Dean, University Libraries
Leadership Profile

The Opportunity

Kent State University, a top-tier national university and the largest public multi-campus system in Ohio, with an enrollment of more than 38,000 students, seeks an energetic, innovative, forward-thinking, collaborative and visionary leader who practices inclusive excellence to serve as Dean of University Libraries. Reporting to the Executive Vice President and Provost, the dean serves as spokesperson for the University Libraries’ eight-campus system, providing strategic direction and advocating for staffing, collections, and facilities needs of the University Libraries, LaunchNet, and the Kent State University Press. The Dean of University Libraries will foster a welcoming and diverse environment for students, faculty, staff, and the broader community. The successful candidate will have a proactive interest in contributing to advancement efforts, an understanding of library trends and issues, and a demonstrated commitment to cultivating collegial and collaborative environments.

Kent State University is proud of its outstanding faculty and staff, students, collaborative culture, exceptional academic and research orientation, and strong commitment to engagement, academic excellence and diversity. The university’s Kent Campus has a student body of more than 27,000, and a thriving residential population of more than 6,500 students. Its regional campuses draw full- and part-time students now totaling more than 11,000 from across Northeast Ohio. Dr. Beverly J. Warren became the university’s 12th president on July 1, 2014, and has led Kent State to a new era of energy and passion. Building on this forward momentum, the University launched a new vision: To be a community of change agents whose collective commitment to learning sparks epic thinking, meaningful voice, and invaluable outcomes to better our society.

For more than a century, University Libraries (UL) at Kent State has rooted and evolved to become a nationally recognized academic library among the best in the world. UL supports the study and research needs of students, faculty, staff, alumni and local communities across the university
system. University Libraries continues to strive for excellence in its vision to be regarded as essential to research success and current with changing library space and resource needs. In the process, UL honors traditions and history with archival preservation while introducing new spaces and resources for the university community.

The Dean of University Libraries oversees the Kent State University Library, and Architecture, Fashion, Map, and Performing Arts branch libraries on the Kent campus, and work collaboratively with libraries on each of Kent’s regional campus and the College of Podiatric Medicine. University Libraries includes multiple units: Administration, Circulation, Communications, Copyright Services, Course Reserves, Instruction, Interlibrary Loan, LaunchNET, Reference, Spark Innovation Studio, Special Collections and Archives, Statistical Consulting, Student Multimedia Studio, Systems, Technical Services, and University Press. The new dean will lead 27 faculty and 54 professional and support staff members, with an $11.7 million operating budget.

Mission and Goals
Kent State University Libraries’ mission is “to deliver unparalleled opportunities for success in learning, research and discovery to our users wherever they are in the world.” This mission is accomplished through the following goals:

- Promote a culture of more intentional diversity, equity and inclusion;
- Improve our student success-centered services and programs;
- Make our libraries more physically and virtually welcoming;
- Strategically enhance access to our collections; and
- Responsibly manage the fiscal resources that enable us to improve our spaces, collections, services and programs.

Key Priorities for the Dean

- Lead the University Libraries’ ongoing efforts to provide a student-friendly environment, broad access to materials, and professional support for teaching and research in an effective and efficient manner.
- Coordinate University Libraries’ activities across the Kent State University system, with a special emphasis on expanding shared services.
- Develop a strategic plan for the University Libraries system, as guided by Kent State’s Strategic Roadmap to a Distinctive Kent State.
• Support the university’s core values:
  o A distinctive blend of teaching, research and creative excellence;
  o Active inquiry and discovery that expands knowledge and human understanding;
  o Life-changing educational experiences for students with wide-ranging talents and aspirations;
  o A living-learning environment that creates a genuine sense of place;
  o Engagement that inspires positive change;
  o Diversity of culture, beliefs, identity and thought;
  o Freedom of expression and the free exchange of ideas;
  o A collaborative community; and
  o Respect, kindness and purpose in all we do.
• Lead in the spirit of shared governance, and in a collective bargaining environment.
• Lead and participate in the State of Ohio’s mandated efforts to share services across institutions of public higher education.

Academic Qualifications
Candidates must possess a terminal degree (master’s degree from an accredited American Library Association program); a substantive record of scholarly and professional achievements; progressively responsible administrative experience in an academic or research library; distinguished professional experience; and an academic record sufficient to qualify for faculty appointment at a senior rank.

About Kent State University
We are one of the largest university systems in the nation, but one of the closest families in the world. We welcome you with open arms, yet push you out with an open mind. We give you the strength to stand for what matters and take meaningful action for change. Our vastly different culture full of visionary ideas and ambitious people makes us undeniably Kent State.

Undeniably, it is an exciting time to be at Kent State University. With renewed energy and passion, the University recently launched a new vision: To be a community of change agents whose collective commitment to learning sparks epic thinking, meaningful voice, and invaluable outcomes to better our society. Building on the Strategic Roadmap to a Distinctive Kent State embraced by the Kent State community, President Warren has set the stage for delivering upon the University priorities:

• **Priority 1**: Students First. Provide an inclusive and engaged living-learning environment where all students thrive and graduate as informed citizens committed to a life of impact.

• **Priority 2**: A Distinctive Kent State. Drive innovation, idea generation, and national distinction through top-tier academic and research programs including the recruitment and support of talented faculty and staff.
• **Priority 3:** Global Competitiveness. Advance Kent State’s impact and reach as a leading international university.

• **Priority 4:** Regional Impact. Serve as the innovative engine and engaged partner to meet community needs and enhance quality of life in the region and state.

• **Priority 5:** Organizational Stewardship. Ensure a culture of continuous improvement and the efficient stewardship of University resources and infrastructure.

Helping students to find their purpose and forge their future, Kent State University is a leading public research university located in Northeast Ohio. Kent State offers an environment where pushing limits and respecting freedom of expression thrive. With a total enrollment of more than 38,000 students on its eight campuses coming from 50 states and more than 100 countries, Kent State is one of the largest university systems in the nation.

Fostering a diverse culture full of visionary ideas and ambitious people, Kent State ranks 191 on the Best National Universities list by *U.S. News & World Report*, earning a coveted spot on the first-tier list. This ranking places Kent State among the top 100 public universities nationwide. From the certificate level to the associate, baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral levels, the University offers more than 400 undergraduate and graduate programs of study. Kent State is illuminating the way across the globe with locations in New York, China, Italy, Switzerland and India.

Kent State is located in a major population and economic center. Northeast Ohio is home to 4.4 million people and 20 Fortune 500 firms, and is one of the nation’s top five industrial markets and a leader in new technology. The region is rich in natural and cultural amenities, including the splendor of the Great Lakes, one of the country’s most-visited national parks, the nation’s second-largest theatre district, a world-class symphony orchestra, renowned museums, three major sports teams, eclectic neighborhoods, and multicultural experiences in settings from urban to rural. KSU employees obtain their healthcare from several leading hospital systems, including the Cleveland Clinic, which is currently the second-ranked hospital in the United States.
Academic programs are organized into 10 colleges: Aeronautics and Engineering; Architecture and Environmental Design; Arts and Sciences; the Arts; Business Administration; Communication and Information; Education, Health and Human Services; Nursing; Podiatric Medicine; and Public Health. The addition of new learning environments from the sciences to the arts and the development of exciting new academic programs such as aerospace engineering, geographic information science, brain health, and business analytics characterize Kent State’s focus on transformational educational experiences.

More than 2,600 full- and part-time faculty, hailing from six different continents, have degrees from more than 150 national and international institutions. From Fulbright scholars to internationally recognized leaders in their disciplines, Kent State faculty members enjoy an award-winning reputation for cutting-edge research and ground-breaking discovery. They are recognized by prestigious organizations, including the National Academy of Sciences, National Science Foundation, Institute for Financial Markets, American Physical Society, Science Watch, and Guggenheim fellowships.

With an annual average of $28 million in external funding to support research, instructional, and public service projects, the university is a driving force for regional growth and development. Fulbright scholars and internationally recognized leaders actively involve undergraduate and graduate students in their research projects. Kent State is ranked fifth in the United States and Canada in number of start-up companies formed and patents issued per million dollars in expenditures.

As Northeast Ohio’s premier public university, Kent State is proud to host nearly 50 centers and institutes, each of which supports the institution’s teaching, research, and public service mission in its own unique way. The University has a long, strong history of public-private partnerships and of sharing the expertise of its world-class faculty and highly trained staff far beyond campus boundaries. An affiliate of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Kent State is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.
The Community

In recent years, the city of Kent has experienced dramatic revitalization as a result of a $106 million public and private investment. Kent State University officials, city administrators, the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA), and its partners have collaborated to make the city of Kent an excellent place to live, work, study, and visit.

Cultural elements in Kent include various arts, environmental, and entertainment events during the year, as well as the Kent State University Museum, which focuses on the history of fashion design and decorative arts in the U.S. and around the world. The Kent Stage, located downtown, is a performance venue for a variety of arts performances in music and theater. It hosts 90 concerts, four theatrical performances, and four film festivals or movie premieres per year. In addition, the City of Kent operates nearly 20 parks and preserves, the largest of which is the 56-acre Fred Fuller Park, along the Cuyahoga River. Haymaker Farmers Market is held year-round in Kent and is one of many weekly markets in communities surrounding the university.

The city of Kent is just 20 minutes from Akron, home of more than 20,000 businesses, including the headquarters of two Fortune 500 companies. In particular, northeast Ohio is home to some of the world’s leading liquid crystal and polymer research programs and companies, and is internationally recognized as the “Polymer Center of the Americas.” The Akron Art Museum, the World Golf Championship Bridgestone Invitational, and the All-American Soap Box Derby are all located in the city of Akron.

Kent is less than an hour from Cleveland, situated on the southern shore of Lake Erie, which is the second largest city in Ohio and the largest media market in the state. Cleveland is home to many beautiful parks. The Cleveland Metroparks won the prestigious 2016 National Gold Medal Award for excellence in Park and Recreation Management and includes the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, that contains one of the largest collections of primates in North America. In addition, the Cleveland Metroparks manages eight lakefront parks that provide public access to Lake Erie. With 33,000 protected acres and 2.2 million visits each year, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park is located less than 30 minutes from campus and provides connectivity on the Towpath Trail all the way to Cleveland. Cleveland’s professional sports teams include the Cleveland Browns (National Football League), the Cleveland Indians (Major League Baseball), the Cleveland Cavaliers (National Basketball Association), and the Lake Erie Monsters (American Hockey League).
For those who enjoy the performing arts, Cleveland is home to Playhouse Square Center, the second largest performing arts center in the United States behind New York’s Lincoln Center. Playhouse Square includes five theaters within what is known as the Cleveland Theater District, with such resident performing arts companies as Cleveland Play House, Opera Cleveland, and the Great Lakes Theater Festival. The center hosts various Broadway musicals, special concerts, speaking engagements, and other events throughout the year. Cleveland is also home to the Cleveland Orchestra, widely considered one of the finest orchestras in the world. It is one of the “Big Five” major orchestras in the United States.

Five miles east of downtown Cleveland is University Circle, a 550-acre concentration of cultural, educational, and medical institutions, including the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Case Western Reserve University, University Hospitals, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (now third-largest in the country), and the Western Reserve Historical Society. The Greater Cleveland Aquarium is located near downtown, and the I.M. Pei-designed Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is located on the Lake Erie waterfront. Cleveland also boasts the Great Lakes Science Center, boating, fishing, swimming, and other waterfront recreation.

Cleveland is now recognized as an eatery destination. The national food press – including publications Gourmet, Food & Wine and Esquire – has heaped praise on several Cleveland spots including “best new restaurant,” “best steakhouse,” “best farm-to-table programs,” and “great new neighborhood eateries.” In 2008, the Chicago Tribune ran a feature article in its “Travel” section proclaiming Cleveland as America’s “hot new dining city.” Nightlife in Cleveland is also very vibrant, offering exciting hotspots like the Warehouse District, East 4th Street District, and the Tremont District.

Northeast Ohio is home to world-class healthcare, including the Cleveland Clinic that is ranked a top U.S. hospital by U.S. News and World Report. Other nationally ranked facilities include University Hospitals, Akron Children’s Hospital, and the Cleveland Clinic Akron General Medical Center.

**Application Process**
Interested candidates should apply through the Kent State University Applicant Portal, jobs.kent.edu, and include a letter describing relevant experience and interest in the position, curriculum vitae/resume, and names, titles, and contact information of five references.

*Kent State is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer. The University actively encourages applications and nominations of women, minorities and persons with disabilities and applications from candidates with diverse cultural backgrounds.*