

K-State's Engagement E-News

Connecting K-State to Kansas
and Communities Worldwide

University and Military Engagement

As a land-grant university, Kansas State University is constantly developing its national rapport. University president, Kirk H. Schulz has visions of becoming a top land-grant school in several years and in order to do so, it is necessary to progress in the area of military and university engagement.

K-State is currently named one of the top military-friendly schools in the nation according to GI Jobs Magazine and Military Advanced Education Magazine. The university is in the top 15 percent of all schools in the nation and is known for its recruitment of military students and prevalence of military education. Military Education Advanced Magazine has recognized K-State as a leading military-friendly school for two years and ranks it among the top 60 of such schools.

"We're embarking on a strategic effort to leverage all of our rich military programs and our great policies, like the one that recognizes us as a top-ranking, military-friendly institution," Art DeGroat, K-State Director of Military Affairs said.

DeGroat said that the current push at K-State is to become not only a military-friendly university, but a military-inclusive university. This would mean totally immersing the military experience into the university experience and making them one and the same, not just showing favorability to the current military students.

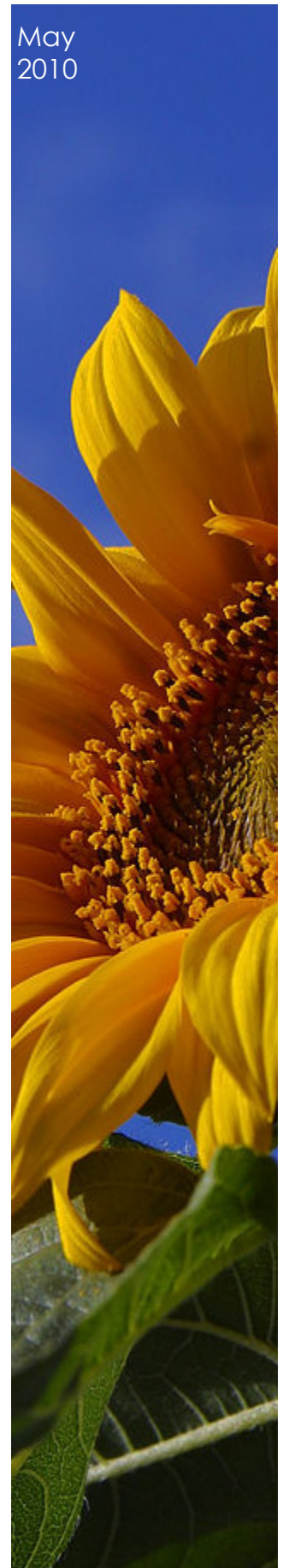
This issue highlights the efforts by the university to combine Ft. Riley and other military experiences in order to achieve president Schulz's dream of becoming a top land-grant university.

Engagements Featured

*Institute for
the Health
and Security of
Military Families*

*K-State Libraries
Training Mission*

*Ft. Riley
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Military Family Health and Security

by Mindy Von Elling

United States soldiers risk their lives everyday to meet the needs of the country and to protect its citizens, but they cannot do it alone. Most soldiers are supported by loyal families and loving wives and children who should not be forgotten.

Brianna Goff, professor of family studies and human services at Kansas State University is an integral part of the Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families, initiated at K-State.



Brianna Goff is a leader in the Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families and focuses her concentration in the area of trauma and traumatic stress.

“Our focus is on military families,” Goff said. “We have a number of faculty in the school of family studies that do military work. I’ve worked in the area of trauma and traumatic stress.”

There are a variety of other areas besides traumatic stress that the institute capitalizes on in order to strengthen military families. The institute is a way to unite each component and those involved with them.

“We’ve had a lot of faculty that have had projects and research programs and the institute is a way to formalize that relationship and to provide an umbrella component of the college and of the school of family studies, as well as for K-State,” Goff said.

The institute, among other outreach efforts that the Center for Engagement and Community Development has advocated, truly is a way to involve military with the university and foster a growing partnership. Currently, K-State has about 44 programs working with the military, and university President Kirk H. Schulz is looking to use that statistic to strengthen the school’s presence nationally.

“One of the things that President Schulz has talked about is being a top 50 public university by 2025 and one of the areas that he’s hoping will promote that is our work with the military,” Goff said.

The institute has already begun specific projects in collaboration with Ft. Riley, including the military base’s 2015 campaign.

“The 2015 campaign plan is a strategic plan for Ft. Riley and K-State are specifically named in it in several places, including the institute,” Goff said. “One of the major areas they’re looking at is building a resiliency campus, really focusing on resiliency and soldiers and family members.”

From this side of the campaign, Ft. Riley is really showing its desire to partner with a top land-grant university to fortify both sides of the partnership: that of the military base and that of the university and its students and faculty members. The campaign focuses on areas the base wants to improve upon and specifically on ways that community partnerships can assist and benefit Ft. Riley’s soldiers and residents.

The Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families is looking to expand K-State’s recognition as a land-grant university through focusing on the needs of military families first and presenting the institute in a formal light.

“Our hope is that by having a formal institute, we’ll be able to expand and increase K-State’s reputation as a top land-grant university, both in terms of conducting research as well as outreach and education,” Goff said. “Being able to put their (military families) needs first is the focus of the institute.”

For more information visit: www.militaryfamilies.k-state.edu

K-State Libraries Connection

by Mindy Von Elling

One of the biggest things that the nation has undergone in recent years is the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, yet the majority of the countries' citizens and military still remain uneducated about each other and what a wartime bond could achieve.

Daryl Youngman, associate professor at Hale Library at Kansas State University is an advocate for counterinsurgency and developing bonds between U.S. and Afghanistan soldiers and citizens. Counterinsurgency involves the act of combating guerilla warfare and is more of a peace-making effort. K-State libraries and the Army Directorate of Cultural Influence and Counterinsurgency are partners in developing social relationships across military cultures and have set up training sessions both in Kansas and in Afghanistan.

"The Ft. Riley training mission, where the DCC (Directorate of Cultural Influence and Counterinsurgency) was centered, was responsible for training Americans who were going to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan and also to train Afghanistan forces who would be working with the American soldiers," Youngman said.



Afghan and American soldiers during a training mission to facilitate social relationships.

Those training missions exist not only at Ft. Riley, but in Afghanistan as well.

"This type of training has expanded to camp Julien in Afghanistan and camp Taji in Iraq," Youngman said. "In the beginning this whole concept of interaction to pursue counterinsurgency was not immediately accepted within the army, but

now it has been proven as being doctrinally sound from their perspective and is widely accepted."

According to Youngman, one of the most basic principles of counterinsurgency is the conflict against warlike activities demonstrated by local people. Hale Library has conducted several activities in which American students and Afghanistan students can connect across cultures and bond in a social environment.

"Another thing we did were receptions at the Hemisphere Room in Hale Library," Youngman said. "We encouraged everyone to get along on strictly a social basis and that really allowed the Americans to see their Afghan counterparts working in a non-military function and it allowed American students and faculty to get acquainted with a different part of Afghanistan that we don't usually see on TV."

The same principle works the other way around. Youngman shared some secondary benefits that the library program generated, which is a deeper understanding of the U.S. army and what it does as a whole.

"Secondary benefits have been breaking a lot of stereotypes," Youngman said. "We've got quite a group of K-State libraries faculty and staff who have gained a lot better understanding of not only people from the Middle East and Southwest Asia but a lot better understanding of what the U.S. military is like."

Another advance was that the cultural students going to K-State have now learned more about what Hale Library has to offer them through the social workshops that have taken place and the library's persistence in meshing cultures and the military with education.

"At the beginning of this project we had military and military-dependent people from Ft. Riley who were actually registered K-State students taking a course or two, that didn't realize they could come and use the library," Youngman said.

But the overall goal that the collaboration has been working towards is a general better understanding and even kinship between citizens and soldiers of Afghanistan and the United States.

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“The original objective was to learn more about each other’s culture so that we could do university work and army work more effectively,” Youngman said.

But it would appear that the initiative has reached even further than that. Not only have both sides learned more about each other’s cultures, but there has been a social breakthrough that could be the beginning of more to come across the nation.

“There’s a little team building that has gone on. We think that supports the efforts of building alliances,” Youngman said. “I think what works best about it is that barriers have come down. The main objective of cultural understanding has really been well-served.”

Education Station

by Mindy Von Elling

Perhaps one of the closest ways Kansas State University works with military is through the educational programs set in place at Manhattan’s local military base, Ft. Riley. Toni Bryant, Ft. Riley extension office coordinator said she can see the impact the university has had on the base, just in the amount of interest and K-State spirit.

“There’s a lot of K-State grads on this post,” Bryant said. “We have a lot of purple floating around.”

The influence of the university on the post manifests itself not only in the amount of K-State fans present, but also in the diversity of the educational programs available on base to soldiers and family members.

“We are educators,” Paula Peters, assistant director of the Ft. Riley extension office and associate professor at K-State said. “Much of the service that goes on through the army community services are more service-oriented, but we can provide formal education more from a prevention aspect than treatment. We have also hired four extension agents: one to do family communication work, one to do child development, one to do family resource management, and the fourth to do health and nutrition work. Each one of them also has a program assistant.”

These educational programs not only



Educational programs at Ft. Riley educate military families and the community about nutritional value and other basic family health issues.

benefit those living on base, but it benefits the university as well.

“I think the presence of K-State being here on post certainly increases enrollment at K-State,” Bryant said. “We bring a whole different perspective to military education in that we can offer so many other different programs and we have the state specialist that we can rely upon as a resource.”

Bryant said the garrison commander, Col. Kevin Brown, who transferred to Ft. Riley a year ago from Ft. Drum at Cornell University, has been a strong asset and leader in engagement opportunities. The garrison commander is the operations manager for the post, in charge of all the families.

“He came from New York where Cornell has a small extension program, so he already knew extension,” Bryant said. “When you have a good rapport with the garrison commander and he understands the importance of the university being on post, then it’s a lot easier to continue.”

Those in the extension office at Ft. Riley recognize that because military families have extra stress on their shoulders, it is important to engage in activities that will strengthen them and help them live their lives as a typical family, despite their extraordinary situation.

“Families are families wherever they are and issues related to the kinds of things I’ve

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talked about are with every family, but when a spouse or one member of the family or more are deployed then the issues become even more severe,” Peters said.

With deployment come separation issues, both mentally and financially. It is important to establish a bond between the university and the military base in order to provide that sense of community and to provide professional programs that help spouses and children cope.

“The bond (between K-State and Ft. Riley) is growing stronger,” Peters said. “People are beginning to recognize that K-State extension is there for them to access and to understand what kinds of things we can help with.”

Money management programs and therapeutic sessions are among the services provided through the extension office.

“Our programming is more preemptive, so what we’re trying to do is get with people, get with the different spouses and children and soldiers prior to having issues, like financial issues,” Bryant said.

Both Bryant and Peters said they expect to see the programs and the relationship between the university and the base, grow stronger in years to come.

CECD Mission & Vision

To promote engagement across the breadth of Kansas State University - in teaching, research and outreach - and to connect the vast resources of KSU to the significant issues of public need facing Kansas and communities worldwide.

Engagement occurs when collaborative partners — both on and off-campus stakeholders — work together to address a public need in a way that is both reciprocal and mutually beneficial. Through engagement, K-State endeavors to fulfill its historic land grant mission.

— Dr. David E. Procter, CECD director



UPCOMING
EVENTS

Community Development Academy

The Community Development Academy is a series of workshops that will provide community leaders the assessment and strategic planning information necessary to devise participatory community development plans and strategies. Participants will gain the information, resources and processes needed to guide planning to create quality sustainable communities.

Dates

September 22* & 23, 2010
September 29 & 30, 2010
October 6 & 7*, 2010

Location

Fort Hays State University
Robbins Center
One Tiger Place
Hays, Kansas

**indicates dates for community coaches only*

For more information or to register a team visit www.k-state.edu/cecd/cda/

Rural Grocery Store Summit

Mark your calendars!

The Center for Engagement and Community Development will be hosting a second annual Rural Grocery Store Summit. Please join us:

June 14-15, 2010

K-State Alumni Center in Manhattan, KS

Register at: www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/ruralgrocery



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