



KANSAS WOMENS LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE | AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Greetings,

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the Kansas Women's Leadership Institute.

What is the KWLI? The KWLI is a five-week immersive leadership program held at the University of Kansas and designed for college-aged women to study adaptive leadership, identify their leadership competencies, and make progress on an issue or project they care about in their home community. Following the five-week immersive experience, participants engage online in a structured 9-month series of learning modules. And after that...a lifetime of making a difference by continued learning about and effectively engaging in the process of leadership. Find out more and feel free to share these links with potential applicants at kwli.ku.edu.

Who participates in the KWLI? KWLI participants include both undergraduate women from the state of Kansas alongside undergraduate women from the Hong Kong, India, Morocco, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Zambia. The international women who attend are chosen by the U.S. Embassy in their home country and their participation is funded by a U.S. State Department initiative. The Kansas women are chosen through partnerships with colleagues such as you, and any undergraduate woman attending any Kansas institute of higher education is eligible, with preference given to women from small and/or underserved Kansas communities. Over thirty Kansas women are now KWLI alumnae, and range from towns such as Dodge City, Jetmore, and Colby to Bonner Springs, Tecumseh, and Newton. The Kansas participants are fully funded by KU endowment gifts from visionary donors who believe in the power of transforming and elevating women's voices. There is no cost to participate in the KWLI besides travel from hometown to Lawrence.

Why Kansas women? Our vision has always been to create a world in which women's leadership is realized to be essential in every thriving community. For the first few years of our Department of State grant we had the privilege of working toward that world by elevating the power of women's voices in communities in other countries. But we always knew that making that same difference right here at home was essential to truly fulfilling our vision. What we know from experience is that women from small and/or underserved communities in Kansas face many similar issues as do those in Casablanca, New Delhi, and even Islamabad. Sure, the context and cultures might differ, but the desire for women to have educational opportunities, access to quality health care (particularly women's health care), to be free from domestic violence, and free from gender-based discrimination is, in fact, the same. Through the KWLI we provide the opportunity for women in Kansas to unite with women from around the world on the topics that are most important to them. In our program they engage in a curriculum designed to help them tackle those challenges, elevate their voices as women, expand their leadership capacity, develop a powerful and lasting network of support, and change their communities for the better.

What can you do as a College/University Partner? In becoming a KWLI College/University Partner, you can be part of our effort to help Kansas higher education institutions give back to their communities in new ways. Functionally, you would serve as the recruiter at your individual school. We ask that you seek out the best and the brightest undergraduate women on your campus, who desire to make a difference. We recognize that you know your students better than everyone else and have an interest in the most highly qualified young women representing your institution. Please direct those students to the online application link at kwli.ku.edu by the December 1, 2023 deadline.

We will be posting a list of our college/university partners, along with your contact information, on our website. We will also promote our college/university partnerships at our major events and will look forward to inviting you to attend various events during the course of the Institute. We believe in the power of higher education in Kansas working together to give back to our state, and hope you will be part of this initiative.

What is the timeframe?

- December 1, 2023 - Application deadline
- Late December, 2023 - Semi-finalists selected and notified
- Early January, 2024 - Interviews (Phone, Skype, or In Person)
- Mid-January, 2024 - Notify selected participants and alternates
- February 1, 2024 - Deadline for Letter of Commitment
- Spring 2024 - Orientation and Preparation
- Late June - End of July - KWLI and Educational Travel

Unfortunately, we are not able to accept all applications (we wish we could!). Based on our funding and space accommodations, we will accept as many women as possible. Therefore, the KWLI Application Review Committee will review and notify the applicants of their semi-finalist status by late December 2023. They will be interviewed in person or via Zoom mid-January 2024. We will inform the finalists of their acceptance by the end of January 2024. The summer immersive program will be held from June 21 – July 26, 2024, with the follow-on program running through April 2025.

Thank you in advance for your help in recruiting in the next Kansas class of the KWLI – we look forward to a long-term partnership with you in empowering women all across the state of Kansas to elevate their voice, develop their leadership capacity, and thrive. Please do not hesitate to contact Jaden Wilcoxson, our administrative program coordinator if you have any questions. She can be reached at (785) 864-8207 or kwli@ku.edu.

Best regards,
Mary Christine Banwart & Alesia Woszidlo
Directors of KWLI

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