



*A Member of The Claremont Colleges*



# Keck Graduate Institute Vision for the Future

*Elevating Excellence Together*

[kgi.edu](https://kgi.edu)



## A Message from President Abousalem

*In the nearly 30 years since its founding, Keck Graduate Institute has expanded from one program and an initial cohort of 28 students to its current stature, with more than a dozen programs and over 600 students. Our expanded footprint in industry and world-class healthcare, biotechnology, and research capabilities are hallmarks of our value and impact on society and reflect the excellence of our faculty, students, and staff.*

KGI is an institution designed to support and advance the rapid evolution of the biotechnology, life sciences, and healthcare industries, from knowledge creation to training the next generation of leaders. It is essential that our next chapter emphasizes our substantial strengths, provides us with the opportunity to achieve new heights, and cements our leadership in delivering the public impact we strive to bring to our local and global communities.

As the Institute's third president, and first new leader in more than 20 years, my first priority was to embark on a listening and learning tour to hear firsthand from faculty, students, and staff. Many of these conversations focused on similar themes and throughlines: I heard of the reverence our community has for this Institute, its culture, its potential, and our collective aspirations to build on our solid foundation as we turn the page toward the next 20 years.

While we will remain nimble and flexible – tenets of how we have and must continue to operate – establishing an institutional vision will align our work and focus, advise our initiatives for the years

ahead, and inform not only what we do but how we move forward to elevate the institution and continue our leadership. Our next decade will be guided by the following four priorities as we lean into and invest in our strengths, identify new opportunities, and build on the success of KGI's early decades to drive the Institution's impact on society:

1. Advance Academic Excellence
2. Enhance the Student Experience
3. Accelerate Institutional Maturity
4. Elevate the KGI Brand

While these priorities collectively advance the singular focus on elevating our excellence, they are complementary and integral to achieving the overall success and recognition we seek. Success in one area will naturally support and amplify the other areas, and continuous improvement must be the ethos that guides everything we do so that we can truly achieve the leadership we aspire to.



### **Advance Academic Excellence**

Continuing to advance KGI's academic excellence is essential to the institute's growth and to ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of its students and society. As a young institution, KGI has the opportunity to build upon its strong foundation and accelerate forward, propelled by our strengths, while also maintaining an entrepreneurial mindset to capitalize on new opportunities.

One key component of this will be continuously reviewing and strengthening our program offerings to ensure they align with industry needs, career opportunities, and academic best practices while encouraging innovations that present commercial promise and enhance our reputation. We must establish new and strengthen existing partnerships to ensure KGI students are working on leading-edge, real-life projects with potential employers who seek to achieve progress on their most-pressing challenges while cultivating their next generation of leaders.

Strengthening KGI's research efforts is crucial for broadening our global impact and ensuring we continue to meet the needs of students, researchers, and industry partners. To advance academic excellence, we must elevate our research enterprise and expand our intellectual property assets; investing in research output that brings new ideas from concept to product so that we can realize their value with our academic and industry partners.

Increasing the size, breadth, and depth of KGI's student and faculty scholarship is central to our long-term success. A growing Ph.D. program and an expanded research agenda are essential to bolstering KGI's scholarship. The framework for KGI to be a leading academic institution and research partner in healthcare and biotechnology is in place, and the focused and intentional growth efforts will allow us to refine, optimize, and expand our academic excellence with consideration and intent.

Simultaneously, we must strengthen and expand our recruitment of highly qualified and diverse students, faculty, and staff. It is the people who make this all happen, and in order to succeed, we must nurture an inclusive culture in all of our engagements.

### **Enhance The Student Experience**

The effective preparation of the next generation of healthcare, biotech, and life sciences leaders requires an environment that reflects KGI's continued role as a catalyst for industry evolution and nurtures a strong sense of community, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The student experience goes beyond the distinct period when someone is on campus – it starts on the day they register for a KGI program and extends to and through their career, representing a lifelong relationship with KGI, the faculty, and their peers. We must continue to build campus systems and operations that maintain KGI's distinctive active learning environment and help our students belong and thrive at KGI and beyond. We must invest in expanding and establishing new student success programs inclusive of academic advising, holistic support, and career services. This commitment extends to our graduates and building long-term mechanisms to maintain their relationship with their program, the faculty, and the Institute.

KGI must also leverage its collective strengths and expertise to create a culture and ecosystem for discovery, entrepreneurship, and knowledge transfer.



When students and faculty have ideas born out of a class project or research, the Institute will provide the support needed to guide them to commercial viability and success through mentorship, entrepreneurial skill development, and partnerships that address the challenges inherent in bringing an idea to market. We will seek relationships and partnerships near and far to help bring opportunities and resources to our student and faculty entrepreneurs and advance their innovations to become successful ventures.

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### **Accelerate Institutional Maturity**

As part of KGI's continued evolution and in order to grow with purpose and intent, we must also build the systems that gain us rigor and efficiency and reflect our operational maturity while maintaining our entrepreneurial spirit. One of the greatest assets at KGI will always be our culture of continuous improvement. This commitment must carry over, not only from what we teach and how we teach it but also from how we function.

We have optimized our structure to have three distinct schools: Henry E. Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences, School of Health Sciences, and School of Pharmacy. This not only defines our areas of academic offerings, but also aligns institutional effectiveness initiatives and nurtures student and faculty support and success. We will optimize our admissions processes, bolster our corporate engagement strategies, and expand our philanthropic activities to support our long-term ambitions and sustainability while creating an environment in which we can capitalize on new opportunities.

While we expand KGI's global footprint, it is important we simultaneously deepen our roots in The Claremont Colleges and Inland Empire to leverage the strength of the Consortium and create a solid value proposition for our local communities and our region. Together, The Claremont Colleges are one of the country's preeminent intellectual clusters. It is our responsibility to build synergy and offer formal and organic

opportunities for faculty, students, and staff to engage and leverage each other's expertise and pursue initiatives that connect local, regional, and statewide needs and priorities with the expertise and capabilities available right here in Claremont.

Our institutional maturity will unequivocally come from the excellence of our people. We must strengthen and expand our recruitment of highly qualified and diverse faculty and staff and help them achieve their professional best through continuous development. It is the people who make this all happen, and in order to succeed, we must nurture a robust and inclusive culture of belonging in all of our engagements.

### **Elevate the KGI Brand**

The world's most recognized institutions share a similar quality: they have been in operation for a long time. KGI does not have this luxury – we are a young institution. However, this also presents a significant opportunity for us to define the Institute's expertise and leadership to the world.

Collectively, the priorities encompassed within this vision naturally complement KGI's institutional prowess – our value proposition to students, faculty, staff, and our local and global communities. As KGI reaches a broader set of prospective students and partners, we will tell the story of our success, grow the recognition of our programs, and elevate our students, faculty, staff, graduates, supporters, and partners.

Through our expanded academic programs and industry partnerships, growing philanthropic support, characteristic customer service ethos, strong inclusive culture, and unmistakable sense of accountability, we will capture and amplify our efforts to convey the power of KGI. This path focused on continued excellence requires a shared understanding of our vision so that every member of our internal and external communities connects their role and contribution to building the KGI of the future.





## Elevating Excellence Together

Taking an institution from its youth to maturity requires time, intention, and a dedicated community of students, faculty, staff, and partners. We are grateful for our community's generosity and support of KGI's success. Our strength is our community.

With the shared understanding of KGI's vision and path forward, the 2024-25 academic year will provide us the opportunity to build out the strategies, initiatives, tactics, and plans that advance our priorities through the collective power and focus of KGI's operations. Every part of KGI will participate and will have a role to play in harnessing our collective excellence in pursuit of this vision. In many areas, this work is already underway. KGI's next chapter will be built on our strong foundation.

Together, let's elevate academic, student, and institutional excellence to expand upon our strengths. Together, let's identify, refine, and optimize opportunities for improvement. Together, let's move forward with a focus on high quality and intentional growth. All guided by our entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to continuous improvement, let's elevate KGI's excellence together!





## KECK GRADUATE INSTITUTE

*Keck Graduate Institute is a one-of-a-kind graduate school focused on educating tomorrow's biotech, research, and healthcare leaders. We do this through a concentrated and hands-on approach to our methodology that brings students together with our extensive network of partners to work on real-world problems in real-world settings that allow our students to gain the experience and knowledge to truly make an impact on our communities and the individuals within them.*

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