



# PRESIDENTS CLUB

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**Alumni Association**



*Membership in The Presidents Club  
is an investment that supports all areas  
of the University of Kansas.*





# The Presidents Club

**KU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

*Since 1883, the KU Alumni Association has built one of the nation's most influential and active associations of former students and friends. The leadership and involvement of alumni and friends have helped the University of Kansas become a world-class university.*



The Alumni Association and KU Endowment established The Presidents Club in 2005 as an opportunity for alumni and friends to make immediate impact in strengthening the University. The Presidents Club recognizes annual gifts of \$1,000, \$3,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 or more in support of the Alumni Association's goal to build a larger, more powerful network of Jayhawks worldwide.

Since 2005, annual donors to The Presidents Club have contributed more than \$3 million to transform the Association:

- Annual events have grown from 75 to more than 450, and participation has increased from 3,200 to more than 50,000.
- Eighty percent of the Association's activities support academic areas, alumni networking and student recruitment. Ten years ago, 80 percent of Association events focused on athletics.
- The number of Jayhawk networks soared from 22 to 114, along with the number of volunteer network leaders—from fewer than 30 to more than 500.



**“We believe in The Presidents Club** because it makes possible the extra programs to benefit future students, current students, faculty and alumni that Annual and Life memberships alone cannot sustain. We really love the work that has been done in legacy recruiting and scholarships, as well as the professional networking opportunities that benefit many Jayhawks. Networking is particularly helpful for young Jayhawks starting their professional careers.”



—Russ and Linda Ellis Sims, e'79,  
Independence, Missouri

**“I recognize the effort** to appeal to a cross-section of alumni through activities other than just watch parties. The contributions we make through The Presidents Club make that variety possible in other cities. ... Many of us have made friends with young alumni who are just getting careers started. As an attorney, I hear from a number of recent law school grads who are trying to expand their options. They value our opinions in making career choices. Through the Association’s events, you make an acquaintance, and an acquaintance turns out to be a lifelong friend.”

—Tom Vaughn, g’78, l’78, Chicago



- The Association helped establish the Jayhawk Generations Scholarship for academically qualifying out-of-state students from KU families, and our board members and staff worked with campus colleagues to establish four-year, renewable scholarships with clear guidelines for all academically qualifying students.

- To support student recruitment, the Association created a new staff position, director of legacy relations, to work directly with the Office of Admissions, ensuring that prospective students from KU families receive personal communications and individually tailored campus visits.

**“The entire Dillman family** is thrilled and proud to support the University and the Alumni Association. The Association’s work with alumni is vital to the health of KU, so we are happy to provide additional funds to support national outreach. Given our affection, respect and love for KU, it’s the least we can do. We encourage all loyal alumni and friends to support the Association with their generosity and join The Presidents Club.”

—Steve, c’81, and Kelly Dillman, Kansas City, Missouri



- The number of full-time staff members has grown by more than 30 percent to enhance not only student recruitment but also communications in all media and program support for state, national and international networks. The Association now maintains satellite offices in Kansas City and Wichita.

- Jayhawks for Higher Education, the Association’s statewide legislative advocacy network, has grown from 320 volunteers to nearly 1,800, including a 30-member steering committee.

### Worldwide Jayhawk network



The Association's strategic plan calls for continued growth, especially in key areas:

- career services for alumni and students
- partnerships with academic units for events and programs, including professional and social networking
- student recruitment
- legislative advocacy

Annual gifts to The Presidents Club are 100 percent tax-deductible. Presidents Club members receive special pricing or free



admission to Alumni Association activities as well as a 20 percent discount on all purchases from the KU Bookstore.

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**“We felt removed from KU for a while after graduation—those years when we had our heads down and were focused on our careers. We reconnected through the Alumni Association’s events, and the variety appeals**



*to us. The local KU picnic and zoo outing are really important for our family. ... KU was a critical part of our development and how we got where we are today, and we want to make sure that legacy continues. The Association provides the outreach and constant cadence of communication so folks remember where they came from.”*

**—Kevin, c’92, g’95, and Heather Switzer Wagner, e’96, Colorado Springs**

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# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University of Kansas

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