

With a mix of great enthusiasm and strong emotions surrounding what I have accomplished in concert with so many of you for nearly 23 years at KU Endowment, I have accepted a role joining the University of Utah's main campus as Chief Philanthropy Officer in June. I do so with a realization of the unique time this is for all of KU and the incredible partner entities that make the Jayhawk experience so special...the KU Alumni Association, Kansas Athletics, The University of Kansas Health System, and KU Endowment. I leave knowing that there are so many Trustees, donors, institutional leaders, colleagues, and friends who have lifted me up and supported me during my time here. I appreciate each of you for the investments you make in our collective success and I am particularly mindful of your considerable investment in me over my time here.

A very recent but key driver for me has been the significant reflection I have given to my father's life progression and the strong pull to engage with him from a substantially closer proximity than at any point in the past 30-plus years. I am grateful to have been given this opportunity melding my professional life with him and multiple other family members in Utah at this time. As we all know, true charity begins at home.

I am so very mindful of just how impactful this place and its people have been on my life, effectively making me a better professional and person. I depart with incredible reverence and appreciation for the special organization that is KU Endowment. I want only for it—and each of you—to flourish, grow, and further enhance the broader KU institutions we all serve. This has been my passion, my conviction, and the investment I have made in it from day one. As I depart, I will carry this mindset forward with pride and a great belief that our institution's best days lie in front of it. I know each of you share this belief and I see your commitment to driving it forward as staff dedicated to continuing it and adding even more to our incredible KU Endowment story.

Melanie and I look forward to hearing of your continued success and will be cheering you and our many KU family members, friends, and colleagues on from the only other state we have ever called home.

With gratitude for the special place that is KU Endowment, I thank you for consistently demonstrating what can be accomplished when united around something bigger than ourselves.

Jerome