

KU Public Management Center Announces New Director

Lawrence, KS - The University of Kansas Public Management Center (PMC) is pleased to announce that [Kristi Northcutt](#) has been appointed as its next director. Northcutt brings extensive leadership experience in local government, public affairs, and higher education, making her well-positioned to guide the PMC in its continued mission to develop public service leaders.

Northcutt has served as the City Administrator in Lindsborg, Kansas, since December 2021. During her tenure, she led numerous transformational projects, including a full renovation of the city's Public Safety Center, the awarding of an \$8 million KDOT bridge removal project, over \$2.5 million in grant awards, and the completion of a \$3.5 million public-private childcare center. She has also overseen major infrastructure and community enhancement initiatives, such as expanding the city's electric substation, implementing a floodplain project, and advancing new housing developments and recreational spaces.

Prior to her role in Lindsborg, Northcutt spent eight years as the Senior Director of Community Relations in Anthem, Arizona. There, she led public affairs, legislative advocacy, business development, and special events while managing the renowned Anthem Veterans Memorial. She was a frequent presence at the Arizona statehouse, testifying on behalf of her city on critical issues such as water rates and supply.

"Kristi's leadership in developing and implementing innovative programs in the public sector and higher education reflects the PMC mission to cultivate excellence in public service professionals and strengthen communities," shares Maja Holmes, Director of the School of Public Affairs and Administration.

Northcutt's background also includes significant contributions to higher education. She was instrumental in the establishment of the K-State Olathe campus funded by the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle sales tax. She has also served on staff at Bethany College.

Northcutt holds undergraduate degrees in English and Communication from Bethany College, a master's degree in organizational leadership from Baker University, and is a Certified Public Manager with Distinction through the University of Kansas.

"The Public Management Center team is delighted to welcome such a dedicated public servant as our next leader, and we are sure she will make a significant contribution to our clients and students," shares Marilu Goodyear, Interim Director of the Public Management Center.

Northcutt will officially step into the role on May 12, 2025. "I am delighted to be joining the PMC, to contribute to the crucial work of developing and supporting professionals in public service," Northcutt said. "I look forward to joining this incredible team to broaden the reach and impact of the PMC, SPAA, and KU."

The KU Public Management Center, housed within the School of Public Affairs and Administration, provides professional education and leadership development programs and events for public service professionals across Kansas and beyond. For more information about the KU Public Management Center, visit kupmc.ku.edu.