



THE KEELER FAMILY INTRA-UNIVERSITY PROFESSORSHIPS

The Keeler Family Intra-University Professorships, a faculty development program for tenured faculty at mid-career, originated in the early 1980's through a grant from the Exxon Foundation. Since Fall 1993, the professorships have been supported through a generous gift of the Keeler family in memory of W.W. Keeler, former president of the KU Alumni Association, chief executive officer of Phillips Petroleum Company, and principal chief of the Cherokees.

The purpose of the program is to provide the faculty member an opportunity to strengthen his or her knowledge of an academic specialty, to broaden or achieve greater depth in a defined field of study, or to achieve competence in a new area of scholarly endeavor. A secondary outcome is increased collaboration and synergy across disciplines.

Program Information

The program will provide one semester free of departmental responsibilities in order to engage in substantive exchange and interaction with faculty in another discipline, take courses, develop cross-disciplinary projects, and/or to team-teach in one or, at most, two courses in another department or school at the University of Kansas. (No summer salary will be provided.) The professorship may be taken in either the fall or spring semester of the next academic year. For those faculty members who use the professorship primarily to acquire new skills and expertise in another discipline, team-teaching will be viewed as a type of internship. Any team-taught course will be primarily supervised and managed by a faculty member in the unit being visited.

While teaching replacement costs are the responsibility of the department and/or school or College, the Dean or the chair of the recipient's unit will receive \$12,000 to assist in meeting department instruction needs resulting from the award.

Eligibility

- Eligibility is limited to tenured faculty members on the Lawrence campus who
 - have not held a sabbatical or other internal leave within the past four years, and
 - have not previously held a Keeler Professorship.
- Individuals not applying for sabbatical leave for the same academic year will receive priority consideration.

Application Review

A faculty committee will review the applications and recommend candidates for the awards. Applications will be assessed on the following grounds:

- Clarity of the purpose and plan for the professorship
- Benefits of the project to the applicant
 - Significance of the project at this juncture in the faculty member's career

- Potential for extending the applicant's disciplinary knowledge and skills
- Potential impact on the faculty member's future career directions and productivity
- Benefits of the project to the home and participating departments and to the university
 - Potential for enhancing instruction by generating new interdisciplinary courses or areas of study
 - Potential for developing interdisciplinary research programs

It is very important that applicants confer with both their home and host departments concerning their intentions to apply. Endorsement of the value of the experience and benefits to *both* units are important considerations in the review process. The committee may award up to five professorships for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Application Process

Applications should include:

- A two-three page proposal outlining:
 - the purpose, plan (e.g., course work planned in the other area, joint research, etc.), and expected outcomes for the professorship;
 - significance of the proposed plan in relation to the assessment criteria.
- Letters of support from both the home and host departments (or from deans of schools without departments) indicating
 - the mutual benefit of the professorship to the department and to the applicant
 - significance of the proposed plan in relation to the assessment criteria.
- Endorsement from the applicant's dean, if the dean has not written one of the required letters of support, of the school and/or College
- Current curriculum vitae
- Additional supporting materials

Applications for Professorships for the 2010-2011 academic year are due October 30, 2009 in the Office of the Provost (Attn: Mary Lee Hummert, Vice Provost). The application and all supporting documents must be received by the deadline for consideration by the committee. Review of all applications will be completed and announcement of the awards for 2010-2011 will occur no later than November 27, 2009. This document is also available on line at <http://www.provost.ku.edu/policy/faculty/programs.shtml>.