the donors, the founding dean, and the faculty of the Kummer College.

The Kummer College will not just be a locus for teaching, researching, and fostering innovation; it will be innovative to its core. The college will be the home of educational innovations in areas such as stackable credentials; modular, self-paced learning; continual online and distance learning; the integration of traditional curricula and co-curricular experience, etc. The college will also serve as a higher-education innovation incubator for Missouri S&T as a whole.
The Vice Provost and Dean

Reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, the Vice Provost and Founding Dean of the Kummer College will develop an inspirational vision, key strategies, and ambitious goals that will establish the College as a global leader in transformational education and research. The Vice Provost and Dean will create an environment of innovation at the nexus of technology and business that yields real-world applications and solutions to drive economic development at regional, statewide, national, and global scales.

The Vice Provost and Dean will facilitate effective and productive collaborations across disciplines that engage key industry, government, and academic partners. The Dean will work with the university community and external partners to link fundamental and applied research that builds on systems thinking and prototyping.

The Vice Provost and Dean will be committed to organizational excellence through respectful and inclusive communication and processes; prioritizing the academic, professional, and personal development of students, staff, and faculty; conflict resolution through creativity, cooperation, and teamwork; responsible management of the College’s finances, personnel, and physical assets; and engagement of faculty and University Advancement to grow and diversify revenue streams into the College.

Key attributes of the Vice Provost and Founding Dean include:

- Demonstrated strategic planning and project-centered implementation skills that can propel the College toward long-term goals. Bold leadership through change, including connecting the dots of opportunity and continually reviewing and reconfiguring the College’s assets and people to meet demand and to innovate
- Global perspective and experience that supports the College’s ability to adapt and thrive amid constantly changing global factors
Resource management that drives measurable results, with a commitment to seizing entrepreneurial opportunity and demonstrating accountability

An ability to identify and secure financial resources that support the college

Sound operational skills anchored by a situational awareness of various functional domains within the College, the Institute, and the University

Keen judgment to make timely, effective decisions and implement solutions that effectively address problems and are developed with creativity, stakeholder input, and a nuanced understanding of complex issues

Relational approach to leadership that inspires trust, motivates top performance, and creates results that are greater than the sum of the parts

Commitment to work effectively with, and leverage the strength of, people who differ in race, age, gender, and other important background traits, including effective recruitment, hiring, retaining, and supporting diverse candidates

Finely tuned communication skills that persuade and influence diverse audiences on vital matters, including strategies, concepts, decisions, activities, and outcomes

Deep understanding of the human dimension within every decision, especially those decisions most easily reached from a data-informed perspective

Firm understanding and strong adherence to the university’s values of lifelong success, creativity, integrity, sustainability, partnerships, and inclusion

The University seeks candidates who bring the following skills and experiences:

- An earned doctoral degree from an accredited university.
- Academic and scholarly credentials in a subject area and at a level appropriate for appointment as tenured full professor within one of the departments of the college.
- A record of outstanding administrative and leadership success in academic, corporate, or research organizations.

Application materials should include a letter of interest addressing how the candidate’s experience matches the position description, a current curriculum vitae, and a statement explaining how their previous and potential contributions enhance a culture of diversity and inclusion through administration, teaching, research, creative activity and/or service.

Nominations, applications, and inquiries of interest may be sent in confidence to the college’s executive recruitment consultants:

Martin M. Baker, Managing Partner
Chelsie Whitelock, Principal
Buffkin/Baker
mstkummerdean@buffkinbaker.com