If there was a category of “unsung hero” for community engagement, Professor Kisthardt would clearly qualify. Her interest in achieving results for children and families has meant that she has worked collaboratively over the years, staying out of the limelight to both protect confidentiality and encourage others to contribute.

Long before the UMKC campus began to promote service learning, Professor Kisthardt incorporated service learning components in her classes, and because of her leadership, the UMKC law school has grown a family law program that is second to none.

Beyond her personal community contributions, Professor Kisthardt has had an immeasurable impact on the generations of law students who have studied family law under her and gone on to make their own impact in the community.

As one nominator writes, “Professor Kisthardt is greatly respected by the legal community throughout the State of Missouri and by the greater Kansas City legal community. Needless to say, she is also loved by her many students who have come under her umbrella of excellence. She is an amazing individual who somehow manages to succeed at everything she does.”