



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
MISSOURI

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

REDEFINING WHAT'S POSSIBLE

2024-2025

**REDEFINING
WHAT'S POSSIBLE**

THE **PRESIDENT'S
COUNCIL**

Roger Best

Shari Bax

Lindsay Chapman

Tim Crowley

Courtney Goddard

Bill Hawley

Matt Howdeshell

David Pearce

Kristen Plummer

Susan Smedley

THE **STRATEGIC
LEADERSHIP
TEAM**

Corey Bowman

Doug Davenport

Kristi Harms

Laurel Hogue

Jackie Jackson

Janette Klein

Chris Lang

Ann McCoy

Brenda Moeder

Justin O'Neal

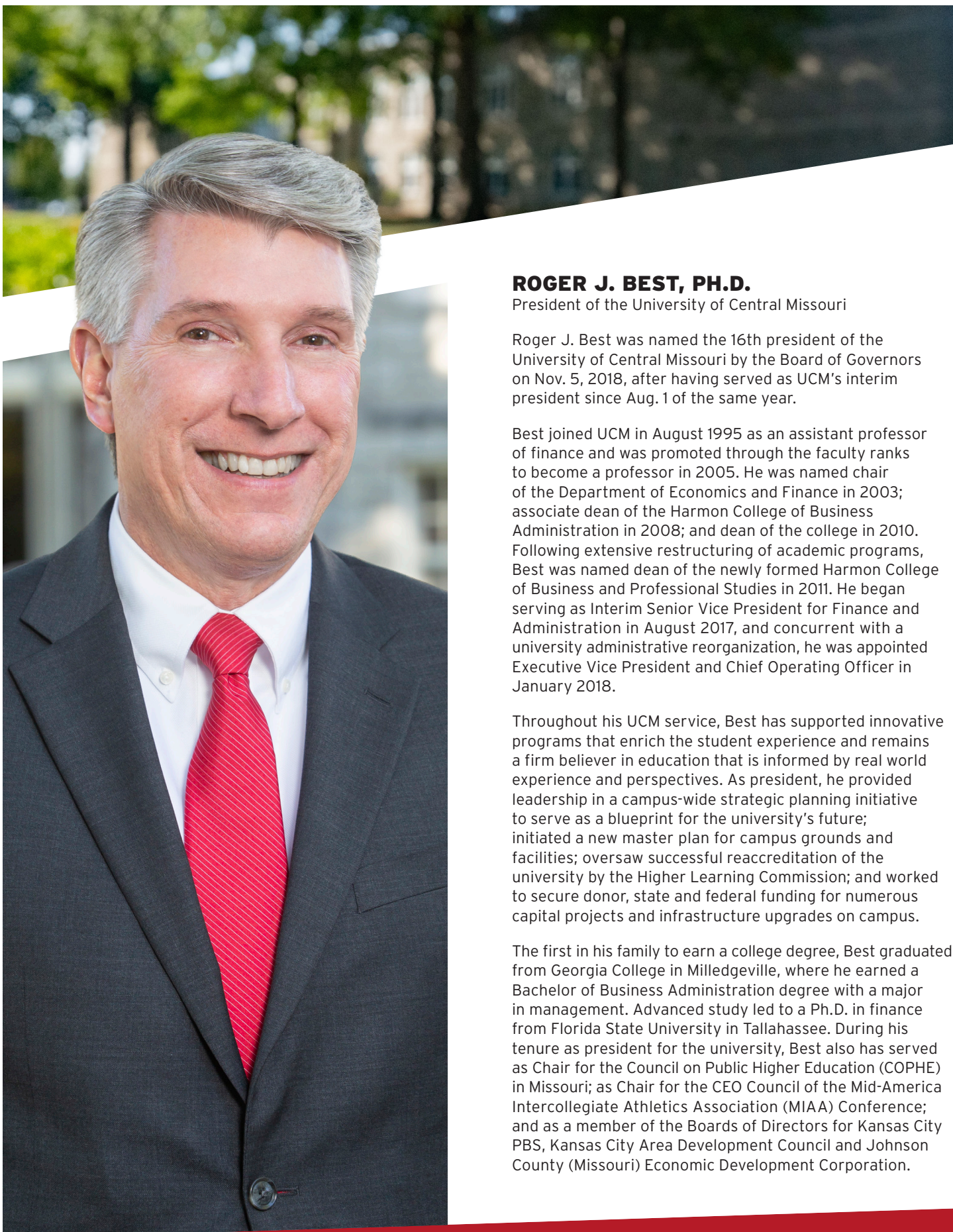
Jeff Robertson

Michael Sawyer

Matt Thomas

Kelly Waldram Cramer

Cory Wicker



ROGER J. BEST, PH.D.

President of the University of Central Missouri

Roger J. Best was named the 16th president of the University of Central Missouri by the Board of Governors on Nov. 5, 2018, after having served as UCM's interim president since Aug. 1 of the same year.

Best joined UCM in August 1995 as an assistant professor of finance and was promoted through the faculty ranks to become a professor in 2005. He was named chair of the Department of Economics and Finance in 2003; associate dean of the Harmon College of Business Administration in 2008; and dean of the college in 2010. Following extensive restructuring of academic programs, Best was named dean of the newly formed Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies in 2011. He began serving as Interim Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration in August 2017, and concurrent with a university administrative reorganization, he was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer in January 2018.

Throughout his UCM service, Best has supported innovative programs that enrich the student experience and remains a firm believer in education that is informed by real world experience and perspectives. As president, he provided leadership in a campus-wide strategic planning initiative to serve as a blueprint for the university's future; initiated a new master plan for campus grounds and facilities; oversaw successful reaccreditation of the university by the Higher Learning Commission; and worked to secure donor, state and federal funding for numerous capital projects and infrastructure upgrades on campus.

The first in his family to earn a college degree, Best graduated from Georgia College in Milledgeville, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in management. Advanced study led to a Ph.D. in finance from Florida State University in Tallahassee. During his tenure as president for the university, Best also has served as Chair for the Council on Public Higher Education (COPHE) in Missouri; as Chair for the CEO Council of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) Conference; and as a member of the Boards of Directors for Kansas City PBS, Kansas City Area Development Council and Johnson County (Missouri) Economic Development Corporation.



SHARI BAX, PH.D.

Vice President for Student Experience and Engagement

Shari Bax was appointed Vice Provost for Student Experience and Engagement (SEE) on Aug. 1, 2011, and Vice President for Student Experience and Engagement in July 2019. Bax came to UCM in 1997 as Associate Professor of Political Science and was promoted to Professor in 2011. Her previous administrative responsibilities include serving as the campus coordinator for the American Democracy Project, the academic consultant and curriculum coordinator for Missouri Boys State and Missouri Girls State and as the coordinator for Political Science. As a faculty member, Bax advised multiple student activities and helped organize a wide array of programs and activities.

She has received several awards including Advisor of the Year from the Office of Student Activities; Greek Advisor of the Year (twice) from Fraternity and Sorority Life; Faculty Achievement Award and Meritorious Service Award from the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; the Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award; the James C. Kirkpatrick Excellence in Governance Award; and most recently Ingram's Magazine Icons of Education Award. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of the South, and a Master of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy in Political Science from the University of Tennessee.

In her current role, she reports to the President and works with the directors of departments and offices within student services, student auxiliaries, student activities and recreation, the Center for Multiculturalism and Inclusivity and Public Safety. Dr. Bax also serves as the manager for the university's emergency operation center.

The Student Experience and Engagement division's mission is to facilitate student success by providing student-centered programs, facilities and services that promote educational, professional and personal development.

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ADM 214



LINDSAY A. CHAPMAN, J.D.

General Counsel

Lindsay Chapman has worked with UCM since 2016. She was named General Counsel in July 2018. Chapman holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management, secondary major in Industrial and Labor Relations, and a minor in French from Kansas State University; a Certificate of European Union Law Studies from the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium; and a Juris Doctorate from Saint Louis University. Prior to joining UCM, Chapman clerked for a federal judge, worked for firms in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Kansas City, Missouri, and served in house at an R-1 university. She is a frequent lecturer on higher education and employment law matters, having presented at more than 20 conferences. She currently serves on the Virtual Programming Committee for the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

As General Counsel, Chapman reports to the Board of Governors and serves on the President's Council. The General Counsel team represents the university and anyone acting on its behalf, giving legal advice with a focus on preventive law. They also provide vigorous representation of the university in matters that enter litigation or other dispute resolution processes, select and manage outside counsel, handle insurance and risk management issues, as well as play an active role in policy development and coordination. In addition to the Office of General Counsel, UCM's Offices of Environmental Health and Safety and Accessibility Services fall under Chapman's oversight. Chapman and her husband, Justin, reside in Warrensburg with their two children.

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ADM 208

**TIM CROWLEY, DMA**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Tim Crowley was appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs on November 1, 2024. He joined UCM as Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research in April 2022 after 22 years of service at Fort Hays State University (FHSU) in Hays, KS. He served in multiple administrative roles at FHSU including Chair for the Department of Music, Graduate Dean, Assistant Provost for Internationalization, Assistant Provost of Academic Programs and Student Success and Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. He also served as a tenured Professor of Music. He began his academic career at Texas A&M University as a Visiting Professor of Music and began his first tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Music at Cameron University. He completed his Bachelor of Music degree from Bradley University and his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Texas. Today, at UCM, he works with people, resources and ideas every day to help make the institution better. The musical training he was fortunate to receive provides much of the foundation for his work today - discipline, creativity, initiative, collaboration and the ability to reframe problems and develop solutions.

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ADM 105

**COURTNEY E. GODDARD, J.D.**

Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement;
Executive Director, UCM Alumni Foundation

Courtney Goddard joined the UCM Alumni Foundation administrative team following a two-decade career practicing law in the area of higher education. Goddard represented over 40 higher education clients in a nationwide private legal practice. She then spent 11 years at Park University as legal counsel and then as Vice President and General Counsel prior to joining UCM. Goddard has a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from Florida State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri - Columbia.

Goddard also has experience in the areas of higher education development, special events, alumni programming, external relations and philanthropy. In her current role, Goddard works with the President and Alumni Foundation Board of Directors to raise, manage and distribute resources to benefit UCM. She also oversees alumni programming, university events and external engagement and partnerships.

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Smiser Alumni Center



BILL HAWLEY

Vice President for Finance and Operations

Bill Hawley joined the university in August 2018 as Interim Chief Financial Officer and was named Vice President for Finance and Operations in April 2019. Hawley has more than 30 years of experience in finance, primarily in healthcare organizations, both for profit and not-for-profit. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration with an Accounting concentration, both from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

As the Vice President for Finance and Operations, Hawley provides oversight of Accounting Services, Budget and Finance, Human Resources, University Analytics and Institutional Research, Office of Technology and Facilities Planning and Operations. In addition, he serves as treasurer for the Board of Governors. Hawley and his wife, Toni, reside in Warrensburg.

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ADM 201



MATT HOWDESHELL, ED.D.

Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics

Matt Howdeshell joined UCM as its Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics in June 2023. With nearly two decades of intercollegiate athletic leadership experience, he leads all aspects of UCM's NCAA Division II athletic programs. He works collaboratively with coaches, staff and over 500 student-athletes to position UCM Athletics for success.

Howdeshell has established UCM Athletics on a positive, upward trajectory through the development of a shared vision for the future by finalizing a long-term strategic vision and a master facility plan, implementing several student-athlete welfare improvements, ensuring athletic and academic excellence, leading facility enhancements, enhancing the fan experience, driving revenue growth and serving on national and conference committees while engaging the Warrensburg community.

Prior to arriving at UCM, Howdeshell had an impressive 12-year tenure at Northern Arizona University (NAU) where he was part of an athletic program that won 83 conference championships, over 100 post-season appearances, six national championships, numerous coach-of-the-year recipients and a multitude of academic and athletic all-conference honorees. Howdeshell served NAU as Senior Associate Athletic Director, Associate Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director and Director of Football Operations. He began his athletics career as a student manager and video coordinator at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.

Howdeshell, who hails from Cuba, Missouri, is the son of two first-generation, nontraditional college students. Howdeshell earned a bachelor's degree from Missouri State University in history education (2010) and a master's degree in educational leadership (2013) and a Doctor of Educational Leadership (2020), with distinction, from NAU. Howdeshell and his wife, Hiliary, have three sons: Peter, Benjamin and Max.

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HAC 203



DAVID PEARCE

Executive Director for Governmental Relations

A longtime Warrensburg resident who has served both his community and his home state, David Pearce has served as the Executive Director for Governmental Relations for five years. In this capacity, he works closely with the university president and senior administrators to craft legislative priorities and communicate them. He helps identify state and federal fiscal resources for which UCM may be eligible; provides legislative reports to the Board of Governors; summarizes legislative bills and potential impact on UCM; and coordinates responses to legislators' and governors' office inquiries.

Pearce's long record of public service in Missouri government includes eight years in the Missouri Senate, where he represented constituents from the 21st and 31st senatorial districts. He also served for six years in the Missouri House of Representatives before becoming a senator.

His political work included chairing the Senate Education Committee, and while he was serving as a state representative in 2003, he was appointed as a commissioner to the Missouri Higher Education Compact (MHEC). He was reappointed in 2011, 2013 and 2015, and held leadership posts that include serving as vice chair, treasurer and chair of the Compact. Governor Parson appointed Pearce to serve on the Midwestern Higher Education Compact again in June 2022 for a four-year term. Pearce is a member of the Chambers of Commerce in Kansas City, Lee's Summit and Warrensburg. He also serves on the Boards of the Whiteman Area Leadership Council, Warrensburg Depot Renovation and Johnson County Spirit Trails.

Prior to joining UCM, Pearce served from January 2017 to September 2019 in the office of State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick and his predecessor, Eric Schmitt.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Pearce also attended UCM.

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ADM 106



KRISTEN PLUMMER

Executive Assistant to the President/Assistant Board Secretary

Kristen Plummer began serving as the Executive Assistant to the President/Assistant Board Secretary in April 2024. Prior to this, Plummer worked on campus for over 20 years in various positions within the Office of the President, Meeting and Conference Services and University Housing. Plummer earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Human Resource Management from UCM in 2003.

Plummer serves on the President's Council and, as Assistant Board Secretary, is the university's liaison with the institution's governing board and UCM's Custodian of Records.

Plummer and her husband, Darin, reside in Warrensburg and have two children, McKenzie and Toby.

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ADM 202



SUSAN SMEDLEY

Vice President for Integrated Marketing and Communications

Susan Smedley joined UCM in August 2019 as the Vice President for Integrated Marketing and Communications. Smedley has over 20 years of higher education experience as well as executive-level experience in private industry. As a UCM vice president, she is a member of the President's Council and oversees both the Office of Integrated Marketing and Communications and KMOS-TV, the University's public television station.

Prior to UCM, Smedley served as Director of Marketing and Public Affairs at Lee College in Baytown, Texas. She successfully led the first phase of the college's development and implementation of an integrated enrollment management plan. She also led the development of the college's new website.

Other experiences in higher education include serving as Director of Communications and Marketing at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma and as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Executive Director of the Foundation, Director of Institutional Advancement and Campus Director of two satellite campuses at Coastal Bend College in Texas. Another stint in Oklahoma saw her serving on the executive board of the Central Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board and logging time as an economic developer and communications liaison for the Deputy Secretary of Workforce Development, Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

Smedley is an award-winning writer, art director and civic leader. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science in Advertising within UT's nationally top-ranked Creative Portfolio Sequence and minors in history and English. Her post-undergraduate work includes American studies, focusing on American literature and history.

Smedley resides in Warrensburg with her son, Joshua.

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ADM 302

"Knowledge isn't power until it is applied."

DALE CARNEGIE

UCM Alumnus, Author, Public Speaker



UCM's Strategic Leadership Team is comprised of all members of the President's Council and the following individuals.

COREY BOWMAN, ED.D.

Associate Vice President for Student Services, Title IX Coordinator

Before coming to UCM, Corey Bowman worked as a hall director and academic advisor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Since 1996, he has worked at UCM in a variety of areas including Residence Life, the University Union and Meetings and Conference Services before assuming his current role in 2005. He was appointed as Title IX Coordinator in 2011. Bowman has over 30 years of experience in educational policy, crisis management and student success. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master of Science in College Student Personnel Services from Miami University and earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri - Columbia.

In his current role, Bowman's primary responsibility is to oversee student services, student support initiatives and behavioral intervention, the university's emergency and crisis response and Title IX coordination. He works closely with students, parents and faculty to promote student success.

Dr. Bowman and his wife, Teri, reside in Warrensburg; they have 4 children.

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ADM 214

DOUG DAVENPORT, PH.D.

Interim Dean, Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies

Doug Davenport joins UCM after serving in a variety of Missouri higher education leadership roles. He most recently served as Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Missouri Western State University (MWSU), after serving at MWSU as Associate Provost for Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness. Doug also spent almost 20 years at Truman State University, serving as a tenured faculty member, department chair and dean. At Truman, he was also responsible for directing the Truman Leadership Scholars Program, leading institutional accreditation efforts and coordinating university-wide strategic planning. He received a Ph.D. and a master's degree from Texas Tech University in political science and public administration respectively, and earned a B.A. from Central Bible College (now Evangel University). He and his wife, Linda, reside in Blue Springs and enjoy spending time with their two children and seven grandchildren.

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WDE 1600

KRISTI HARMS, M.ED., SHRM-CP

Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning

Kristi Harms has served in Finance and Administration since November 2017, first as Payroll Manager and then, starting in January 2023, as Director of Budget and Planning. In May 2024 she was named Associate Vice President of Budget and Planning. Her previous higher education experience includes roles with State Fair Community College and the University of Missouri System, and she has worked in the private sector for Coca-Cola Enterprises. Harms earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from UCM and her Master of Education from Central Methodist University. Harms also holds the SHRM Certified Professional in Human Resources (SHRM-CP) designation.

Harms reports to the Vice President for Finance and Administration. As the associate vice president, she oversees the development and implementation of the university budget and collaborates with university stakeholders on strategic planning goals.

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ADM 308B

LAUREL HOGUE, ED.D.

Vice Provost for Online and Learning Engagement

Laurel Hogue has worked for UCM since 2003, serving as Vice Provost for Extended Studies for six years before being named Vice Provost for Online and Learning Engagement in 2021. In her role, she supports the university's vision for enrollment and retention, leads marketing and promotion efforts and directs fiscal operations for entrepreneurial and off-campus programs. Duties also include budget planning, resource allocation and conducting cost analyses to ensure revenue-generating operations for distance learning, dual credit, workforce development and UCM - Lee's Summit operations at the Missouri Innovation Campus. Additionally, she is responsible for the Honors College, Digital Learning and Instructional Innovation, the Center for Global Education and service learning and community engagement. She holds a BSBA and an MBA degree from UCM, and a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Hogue serves as Network Chair on the UPCEA Board of Directors and as a member of the Lee's Summit Economic Development Council Board of Directors where she co-chairs the Workforce Alliance. She also serves as Treasurer of the Greater Lee's Summit Healthcare Foundation, a member of the Lee's Summit R7 School District Business Roundtable and on the KC Rising's Workforce Taskforce.

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ADM 104E

JACKIE JACKSON, ED.D.

Associate Vice President for University Advancement

Jackie Jackson began serving as Associate Vice President for University Advancement in April 2020 after serving as the Director of Annual Giving since April 2018. The UCM Alumni Foundation's mission is to cultivate, manage and distribute resources in support of UCM. In her role, Jackson oversees Foundation financial operations, database management, prospect research, annual giving and donor relations. She reports to the Vice President of University Advancement/Executive Director of the UCM Alumni Foundation.

Jackson enjoys being involved in the community through participation in the Rotary of Central Missouri Club, PEO Chapter CB, the Senior Center Services Advisory Board and Northside Christian Church. She has earned two degrees from UCM: a BS in Hotel and Restaurant Administration in 2009 and an MS in College Student Personnel Administration in 2012. In 2023, she completed her Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership in Higher Education at Abilene Christian University. Her dissertation, titled "Alumni Giving from Online Learners: A Logistic Regression Study," used quantitative research methods to predict alumni giving from graduates who studied through the online modality.

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Smiser Alumni Center

JANETTE KLEIN, PH.D.

University Librarian

Janette Klein joined UCM in 2017 and has served as University Librarian since December 2020 following her appointment as Interim University Librarian from February 2020 - November 2020. Prior to her appointment as University Librarian, Klein served as Collection Management Coordinator and Acquisitions Librarian, in addition to supporting UCM students, faculty and staff as the Business and Technology Library Liaison. Prior to coming to UCM, Klein was engaged in the corporate sector as an internal auditor and regional account manager for an international hospitality firm for over 10 years.

Klein holds a Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of North Texas, a Master of Science in Library Science, a Master of Business Administration in Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management and Graduate Academic Certificates in Advanced Management in Libraries and Information Agencies and Digital Content Management.

The James C. Kirkpatrick Library (JCKL) is committed to fostering a dynamic learning environment by providing information resources, services and instruction to the UCM community. JCKL serves as a primary academic destination for all UCM students, faculty and staff and continues to cultivate relationships and collaborate with partners across campus to support creativity, teaching, learning, equity, inclusion and scholarship to promote individual and group successes. As University Librarian, Klein ensures that JCKL remains a responsible steward for our curriculum-focused collections and works collaboratively to meet changing and emerging university needs.

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JCKL 2234

CHRIS LANG

Assistant Vice Provost for Admissions and Analytics

Chris Lang is the Assistant Vice Provost for Admissions and Analytics and provides leadership to the Undergraduate Admissions Office as well as providing recruitment analytics for the university. Prior to becoming the Assistant Vice Provost, Lang held different leadership positions in the Admissions Office including Director of Admissions, Interim Director of Admissions, Associate Director, Assistant Director and other positions.

As Assistant Vice Provost for Admissions and Analytics, he supports the university's vision for undergraduate enrollment and recruitment by working closely with senior leadership to set enrollment goals, providing strategic analytics to other enrollment offices, directing fiscal operations of the Admissions Office and working collaboratively with various offices to provide strategic data and analytics to drive enrollment goals and success.

Chris holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from UCM. Chris, his wife and daughter reside in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

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WDE 1400

ANN MCCOY, PH.D.

Vice-Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research

Ann McCoy currently serves as the Vice-Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. Prior to her current appointment, she served as Dean of the College of Education beginning in 2021. Previously she held leadership positions at UCM as Associate Dean of the College of Education, Chair of the School of Teaching and Learning and Chair of the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Before coming to UCM, she taught for 22 years in the Clinton School District.

McCoy is a two-time graduate of UCM, earning a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction. She holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Missouri - Kansas City (UMKC) with a focus in mathematics education. While at UCM, McCoy has taught mathematics education courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her research has focused on the preparation and impact of elementary mathematics specialists.

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ADM 104

BRENDA MOEDER, ED.D.

Senior Director of Housing

Brenda Moeder is the Senior Director of Housing. Moeder joined the university in July 1996 and has worked in various capacities within housing since then. As Senior Director, Moeder oversees all on-campus housing inclusive of residence halls and university apartments. Prior to working at UCM, Moeder worked for four years at the University of Wisconsin - Stout. Moeder holds a Master of Education in College Student Personnel degree from Kansas State University as well as a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri.

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ELL L23

JUSTIN O'NEAL

Associate Vice President for Capital Planning and Facilities Management

Justin O'Neal joined the UCM leadership team as the Associate Vice President for Capital Planning and Facilities Management in July 2024. Focused on the quality of spaces for students and employees, O'Neal is dedicated to providing efficient services for campus facilities and operations. Responsibilities include oversight of design development, construction and renovations, maintenance and custodial services as well as other vital campus services including setup services and fleet management. He thrives in process improvements, change management, empowering team members and developing staff's talents. He holds a bachelor's degree in Crisis & Disaster Management, with a minor in Construction Management from UCM.

The mission of Facilities Planning and Operations is to provide a quality service that is safe, reliable, efficient, clean and inviting. The facilities team always strives for a customer and community service approach, demonstrating this daily by creating a learning and working environment that supports the University's world-class education.

Justin and his wife, Becky, reside in Warrensburg with their five children and have been a part of the community for more than twenty years.

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SE 101A

JEFF ROBERTSON, PH.D.

Dean and Professor of Astrophysics, College of Health, Science and Technology

Jeff Robertson came to UCM from Arkansas Tech University where he started his academic career in 1997, progressing through the faculty ranks to professor. He served in administrative roles that included Department Head of Physical Sciences and Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences, a role in which he served for 11 years. During that time he also served double duty as Interim Dean of the College of Business and then Interim Dean of the Graduate College before eventually serving as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and then Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs before joining UCM in January 2022.

He holds a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from Indiana University, an M.S. in Astronomy from San Diego State University and a B.S. in Physics and B.S. in Astronomy from the University of Kansas. He is a member of the Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Corps, served as President of the Arkansas Dean's Association and twice served as the President of the Arkansas Academy of Science. More recently he completed the American Academic Leadership Institute's Becoming a Provost Academy.

His research spans the universe (literally), involving interacting binary stars, exoplanets and potentially hazardous asteroids.

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NM 100

MICHAEL SAWYER, PH.D.

Dean, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Michael Sawyer is the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. As an experienced higher education leader, Sawyer takes a keen interest in shared governance, cultivation of institutional leadership and pedagogy. Having served as Professor of Spanish and Chairperson of multiple departments, his administrative career has focused on fostering collaborations within and between higher education institutions; strategic planning and implementation; fundraising and relationship building; and advancing institutional and unit interests through periods of change. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and English from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Master of Arts in Romance Languages and a Ph.D. in Spanish from Texas Tech University. Sawyer founded the Missouri Foreign Language Consortium, which includes five universities in Missouri and whose structure and principles govern all online academic collaborations in the state under the umbrella of the Missouri Alliance for Collaborative Education. He is the co-author of two college-level Spanish textbooks with Dr. Julie Stephens de Jonge. He regularly serves as a reviewer for foreign language programs across the United States, and his commitment to personal and professional development involves frequent training and participation in professional seminars and courses, including the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education.

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MAR 126

MATT THOMAS, PH.D.

Interim Dean and Professor of Reading, College of Education

Matt Thomas began his service as the Interim Dean of the College of Education in July 2024. Prior to this appointment, he held UCM leadership positions as Chair of the School of Teaching and Learning and Chair of the Department of Educational Foundations and Literacy.

Thomas has been at UCM since 2000 after working as a teacher in both junior high and high school English/Language Arts, as well as a K-12 school administrator. He earned his BA in English with California Teaching Credential from The Master's College, MA in Education from Pepperdine University and an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Education and Urban Leadership and Policy Studies in Education from the University of Missouri - Kansas City. His research interests include content area literacy, reading maturity, transformational literacy, epistemological development and teacher education.

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LOV 2190

KELLY WALDRAM CRAMER, MBA

Associate Vice President for Integrated Marketing and Communications

Kelly Waldram Cramer has served in the Office of Integrated Marketing and Communications since July 2012. She came to UCM from the private sector in 2000 as the Marketing Manager for Student Life and has worked in various marketing roles throughout her more than 20 years at the university. Waldram Cramer earned a Master of Business in Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in marketing from UCM.

Waldram Cramer reports to the Vice President for Integrated Marketing and Communications. As the associate vice president, she oversees strategic planning and execution of all university marketing and promotional/communication efforts including advertising, public relations, media relations, publications, digital marketing channels, social media, university website and alumni and foundation communications.

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ADM 302

CORY WICKER, PH.D., SPHR, SHRM-SCP

Associate Vice President for Human Resources

Cory Wicker joined the UCM leadership team as the Associate Vice President for Human Resources in May 2023. His professional work experience spans sectors directing all facets of human resources. Wicker is a champion for change and enjoys working with organizations to achieve performance, productivity and profit goals through an organization's greatest asset: its PEOPLE. He holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Human Capital Development from The University of Southern Mississippi, a Master of Business Administration from Southeastern Louisiana University and a Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Development from Louisiana State University. Wicker also holds Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) designations. He was inducted into USM's 2022 Graduate Student Hall of Fame and received research awards for his contributions to Human Capital Development. Wicker has served on the boards of professional organizations, including the Academy of Human Resource Development (AHRD) and the Louisiana chapter of the Public Sector HR Association (PSHRA).

In his current role, Wicker's primary responsibility is ensuring that UCM's Office of Human Resources fosters a positive and inclusive work environment that attracts, develops and retains a diverse and talented workforce. Wicker and the UCM Office of Human Resources are unwavering in their commitment to promoting excellence in human resources practices. They achieve this by offering innovative solutions, exceptional service and strategic support to their employees and the university community. Guided by principles of integrity, respect and collaboration, they strive to enhance the overall employee experience, support the university's mission and contribute to the success and well-being of all members of the community.

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ADM 101



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