One of the goals of this purchasing office is to give departments options when they go to purchase items & services needed to accomplish their goals. As life has taught us, one size does not fit all, so flexibility is required sometimes to purchase items & services from some place other than the standard source. By contacting Purchasing with your special situation, we might be able to locate alternate sources for the item or service. There are numerous purchasing cooperatives that can be utilized. K-State Purchasing does need to investigate the cooperative. We need to make sure the established contracts:

1) went through a public bid process  
2) have no membership fee  
3) have no minimum $ amount of purchases  
4) have no time commitment, K-State can leave at any time  
5) have no exclusivity, contracts can be used or not, whatever is in K-State’s best interest, and  
6) does not contain terms & conditions that conflict with Kansas law 

BEWARE! Some vendors may be part of a cooperative but that does not mean K-State has reviewed and approved the cooperative agreement. Always contact Purchasing for clearance if the contract number provided by the vendor is not on the K-State listing.

Some of our optional sources are:

- E&I – Educational & Institutional Cooperative Purchasing. Grainger & VWR agreements are through E&I.  
- MHEC – Midwest Higher Education Compact. Large Xerox printers & insurance has been acquired through this group.  
- MMCAP – Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy. Drug source for Lafene.  
- TCPN – The Cooperative Purchasing Network. Recently purchased AstroTurf through this cooperative.  
- U S Communities Government Purchasing Alliance  
- WSCA – Western States Contracting Alliance. This organization works with the State purchasing offices. To utilize these agreements, K-State works through the State of Kansas Procurement & Contracts office. Most of the computer contracts, Dell, HP, etc., are WSCA agreements approved by the State of Kansas.

Salute to Harold Raine

Harold Raine was a fixture at Kansas State University’s Purchasing Office for twenty-eight years, starting in 1968 until retiring in 1996. Always a gentleman, one co-worker commented that he never left his office without putting his suit coat on first. I had the pleasure of working with Harold while I was in Div of Purchases in Topeka and then the honor of replacing Harold when he retired. He set a great example of how to be gracious while providing guidance in purchasing protocol. Having lived in Wamego all his life, Harold passed away on Tuesday, July 2, 2013.

He will be missed. — Carla