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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kansas Leadership Center unveils global research program

Wichita, Kan. – During the organization’s Activate conference late last week, the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) unveiled a new, large-scale, multi-partner research program. “Third Floor Research” will foster innovation on how leadership is exercised and how leadership capacity is developed in others.

“This research endeavor is a game changer for Kansas organizations, companies and communities,” said Ed O’Malley, KLC president and CEO. “We are creating a robust, world-class research initiative that will fuel the future development of leadership training in Kansas and beyond.”

Kansas organizations, companies and communities will have early exposure to findings from the research initiative.

“What’s the best way to build leadership in millennials? How do you know if an employee is more oriented to exercising authority or exercising leadership? What are the best ways for competing interests to come together when working on a daunting challenge? These are the types of questions the research endeavor will answer, and those answers will help strengthen leadership across Kansas,” said O’Malley.

Locally, the research initiative might partner with companies and organizations to discern the type of leadership necessary to help Wichita thrive in light of the Chung Report findings released last week.

The research initiative will also enhance KLC’s national and global profile.

KLC already attracts attention from across the country and around the world. At the organization’s Activate conference this week, there are 40 registered participants from outside Kansas, including individuals from Australia, Chile and Israel. Next month, almost 30 participants from Africa will attend KLC’s program.

“The research initiative will take KLC’s reputation to the next level,” said O’Malley.

Since 2017, a global design team of eight expert researchers and practitioners have been working alongside KLC staff members to develop the structure of the new research program. Team members from Kansas, Harvard, Chile, Wisconsin, Israel and Colorado brought experience on how to design, facilitate and measure the impact of leadership development efforts. The endeavor is led by Dr. Tim Steffensmeier, director of research for KLC and associate professor at Kansas State University.

“At KLC, we have access to hundreds of organizations and thousands of participants and our research partners are connected to thousands of others—all striving to increase their ability to lead,” said Steffensmeier. “The big idea is to bring all that knowledge, data and expertise together and use it to build stronger and more effective leadership. Our researches will study those efforts with a coordinated, uniform research agenda. The result will be cutting-edge leadership development tools and practices, synthesized here in Kansas, but with impact around the world.”

“It’s called Third Floor Research for a simple, aspirational reason,” said Steffensmeier. “The third floor of KLC’s building hasn’t been built out. This research endeavor is going to be so successful that it’s just a matter of time before we start using that space for our operations.”

Third Floor Research is housed at the Kansas Leadership Center, in partnership with the Staley School of Leadership Studies at Kansas State University.

To learn more about KLC’s new research initiative, visit kansasleadershipcenter.org/third-floor-research/.

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About the Kansas Leadership Center

The Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) is a first-of-its-kind educational organization, based in Wichita but with a statewide focus and global reach. Founded in 2007 to foster civic leadership for healthier Kansas communities, KLC provided training to more than 9,000 participants during its first decade of existence. It receives core funding from the Kansas Health Foundation in Wichita. Learn more at www.kansasleadershipcenter.org.

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