Professor Joy D. Swallow, FAIA, came to UMKC charged with establishing a cooperative program in architecture. With determination and vision, she created the Department of Architecture, Urban Planning + Design, which resulted in two professional degree programs at UMKC. She serves as associate professor and department chair.

In 1987, Professor Swallow founded the Architectural Studies program—a collaboration between UMKC and Kansas State University. The collaboration is frequently praised as a model for cooperation between universities.

In 2001, she created an undergraduate degree program in Urban Planning + Design at UMKC. This program uses an innovative approach that places the design studio experience at the center of the curriculum.

“Joy’s career at UMKC spans more than 25 years, but her legacy will remain in perpetuity, providing UMKC with two nationally recognized programs,” one nominator wrote.

Throughout her tenure, Professor Swallow has helped to foster a belief in students, faculty and the community that much is expected and possible. The Urban Planning + Design program has played an important role in providing much-needed planning and design assistance to under-served communities in the Kansas City metro area, New Orleans, La., and Joplin, Mo.

In 2009 the Kansas City chapter of the American Institute of Architects recognized the contributions of Professor Swallow by naming her its Educator of the Year, among the many honors throughout her career. This past year, she was inducted into the College of Fellows of The American Institute of Architects.