



Kansas City Scholars Momentum, Progress Continues

Official not-for-profit status, executive director in place

(Kansas City) – Kansas City Scholars announced a series of new developments as it gears up to its January 2, 2017 application opening.

Most importantly, after a national search that resulted in a many local, regional, and national candidates, Dr. Beth Tankersley-Bankhead was selected as the KC Scholars Executive Director.

Dr. Tankersley-Bankhead has steered the development of KC Scholars with input from over 70 organizations in the Kansas City region and has incubated the program at the Kauffman Foundation for the last 2 years. Tankersley-Bankhead, a first generation college student, received her PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, Higher and Continuing Education from the University of Missouri. She has served as the Director of Postsecondary Initiatives at the Kauffman Foundation since July 2015. She officially becomes Executive Director of KC Scholars on January 3.

In addition, KC Scholars achieved its own 501(c)3 status and is ready to exist as its own organization beginning in the new year. It will relocate from the Kauffman Foundation offices in 2017.

Finally, many in the community are taking ownership for KC Scholars' success and are generously giving to the program. More than \$262,000 has been raised toward scholarships since KC Scholars was launched at a celebration honoring Mr. K's 100th birthday in September. There have been several named scholarships from individuals and companies such as Carolyn Watley, U.S. Engineering Company, Colliers and Global Prairie with many more to come in 2017.

Applications for KC Scholars opens on January 2, 2017 and closes on March 3, 2017.

KC Scholars offers three different scholarships:

- Up to \$10,000/year traditional college scholarship awarded in 11th grade, renewable for five years;
- Up to \$5,000/year scholarship for returning, adult learners, renewable for five years;
- 4:1 college savings match program, awarded in 9th grade.

To learn more and to apply for a scholarship, visit www.kcscholars.org.

Click [here](#) to learn about the Kauffman Foundation's commitment to college access and completion.

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