

K-State's Engagement E-News

"Connecting K-State to Kansas and Communities Worldwide"

August, 2007

CECD Launches Rural Grocery Store Initiative

Partnering with the Kansas Sampler Foundation and the Kansas Rural Center, KSU's Center for Engagement and Community Development has begun work on an initiative to support and sustain independently-owned grocery stores located in rural Kansas. According to David Procter, director of the Center for Engagement and Community Development, "This is a project of tremendous importance as it addresses issues of economic development, community development, and public health." Through this

initiative, CECD and its partners will create a common data base of rural grocery stores, conduct a survey of customer expectations and shop-



ping behaviors, identify rural grocer best practices, explore different models of food distribution to rural grocers, and create a "buy local, buy

rural campaign." A website is being created to serve as a communication hub for the network of rural grocers to communicate with one another and also to serve as a conduit for the latest rural grocer information. The Center for Engagement and Community Development has identified 194 grocery stores in rural Kansas towns with populations under 2,000. If you know of any independently-owned grocery stores that would benefit from our initiative, please contact CECD.

CECD to Host Civics and Civility Summit

CECD is collaborating with numerous state and national partners to host a November 2, 2007 Civics and Civility Summit at KSU. Civic education and understanding is vital to the preservation and improvement of our democracy. Today, more than ever before, Americans need to know how our government works as well as understand and practice the moral and civic values necessary to engage in a participatory democracy. In a 2000 national Gallup Poll, Americans ranked "preparing people to

become responsible citizens" as the number-one purpose of our nation's schools. In the 2006 Spellings Report on U.S. Higher Education, the authors spoke of the need to empower our citizens through education. Consistently, the public has believed that students should be taught civic competence, values, dispositions and the skills needed to participate in a democratic society. In addition to schools, however, many other institutions - from religious congregations to scouting organizations to

political parties to 4-H clubs to NGOs - are also working to develop responsible citizens. In confronting this important public issue, CECD is hosting a "Civics and Civility Summit," where we are bringing together political, educational, and community leaders to assess the state of our civic education and discuss ways to strengthen that education throughout our lives. For a complete list of partners, invited speakers and registration information, see www.dce.ksu.edu/conf/civics.

**CECD Organizes
Community
Resources In:**

[Civic Engagement
and Participatory
Democracy](#)

[Community
Development](#)

[Environmental
Understanding
and Protection](#)

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[Animal and
Human Health](#)

**KSU
Engagement
Symposium
October 11,
2007**



Academy Mobilizes Community Teams

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*"Connecting K-State to
Kansas and communities
worldwide"*

Thirteen community teams met for three consecutive Wednesdays in Newton this July to learn about and initiate community development activities. The community teams were participating in the Community Development Academy, a collaborative program developed by K-State Research and Extension, USDA Rural Development, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, and the Kansas Department of Commerce. Dan Kahl, Liaison between KSRE and the Center for Engagement and Community Development, was one of the academy facilitators. Community teams were asked to identify community assets, identify key stakeholder groups for projects, and to map out plans for their community development process. Participants also learned about 21st Century community leadership from Ron Wilson of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development, and were asked to take leadership initiative by pulling together a steering committee to begin their planning and action work. The workshop concluded with a resource fair of service and resource providers for community development. After just three days of participation, the teams left the workshop having the materials and process knowledge to initiate and sustain a successful public engagement process for community development.



David Procter, Director of the Center for Engagement at KSU meets with city representatives from Augusta

Campus Advisory Board

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Charles Stones
Jeff Usher

My Hometown Helper Grant Program

Once again, the General Mills Company is providing funding for community projects. This is a grant called "My Hometown Helper," sponsored by Hamburger Helper. It funds small community projects with broad-based community support ranging in cost from \$500 to \$15,000. It looks like the application is very doable. It is basically a 250 word essay. They are currently accepting grant applications and will accept them until September 30, 2007. If you have questions about this grant, please see our website at:

www.k-state.edu/cecd/funding

Engagement Symposium

The Center for Engagement and Community Development (CECD) and Kansas Campus Compact are bringing together a diverse group of K-State faculty to discuss their engaged work with significant issues facing Kansans. Faculty from speech communication, civil engineering, kinesiology, human nutrition, theatre, landscape architecture, and the library will discuss their engaged research and engaged teaching through service learning and experiential learning. Topics will range from obesity prevention to public engagement in civil dialogue to preserving historic neighborhoods to building stronger cultural and academic ties between K-State and Fort Riley. Community engagement occurs when collaborative scholarship (researching, teaching, and outreach) is directed toward a public

need and when the relationship between campus and off-campus partners is reciprocal and mutually beneficial. The result of engaged work is new knowledge, new processes, and/or new pedagogies. Please join us to discuss the benefits of taking research and service learning outside of the classroom or laboratory. This symposium is designed to highlight the engaged work happening at K-State, foster dialog among participants, and generate potential new ways of conceiving and conducting research and teaching. Participants will also hear about the next round of engagement incentive grants offered through the Center for Engagement and Community Development. This symposium is free and open to the public. For more information, see our website.