

Astleford Joins Foundation to Advance School Priorities

MATT ASTLEFORD has joined the UMKC Foundation as senior managing director of development for the School of Medicine. Astleford, who started at the university in October 2024, said his role combines several of his interests.

"When the opportunity came, it was too good to pass up," Astleford said. "It's a good marriage between healthcare and higher education, which are two areas I really care about. The other is rural health — something I'm very passionate about."

Astleford's enthusiasm for rural healthcare came about when he worked as a U.S. Senate staffer in his home state of South Dakota. He went on to work in higher education advancement at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa, and at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas. Along the way, he maintained his passion for healthcare access.

"(Rural health) was the motivator for me to come to UMKC," Astleford said.

At UMKC, he's working directly with the team on the School of Medicine's St. Joseph Campus to raise support for scholarships and the Rural Pathway Program, which encourages students to pursue careers in rural medicine. Astleford is also focusing on building philanthropic support for key initiatives, including scholarships, research and capital support for the Healthcare Delivery and Innovation Building. He works closely with Amelia Howard, senior director of alumni relations and annual giving. Howard, who was promoted to her role in late 2024, supports School of Medicine alumni development and supervises the health sciences alumni directors.

Astleford arrives at a crucial time for UMKC, which recently announced its Blue & Bold comprehensive campaign to raise money for buildings, scholarships and more.

"I am excited to be working on the campaign," he said. "I love connecting people with opportunities to make an impact."

To learn more about Blue & Bold, visit go.umkc.edu/bold.



Matt Astleford

[Previous page](#)

[Next page](#)