جامعتنا..تبني وطنًا
OUR KSU

News**letter**

KSU Transformation Hackathon

We take this opportunity to remind our community that Our KSU is the university's transformation framework. It is not a single initiative, but rather a unified and evolving program that brings together all transformation efforts across King Saud University. So far, the transformation framework includes four flagship programs:

1. KSU Strategy – our long-term roadmap toward global academic and innovation excellence.
2. Leading from the Front – empowering faculty, staff, and students to take direct ownership in driving transformation.
3. Corporatization – enhancing our governance model and operational agility.
4. Culture Investment – building a connected and positive community aligned with our institutional goals.

This issue focuses on highlighting your voice and participation in one of the most powerful programs to date: Leading from the Front. Over the past three months, we've seen unprecedented engagement across the university—through surveys, drop-in sessions, focus groups, the hackathon, and more. This is your transformation, and your input is shaping it every day.

> As we continue the journey of transformation, our strength remains rooted in our people. I commend your continued engagement and look forward to the shared achievements that lie ahead.

Acting University President
Prof. Abdullah Bin Salman Al-Salman

The spirit of initiative creates the future

Chief Transformation Officer
Andrea Longhi

Dear KSU Community,

I want to personally thank each of you for the incredible momentum you have helped create in recent months. The Leading from the Front program and the Transformation Hackathon have shown what's possible when ideas meet action and when diverse voices lead the way forward.

Your passion, innovation, and dedication have laid the foundation for real change. I was especially proud to witness your creativity during the Hackathon. It was a testament to the strength of our community and a clear signal that transformation is not just top-down—it's community-led.

As we move into the next phase, I want to assure you that your winning ideas and even the promising ones that didn't win will not be forgotten. We are actively working to turn these ideas into a real, visible impact across the university.

And as we come together to celebrate Eid Al-Adha Almubark, I wish you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful holiday. Let this spirit of renewal and unity guide us as we continue shaping a stronger, bolder KSU.

With sincere appreciation,

Welcoming Our New Leaders

CHRO and CFO

King Saud University

We are pleased to welcome two distinguished leaders who have recently joined KSU. As part of our commitment to transparent and engaging transformation, we are sharing their messages and aspirations for how they plan to contribute to this journey of change.

Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO)

MR. ABDULMAJEED ALQUSAIBI

It is an honour to join King Saud University an institution I deeply value. I affirm my full commitment to supporting its transformation journey. At our university, we believe that true transformation begins with people. Human capital is the bridge that connects our ambitions to the lasting impact we strive to achieve.

- **To our faculty colleagues:** You are the engine of academic excellence. We are committed to supporting your creativity and professional development.
- **To our Business Enablers:** It is time we move beyond the traditional label of "administrative staff." You are the true enablers of our KSU, contributing effectively across diverse functions and specializations. We are redefining roles, enhancing capabilities, and opening new avenues for professional growth and advancement.
- **And to our dear students:** you are at the centre of what we do, we work for you and the future of our city and nation

Together, we are building a stronger, more agile KSU ready for the future. Together, Our KSU Builds Our Nation.

ABDULMAJEED ALQUSAIBI

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Mr. FAIZ ALAHMARY

I am proud to join King Saud University during this exciting phase of transformation. Our goal is to build a strong financial foundation that supports KSU's mission in education, research, and innovation.
Together, we will focus on enhancing financial governance, optimizing resources, and driving financial sustainability. We look forward to work as one team—united in purpose and committed to KSU's long-term success.

FAIZ ALAHMARY

Their experience and leadership will play a critical role in enabling the success of our transformation. We wish them all the best in this important mission.

Transformation in Action: Leading from the Front

We are thrilled to share the remarkable progress of the Leading from the Front (LFTF) program, fuelled by your unwavering support and engagement over the past three months. Your enthusiastic participation and valuable feedback have been instrumental in shaping the future of our beloved university.

In this edition of the newsletter, we'd like to share some of the feedback you shared with us during the recent listening exercises, reflect on the success of KSU's largest Hackathon to date, and introduce you to our vibrant community of Transformation Ambassadors.

YOU SAID, WE LISTENED

Through the Leading from the Front program, we have witnessed extraordinary engagement across all levels of our university:

- **15,836** survey responses from Students, Faculty, and Administrative Staff
- **25** drop-in sessions were held across colleges — including female campus —attended by over **3,750** of you
- A network of **2,000+** Transformation ambassadors activated

Your active participation has yielded over **267,000** data points, providing invaluable insights into our strengths but also areas for improvement. We are heartened to hear that our community takes pride in KSU and our contribution to the Kingdom›s success. However, we acknowledge the work ahead to meet your expectations of a leading global academic and innovation institution. `

How we will make a difference?

Your feedback highlighted five key areas where we can improve your experience at KSU:

1. **Campus Environment:** Upgrading facilities, learning spaces, and student amenities.
2. **Culture and Community:** Fostering inclusive engagement, diversity, and alignment with institutional goals.
3. **Academic Experience:** Enhancing curriculum relevance, teaching methods, and student employability.
4. **Research Excellence:** Strengthening research support, facilities, and collaborative opportunities.
5. **Staff Development and Management:** Improving career progression, workload balance, and compensation structures.

We are committed to immediate action in addressing these opportunities. We will initially prioritize 'Campus Environment' and 'Culture and Community' to make immediate impact. A team of **18** Frontliners from across the University will spearhead top priority projects, delivering quick, tangible improvements across KSU.
These project teams will be led by **3** outstanding individuals carefully selected from over **1,200** applications.
We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on their new roles and wish their teams every success in delivering the critical first improvements on our journey to excellence.
We look forward to sharing the progress and results of these priority projects in the next edition of the newsletter.

CELEBRATING KSU'S LARGEST EVER HACKATHON

Over the last month, the Leading from the Front program has delivered the most dynamic transformation initiatives yet — the KSU Transformation Hackathon.

Under the patronage of His Excellency the Chairman of the Board, Yousef Bin Abdullah Al-Benyan, and in the presence of KSU Acting President, Prof. Abdullah Bin Salman Al-Salman, the KSU Transformation Hackathon is a pioneering innovation initiative aimed at driving meaningful change within the university. The Hackathon was organized by the Transformation Management Office in collaboration with the Deanship of Student Affairs—represented by the Student Partnership Program—and the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA).

Thank you and Appreciation

Special thanks to Student Affairs,

represented by the Student Partnership Program, for their collaboration in making this hackathon a success, and to Dean **Dr. Ali Aldalbahi** for his support. As well as the outstanding student team led by the student **Nawaf Alzuaibar**.

Transformation Hackathon:

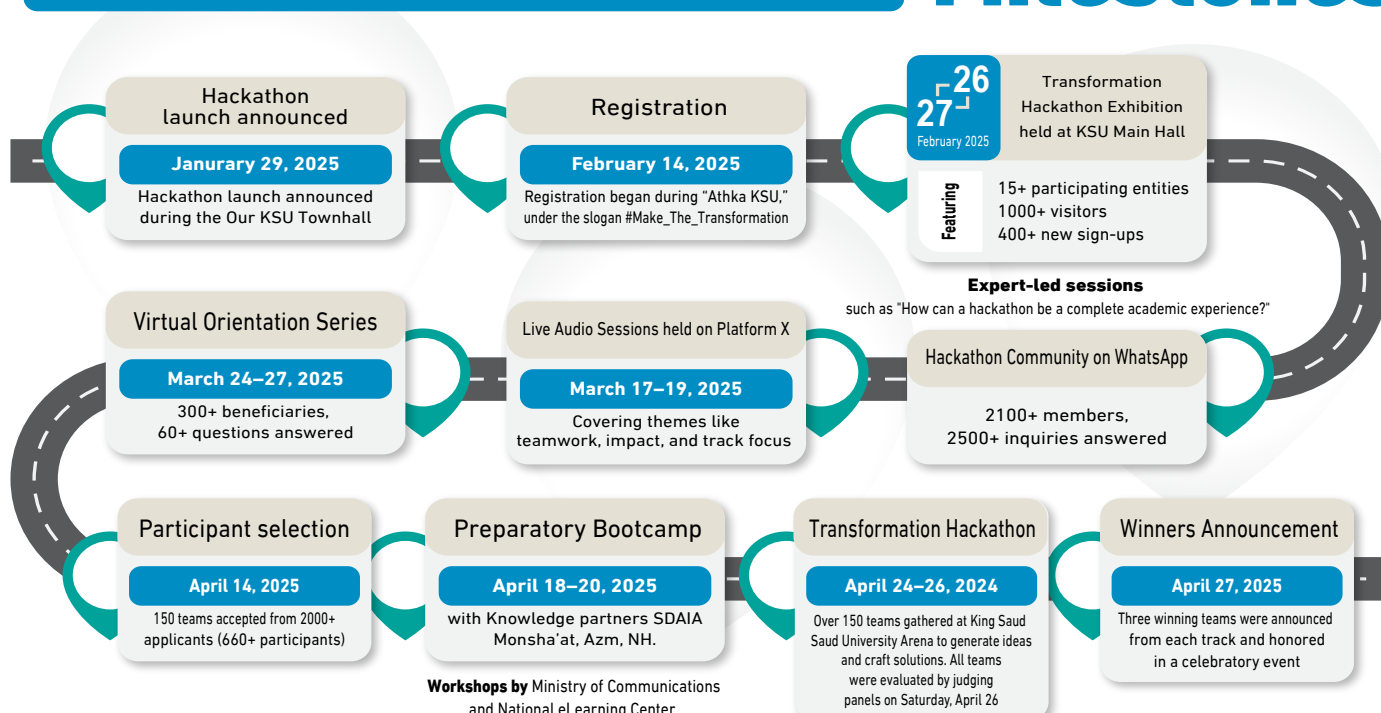It brought together students, faculty, and staff to co-create solutions across three key

tracks: Academic Experience, Campus Life, and University Operations—fostering collaboration and innovation to support KSU's strategic transformation.

With remarkable engagement across the university, this hackathon proved that innovation thrives when diverse minds come together united with purpose.

Transformation Hackathon Launch & Promotion
Milestones

Hackathon launch announced
Janurary 29, 2025
Hackathon launch announced during the Our KSU Townhall

Registration
February 14, 2025
Registration began during "Athka KSU," under the slogan #Make_The_Transformation

26 27 February 2025
Transformation Hackathon Exhibition held at KSU Main Hall
Featuring
15+ participating entities
1000+ visitors
400+ new sign-ups

Expert-led sessions
such as "How can a hackathon be a complete academic experience?"

Virtual Orientation Series
March 24–27, 2025
300+ beneficiaries,
60+ questions answered

Live Audio Sessions held on Platform X
March 17–19, 2025
Covering themes like teamwork, impact, and track focus

Hackathon Community on WhatsApp
2100+ members,
2500+ inquiries answered

Participant selection
April 14, 2025
150 teams accepted from 2000+ applicants (660+ participants)

Preparatory Bootcamp
April 18–20, 2025
with Knowledge partners SDAIA Monsha'at, Azm, NH.
Workshops by Ministry of Communications and National eLearning Center

Transformation Hackathon
April 24–26, 2024
Over 150 teams gathered at King Saud Saud University Arena to generate ideas and craft solutions. All teams were evaluated by judging panels on Saturday, April 26

Winners Announcement
April 27, 2025
Three winning teams were announced from each track and honored in a celebratory event

Transformation Hackathon

A NEW KIND OF HACKATHON

What made this Hackathon different?

For the first time, faculty members, administrative staff, students, and alumni all joined forces — not just as participants, but as co-creators of KSU's future. The diversity of voices gave the Hackathon a unique flavor of collaboration and inclusivity, proving that transformation is everyone's responsibility.

What truly stood out were the stories of chemistry and connection across groups.

One of the winning teams, for example, brought together a faculty member and her daughter, a student — both working side by side on the same challenge. Another team featured a faculty member and his students, united in purpose and vision. In many cases, faculty, staff, and students sat together at one table, brainstorming and building solutions as one KSU family. This Hackathon didn't just generate ideas — it brought the university community closer together.

Hackathon at a glance

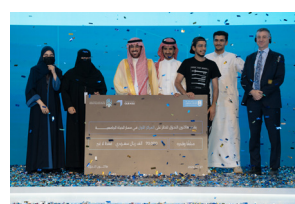|				
900+ participants competed across three-days	153 ideas across 3 transformation tracks	27+ hours of ideation and solution building	9 winning teams awarded a total of 450,000 SAR	20+ external sponsors supported the initiative

Sparking 150+ ideas

The KSU Transformation Hackathon sparked over 150 ideas from teams of students, faculty, staff, and alumni — a powerful testament to the community's creativity and vision for the university's future. Projects ranged from AI-powered platforms and smart campus solutions to bold sustainability and community initiatives.

Winning teams stood out by blending innovation with impact, delivering user-focused, feasible solutions aligned with institutional priorities. Their clear, compelling presentations and thoughtful use of AI positioned their ideas as strong contenders for real-world implementation. **Congratulations to All the Winning Teams!**

HACKATHON PILLARS (TRACKS)

Academic Experience
Enhancing learning outcomes, teaching methods, and academic support for students and faculty.

University Operations
Improving efficiency and productivity by optimizing processes, resources, and systems

Campus Life
Enriching the university environment to boost engagement, well-being, and daily experience for the KSU community

Winning Projects

Academic Experience
Exploring ways to improve learning outcomes, teaching methods, and academic support for students and faculty at KSU.

University Operation
Exploring ways to enhance productivity and efficiency across KSU by optimizing processes, resources, and solutions

Campus Life
Improving KSU's facilities to boost engagement, well-being, and productivity for students, staff, and faculty.

1st place = LexAI

An AI-powered platform that enhances moot court experiences by analyzing student performance and providing detailed feedback to improve practical legal skills.

1st place = An integrated system for innovation and entrepreneurship

An electronic platform that protects and commercializes intellectual property while managing stakeholder challenges and attracting contributors to innovative ideas across technical fields.

1st place = Daliylah

A smart app that guides the KSU community and visitors around campus with interactive maps and accessible navigation.

2nd place = Uni Bag

is an innovative educational platform designed specifically for university students, transforming the learning experience through powerful AI-powered tools that enhance efficiency and support academic success.

2nd place = Vocational training

A smart digital platform that connects university students with internship opportunities, part-time jobs, and seasonal work, using student ID integration and syncing with the university›s academic database.

2nd place = Faza'ah

A platform where KSU Community offer campus services in exchange for rewards or volunteer credit.

3rd place = KSU Smart Mentor

An intelligent AI-powered learning system that uses agents to analyze students› understanding in real time and provide instant recommendations to professors.

3rd place = Wasel platform

A digital solution for streamlined event planning and management at KSU.

3rd place = Smart containers

use sensors to reduce waste, track recyclables, and boost recycling efficiency.

MEET YOUR TRANSFORMATION AMBASSADORS

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Behind every successful transformation are people who lead it with confidence and inspiration

At the heart of every successful transformation is people-led change—and that's exactly what our Transformation Ambassadors represent.

With a vibrant network of 2,000+ ambassadors these passionate advocates are helping to drive our transformation journey from within. They inspire, support, and lead change across the university, embodying our collective commitment to excellence and bringing the 'Our KSU' vision to life—all while aligning with the goals of Vision 2030.

And our ambassadors are already making a difference. Their recent involvement in the successful Transformation Hackathon is just one example of how they're building momentum—fostering trust, encouraging participation, and championing real progress.

And don't just take our word for it—here's what the ambassadors had to say:

" Let us be the change we wish to see for our university.
Dr. Hila Al-Saleem - Social Psychology "

" Throughout this Hackathon, I got the chance to experience that same passion from a new perspective — as a Facilitator Leader, guiding and supporting participants as they transformed ideas into impactful solutions.
Marwa Sonbul, ERP Consultant at KSU "

" King Saud University was once tasked with the impossible mission of bringing an entire nation up to a relatively high standard of academic competence... And we can do it again, if we do it together. This transformation is our collective responsibility and will only be as real and powerful as every effort which each person commits to.
Dr. Tameem M Ashry- Department of Pathology /College of Medicine "

" Big Changes Are Coming. Exciting things are happening, and I'm proud to be part of it! Recently, I was selected as a Transformation Ambassador and invited to an exclusive Focus Group Meeting with the Transformation Management Office. The discussions were serious, and the changes we've been hoping for are finally taking shape!
Rayan Albaz- Computer Information Systems Student "

" From the Transformation Hackathon... to a Journey of Inspiration. It was an honor to participate as a volunteer and guide in King Saud University's Transformation Hackathon—a truly enriching and inspiring experience. With a spirit of collaboration, I was proud to contribute to supporting the transformation efforts and mentoring the participating teams. Guidance was not merely about direction—it was a shared intellectual and human journey that fostered innovation and created real impact.
Aisha Al-Hobban-General Department of Public Relations and Media "

Stay tuned as we continue to share more stories from our ambassadors—because our transformation at KSU starts with all of us.

WHAT IS NEXT?
Your Voice Matters!

The success of the Leading from the Front program so far is a testament to the power of our collective voice and shared vision for KSU›s future. We›re deeply grateful for the engagement from KSU's members across Academia, Research, Development, and Innovation. As we look ahead, we›re extending our listening initiative to our Healthcare colleagues and stakeholders, eager to hear ideas on elevating our critical patient services.

Let's make change happen

Top Winning projects are just the beginning. The top three from each track will move forward for implementation under the Leading from the Front program, with efforts already underway to explore how they align with existing transformation plans. In parallel, several high-potential ideas that didn't win are being re-evaluated for possible development.

We're still listening

As we embark on this transformative journey, we invite you to remain involved and continue sharing your insights. Together, we will shape a brighter future for King Saud University. Your dedication to excellence and commitment to our growth is the cornerstone of our success.

And finally, thank you. Thank you for being an integral part of this exciting chapter in KSU›s history. Your contributions are shaping not just our institution, but the future of education and innovation in the Kingdom and beyond. We look forward to the remarkable achievements we will accomplish together.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

How will KSU faculty and staff be supported if their roles change or they are reassigned to new tasks?

The transformation is rooted in empowerment, not exclusion. Faculty and staff alike—will be equipped to thrive in evolving roles through targeted training, upskilling, and professional development. Human Resources will play a key role in enabling this transition, ensuring that every individual is supported with the tools and pathways needed to grow, contribute, and succeed.

What about the solutions submitted during the Hackathon?

All solutions presented during the Hackathon are currently under review. The TMO is assessing their feasibility for implementation in upcoming phases or for alignment with other planned or ongoing initiatives.

Will academic programs or graduation requirements be restructured?

Academic programs are under comprehensive review to enhance integration and future relevance. Graduation requirements or academic programs may be updated accordingly, with all changes communicated well in advance to ensure readiness. These changes will be officially announced following the full approval of the university's strategic plan.

What is KSU's future post-transformation?

KSU aims to strengthen its global stature by unifying institutional efforts, committing to change, building strategic partnerships, and offering innovative academic programs and research opportunities that attract global talent. The transformation journey is rooted in agility and institutional resilience enabling the university to adapt proactively to global shifts. In parallel, it empowers graduates to play a vital role in shaping the future with confidence, adaptability, and lasting impact.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on this newsletter!

https://forms.office.com/r/05wR9GbXLq

Heartfelt thanks to
Dr. Hila Al-Saleem

Associate professor in social and cultural psychology and one of our Transformation Ambassadors, for her generous support in translating this newsletter. Her commitment and contributions to the transformation journey are truly appreciated.

Q2 2025 - PHOTO GALLERY