



**BUILDING A**  
*better tomorrow*

2021 APPRECIATION REPORT





## SOMETIMES, TURNING POINTS ARE CAUSED BY THE UNEXPECTED.

The pandemic during the 2020-2021 academic year was at the root of pivots for many, yet the desire for discovery and learning through undergraduate and postgraduate study prevailed. UMKC was, and continues to be, the choice for students searching for a better tomorrow, and your decision to support them during trying times has championed their paths forward.

UMKC has asked and encouraged our student and faculty communities to face the challenges of an academic year unlike any other — online learning and teaching, campus and temporary program closures, new technology adaptations, and increased food and financial insecurities. **And you noticed.** Nearly 4,500 donors joined us in confronting those challenges by providing gifts to strengthen our effectiveness through student assistance and scholarships, research in data analytics supporting health care, and programs for women's advancement, urban teaching and adult learning. In addition, 16,100 donors invested in the necessity of public radio journalism and professional theatre to an engaged and culturally vibrant Kansas City.

Your generosity became the turning point that helped fulfill ambitions and turn dreams into reality. The stories of our students' resiliency are praiseworthy, and you saw that and helped when they needed it most. The UMKC Foundation applauds your actions in preparing these students for their bright tomorrows. The university is what we are today and what we will become in the future because of the urgency you sought yesteryear.

With grateful hearts,

*Lisa B. Baronio*

Lisa B. Baronio  
President, UMKC Foundation  
Chief Advancement Officer, UMKC

*Jerry D. Reece*

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Chair, UMKC Foundation Board

## BRIDGING BARRIERS

After meeting Dean Kevin Truman of the UMKC School of Computing and Engineering, alumnus Nick Simha and his wife Soumya were inspired to establish [The Nick and Soumya Scholarship](#) to support women looking to pursue a degree in STEM-related fields at UMKC. The Simhas hope their scholarship will make the male-dominated engineering field more accessible to talented women seeking careers.

The future of Kansas City's legal community fills the classrooms of UMKC's School of Law. A group of diverse students and alumni saw an opportunity to come together and create a sustainable endowed scholarship with the UMKC Law Foundation to help recruit and retain racially and ethnically diverse and LGBTQIA+ students at UMKC School of Law.

By establishing the Diverse Student Coalition Scholarship, the UMKC Law Diverse Student Coalition and the UMKC Law Diverse Alumni Network, in partnership with local law firms and companies, made pursuing a legal education a reality for a more diverse community of students.



The UMKC Law Diverse Student Coalition's Inaugural Diversity Banquet

*Fostering diversity through scholarship*





MKC energetically reimagines classroom possibilities as the home of Kansas City's premier business school. The \$15.2 million Bloch Heritage Hall renovation project, bolstered by 41 donors, aims to create a more advanced and cohesive educational environment through larger classroom spaces, improved technology for virtual learning and a centralized student services center.

With a grand reopening set for July 30, 2022, the anniversary of Henry Bloch's 100th birthday, the renovation of Bloch Heritage Hall exemplifies the transformative power of UMKC's community of donors and their dedication to redefining student success.



Statue of Marion and Henry Bloch in front of Bloch Heritage Hall construction site

## INNOVATIVE EXCELLENCE

Former UM System president Gary Forsee and wife Sherry Forsee pledged [\\$1.2 million to the NextGen Data Science and Analytics Innovation Center \(dSAIC\)](#) housed on UMKC's campus, positioning Kansas City's university as a leading-edge data analytics hub for critical healthcare research. The Forsees' gift is a formative step in defining dSAIC's role in health, business and workforce development across Kansas City and the region.

*reimagining classroom possibilities*



hat started as a basic computer skills class through SPARK (Senior Peers Actively Renewing Knowledge) at UMKC led to 20 years of continued education for Flossie Pack. In celebration of her 93rd birthday, the Pack family surprised Flossie with a donation of \$600,000 to SPARK in her honor, effectively renaming the program the SPARK Flossie Pack Center for Lifelong Learning.

Because of the Pack family's philanthropic investment, SPARK can continue providing learning opportunities at a modest cost to its more than 200 members, ages 50 to 95, with no prerequisites or exams. Their partnership with the university provides a community for seniors to share ideas and experiences, furthering the mission of UMKC and reducing the isolation that many older adults experience.



A recent SPARK field trip

## REDEFINING TRADITION

The Crankstart Foundation provides nontraditional students a reliable path to graduation at UMKC with their generous student financial aid grant. Through the [Crankstart Reentry Scholarship](#), individuals between the ages of 25-50 looking to pursue their first bachelor's degree after an interruption of five or more years to their academic career can finish their undergraduate education.

*sparking a love of lifelong learning*



he path to higher education looks different for every Roo, and UMKC is committed to the academic success of all first-time college students that call our campus home. UMKC's First Gen Roo program seeks to embrace the experiences, skills and values first-generation students bring to our community.

A \$50,000 gift from the Martha Jane Starr Field of Interest Fund prepared First Gen Roo's 2020-2021 programming to support 61 students across all academic disciplines through peer mentorship, community resource connection, technology support, academic and financial coaching, and early move-in for those living on campus.



First-generation students Jahlah Baum, Daniel Rodriguez and Ele Bruning

## CHAMPIONING EDUCATION

As the son of Hugh J. Zimmer, a key founder of the UMKC School of Education's *Institute for Urban Education (IUE)*, David Zimmer's choice to give to IUE signifies the family's unwavering commitment to UMKC's efforts to transform education in Kansas City.

His thoughtful gift to the Hugh J. Zimmer Family Scholarship for IUE supports students as they prepare to make a difference as teachers in Kansas City's urban classrooms.

*supporting* first-generation students





yearning for clarity and trustworthy information escalated in the spring of 2020 and continues in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many sought familiar sources in a variety of media outlets — broadcast television and radio, online journalism and social media — to become informed about this health and safety threat. And Kansas City listeners overwhelmingly chose KCUR 89.3 to guide them during these turbulent times.

More than 1 million people accessed KCUR's resources for health reporting and updates through live radio broadcasts, on-demand streaming and online news when needed most — and without cost. Fact-based, life-saving health reporting on KCUR was made possible with support from the Kansas Grantmakers in Health and other community contributors, including the Health Forward Foundation. Listeners also learned health care is not equitable for all residents. Commitments to health equity from these community partners combined with 64 years of accessible broadcast journalism is an ideal partnership in a community responsible for one another.



## PROVIDING ACCESS TO CARE

The [\*Sojourner Health Clinic\*](#) serves an ever-growing, under-insured patient population in Kansas City. Support from individual households and philanthropic organizations affirm the necessity to address health care inequities. Collectively, their gifts strengthen the impact of the clinic's volunteer staff — UMKC medical students — to provide health education, disease management, immunizations, health screenings, and medications at no cost to more than 300 patients annually.



[\*Take a look inside the Sojourner Health Clinic\*](#)

*advancing community care*

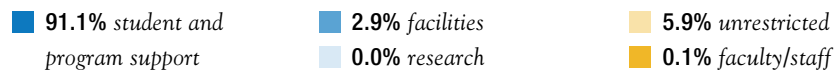
## 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR (FY)

July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021  
the UMKC Foundation received

# \$29,486,905



how the gifts were designated



## FY21 BY THE NUMBERS

20,577  
total donors

111,805  
total gifts

## FACULTY AND STAFF SUPPORT

\$628,722  
total giving

509  
total donors

3,358  
total gifts

## ALUMNI SUPPORT

\$5,981,060  
total giving

4,165  
total donors

\*Includes personal and family foundations, individual donor-advised funds and workplace giving generated by charitable donation management systems.

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donor impact by the numbers



# MORE OPTIONS FOR CHARITABLE GIVING

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*“To honor my late wife’s commitment to education, I contribute to her UMKC memorial scholarship every year. My financial advisor suggested donating through my IRA, the best option to meet my charitable and financial goals.” —James Heryer, M.A.*

There are many ways to become a partner in UMKC’s future through the UMKC Foundation, including an IRA Charitable Rollover. With this option, the UMKC Foundation can accept a gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly, saving you valuable income tax dollars while simultaneously supporting the charity of your choice.



For more information about charitable IRA gifts to the UMKC Foundation, contact Shelly Doucet, Director of Planned Giving, at 816-235-5123 or [doucets@umkcfoundation.org](mailto:doucets@umkcfoundation.org), or visit us at <https://umkcfoundation.org>.

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.

