



LEADING WITH TOGETHERNESS: THE CULTURE WE CREATE IN EVERY CONVERSATION

As we prepare for spring and new beginnings, it's the perfect time to reflect on how we *show up* for each other — and how we embody our core values through everyday interactions.

One of our most meaningful values is **togetherness**. It's more than just working side by side. Togetherness means fostering a sense of belonging, building mutual trust, and sharing ownership in both success and setbacks. It's about creating an environment where people feel seen, supported, and part of something bigger than themselves.

So, how do we lead with togetherness?

It often starts with the words we choose — the tone we set in meetings, weekly 1:1 interactions, and hallway (or courtside) chats.

Here are a few simple but powerful expressions that build togetherness:

- "I'm glad you're part of this team."
(**Belonging**)
- "Let's figure this out together."
(**Collaboration**)
- "I've got your back." (**Support**)
- "Here's how your work connects to the bigger picture." (**Shared purpose**)

Our communication is culture in action. Every time we offer encouragement, ask for input, or recognize someone's contribution, we're reinforcing the kind of culture we want to grow — one rooted in unity, trust, and shared success.

✦ **This Month's Leadership Challenge:**

Choose one of the above expressions and commit to using it intentionally with your team or peers.

Notice the impact — and reflect on how small shifts in language can lead to stronger connection and engagement.

Let's keep cultivating a culture where together really means together.



KANSAS RELAYS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The 102nd anniversary of the [Kansas Relays](#) will take place April 17-19, 2025 at Rock Chalk Park.

In an effort to continue one of KU's richest traditions, we need the help of generous volunteers to support the 2025 Kansas Relays! No track & field experience is required and any volunteer hours will be greatly appreciated.



If you are interested in volunteering, contact:
Debbie Luman at dluman@ku.edu



Pictured: Tim Byers, Meet Director, with TJ Robinson, Student-Athlete

MEET WITH JUSTIN FROM TIAA, APRIL 30TH

We know that there is a lot of uncertainty in the world today. And just as we have for more than 100 years, TIAA is here to help you.

Making decisions about your money can feel complicated. TIAA's experienced financial consultants are here to help you plan for your future.

Advice* and education tailored to your needs

No matter where you are in life, a session with a financial consultant—in-person, by phone or virtually—can help you create a plan for your goals. All are highly secure and private.

- **Age doesn't matter:** Consultants can help you regardless of where you are in your career or life, whether you're just starting out or ready to retire.
- **Your account balance doesn't matter:** Any employee or active participant is welcome to work with a TIAA financial consultant. Regardless of whether you have \$500 or \$5 million, you can receive one-on-one retirement plan advice based on the plan's investment options and related services.
- **You can include all of your assets:** TIAA financial consultants can also take into consideration additional assets outside of the retirement plan. This can include your spouse's/partner's savings for a more comprehensive review—you can even have them join you at the meeting.



Justin Pierce, RICP
Financial Consultant | Retirement Solutions TIAA
AR Insurance License #18166129



[Schedule With Justin Pierce](#) - click here to schedule a meeting

HAWKS & MENTAL HEALTH

The mental health of our student-athletes is an integral component to both improving athletic performance and maintaining an optimal quality of life. As coaches and staff, we should strive to be best equipped with the knowledge and tools to support our athletes, helping them thrive both on and off the field, track, court, or water. This is why we've created Hawks & Mental Health, a dynamic psychoeducational series aimed at boosting mental health literacy for both our student-athletes and staff. If you are interested in learning about topics that directly relate to our student-athletes' mental health, scan the QR code.

Reach out to a member of the Mental Health Team with any questions or concerns!

Dr. Emily Tyler, Kristie Baumchen, Nedu Izuegbunam

Hawks & Mental Health

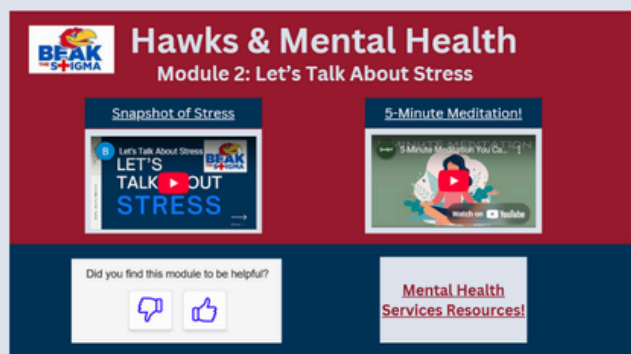


Looking to help athletes improve their **mental health** and **sport performance**?

Check out the new psychoeducational modules that covers a topic in **5 minutes** and introduces a new coping skill each week.

Anxiety Stress Depression Sleep Injury
Retirement Body Image Mental Skills Perfectionism

...and more!



BIRTHDAYS

Jonathan Wallace.....	April 1
Billy Bonneau.....	April 3
Jimmy Le.....	April 3
Natalie Terwilliger.....	April 4
Tyler Hancock.....	April 5
Stacey Potter.....	April 5
Casey Cook.....	April 7
Ramsey Nijem	April 7
Andrew Burch.....	April 9
Matt Gildersleeve	April 9
Joni Johnson.....	April 10
Stanley Redwine.....	April 10
Kaitlyn Chiles.....	April 12
Andy Eisch.....	April 13
Riane Soash.....	April 16
Nicole Corcoran.....	April 17
Kyle DeWeen.....	April 17
Brett Foreman.....	April 18
Grant Murray.....	April 18
Alex Souza	April 19
Colin Brennan.....	April 22
Nic Fortenberry.....	April 24
Chula Loomis	April 24
Patrick Hampton	April 24
Stephen Carberry.....	April 26
Karlin Kampschroeder.....	April 27
Seth Holiday.....	April 28
Bob Deiter.....	April 29
Stryder Blackburn	April 30

ANNIVERSARIES

Joanie Stephens.....	41 years
Bill Self.....	22 years
Pat Kaufman.....	13 years
Norman Roberts.....	13 years
Brandon Schneider.....	10 years
Kody Roberts.....	7 years
Nic Anguiano.....	6 years
Travis Goff.....	4 years
Karyla Knight.....	4 years
Lance Leipold.....	4 years
Morgan Paige.....	4 years
Randy Pedersen.....	4 years
Maddie Allen-Kasten.....	3 years
Matthew Holland.....	3 years
Laura Watson.....	3 years
Pat Cerroni	1 year
Darcy Daugherty	1 year
Matthew Patrick	1 year
Eric Terrazas	1 year
Christian Velez	1 year

Leadership Connect Breakfast

Celebrating the Power of Jayhawk Women in Sport: The 3rd annual Leadership Connect event took place on March 4. The event featured Kathy Nelson, [President and CEO of the Kansas City Sports Commission and Visit KC](#), with the conversation moderated by Assa Kante (Junior, Soccer) and Sam Palomino (Coordinator, KU Leads).

Key takeaways from the 100+ student-athletes, staff, coaches, and donors in attendance included the impact of saying yes, the value in volunteering, why celebrating failure can be a win, and how a sense of humor is critical to survival. Check out a video recap of the morning here: [here](#)



KU Powwow & Indigenous Cultures Festival

Saturday, April 12 | Lied Center of Kansas

The 36th Annual KU Powwow will take place on the new KU Powwow Grounds at the Lied Center. Similar to last year, we recommend bringing lawn chairs. Click here to learn more and view the schedule of events: <https://powwow.ku.edu/>





PROUD PARTNER OF KANSAS ATHLETICS.
ROCK CHALK JAYHAWK!

Nissan Business Associate Program & Eligibility
University of Kansas, Kansas Athletics, and Affiliates
Special Offer Timing - March 1st - June 30th 2025

As part of Nissan's athletic partnership with University of Kansas, all full-time university employees are eligible for preferred pricing on new Nissan vehicles including Rogue, Kicks, Frontier, Sentra, & more. This special offer lasts from March 1st through June 30th, 2025. Through the Nissan Business Associate Purchase Plan, University of Kansas employees and athletic department will receive \$500 bonus cash towards the purchase or lease of a new Nissan vehicle. This benefit is available for eligible vehicles of your choice and can be combined with current consumer-facing incentives offered at your participating local Nissan dealer. The Business Associate Program cannot be combined with other offers. Please note participation in Business Associate program is optional for Nissan dealers.

Highlights

- Eligibility: Full-time employees (and their Spouse/Domestic Partner) of Business Associate companies located in the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii.
- Number of Claim Codes allowed per year per business associate: Two (2)
- Proof of Employment required at time of delivery at Nissan Dealership (only one (1) required):
 - Company-issued employee badge – OR -
 - Copy of the employee's current paycheck stub (monetary amounts may be redacted) noting employee name and employer name with a Business Associate eligible company. – OR -
 - Dated letter from the company's Human Resources office (along with contact information and verification of current employment).

How to Claim Business Associate Discount:

- FIRST STEP: Visit www.insidenissan.com
 - Click "Business Associates" tile
 - Enter your name and this special code: VPP025075 in the VPP Company Code box.
 - Follow the instructions to generate a VPP Claim ID Number and Claim Certificate.
- SECOND STEP: Take your Claim Certificate/Claim ID Number and your driver's license and required documents to your local Nissan dealer
 - Once you have selected a vehicle, the dealer will be able to calculate your discounted purchase price
 - Drive away in your new Nissan vehicle!



We are confident you will take pride in owning your new Nissan vehicle!

www.insidenissan.com