

Honorary Medical Alumna

Kim Huyett

Senior Director, Community Relations & Strategic Partnerships
University of Kansas Medical Center



Kim Huyett was studying journalism at the University of Missouri when she became a campus ombudsman and discovered the talent that would become the backbone of her career: building relationships.

That skill served her well at the Kansas City Art Institute, where she managed events and volunteer fundraising, and then at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she led the development of UMKC's Alumni Fund.

In 2008, Huyett brought her talent to the University of Kansas Medical Center as the director of alumni and community relations. Before she arrived, membership in the KU Medical Alumni Association had dropped to historic low levels.

Over the next ten years, Huyett and the team of professionals she brought together built alumni boards for the schools of Medicine, Nursing and Health Professions. Membership grew by 400% and the team developed a loyal group of alumni advocates. Results of these efforts included financial support for the Health Education Building, which opened in 2017, the KU Medical Alumni Academic Societies and the JayDoc Clinic.

Her work also enabled the creation of the Medical Alumni Innovative Teaching Fund (MAITF) in 2010, which awards grants to KU School of Medicine professors conducting educational research. So far, the program has dispersed \$1 million to fund 69 different projects, some of which directly influenced the sweeping redesign of the medical school curriculum in 2017.

The success of the MAITF brought the alumni association national recognition. And it likely wouldn't have been possible without Huyett's ability to foster relationships with different groups with competing priorities.

"On more than one occasion, I watched Kim use her exceptional communication skills and diplomacy to keep things moving in the right direction, when it looked like things were about to come to a grinding halt," wrote alumni board member W. Rory Murphy in a letter nominating Huyett for this award.

In 2018, Huyett accepted a new position at the medical center as senior director of community relations & strategic partnerships, where she continues to develop critical partnerships, relationships and communications.

Huyett lives in Prairie Village, Kansas, with her husband and high school prom date, David, with whom she has two grown children: Ian, an attorney in Concord, New Hampshire, and Isabelle, an engineering support specialist at the Department of Energy's Kansas City National Security Campus.

For her role in restructuring the KU Medical Center Alumni Association and creating an ongoing program of support for the medical school, the KU Medical Alumni Association is proud to bestow the Honorary Alumna Award upon Kim Huyett.