

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Use

May 25, 2022

Contact:

Bobbie Athon, Director of Communications

bobbie.athon@ks.gov

Derenda Mitchell Joins Kansas Historical Foundation as Executive Director

TOPEKA, KS—Dr. W. Walt Menninger, president of the Kansas Historical Foundation, announced today that Derenda J. Mitchell will lead the not-for-profit foundation effective June 1, 2022. “We are delighted to announce that Derenda Mitchell will be the new executive director for the Kansas Historical Foundation,” Menninger said. “Her knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm will guide the Foundation as it continues to raise funds and build assets to preserve Kansas history. We could not be more pleased to welcome Derenda to the Foundation!”

Mitchell served as unit director in the office of the Kansas Attorney General for the past seven years. She had served as assistant attorney general in the office, and with the Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Insurance, and the office of Governor Bill Graves. She was previously a partner with Sloan, Listrom, Eisenbarth, Sloan & Glassman. Mitchell earned a bachelor’s degree in history with honors at the University of Kansas, and a juris doctorate at Washburn University Law School. She has written numerous articles for *The Journal of the Kansas Bar Association*, among other publications. She has been active in the community, having served as P.E.O. chapter president, vice president of the Kaw Valley Girl Scout Council, and president of the Topeka Parks and Recreation Foundation, among others.

The Foundation has nearly completed a capital campaign to raise \$6 million for new exhibits at the Kansas Museum of History. The Kansas Historical Foundation supports and promotes Kansas history through the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency. The Foundation, governed by a board of directors, serves as the fund raising, fund management, membership, and retail organization. The Kansas Historical Society and Kansas Historical Foundation were established together by newspapers editors in 1875.

#

Connect with us!

Our website: kshs.org

Facebook: facebook.com/kansashistorical

Twitter: twitter.com/kansashistory

Instagram: instagram.com/kansas_history