National website ranks Kansas State University as great value

Kansas State University is the highest-rated school from Kansas to make a national website's list of the best value colleges in the Midwest. Great Value Colleges' list ranks the university in the top 15 public schools - higher than many other top schools in the region.

Great Value Colleges is a noted website to help students with their college searches. To make its list of the top value colleges in the region, Kansas State University scored highly on eight quality indicators that the website calls a good measure of a student's potential "depth and breadth" of experience at an institution: graduation rate, freshmen retention rate, student-to-faculty ratio, percentage of classes taught by graduate assistants, average entrance ACT score, number of campus organizations and number of academic programs. Affordability also is taken into account as well as inclusion on Forbes magazine's list of top colleges - where the university has consistently ranked.

Pat Bosco, K-State's vice president for student life and dean of students, said the university ranks highly because of its more than 250 majors and options, 475-plus student organizations, a student-to-faculty ratio of 19 to 1 and a focus on programs to help students succeed from their first year at the university. In addition, the university is the only state-supported university to rank among the top 10 of all U.S. schools for the combined total number of scholars in Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater and Udall competitions in the last 25 years.

"It is always wonderful when an outside group ranks quality and cost and picks K-State among its top 15 in the nation," Bosco said. "This recognition is a direct result of what goes on in our classrooms and within campus life every day. Our institutional commitment to remain as attainable to our students and families as possible is very important to all of us, and I'm glad others have noticed what defines our university."

The website gives K-State high marks for its involvement in educational initiatives, including a multimillion-dollar grant from the National Science Foundation's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program to help underrepresented students at the university earn bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields and then go on to graduate student programs. Kansas State University also is recognized for its highly rated aviation program; award-winning sustainability efforts like the Environmental Protection Agency's Campus Rainworks Challenge; top-rated student organizations such as K-State's Black Student Union, which has been named best in the Big 12 Conference seven times in the last nine years; and much more.

K-State's donors set new record with $211 million in philanthropic gifts
Alumni, friends, parents, faculty, students and corporate partners of Kansas State University made philanthropic gifts and commitments totaling $211 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014.

This figure sets a new record in charitable giving in the 70-year history of the KSU Foundation, surpassing the $200 million mark for the first time. The previous record of $152 million was set last year.

One of the most important aspects of this year’s results was the $89 million in endowed funds, which is also a new record. Endowed funds established this year were primarily for student scholarships, faculty chairs and professorships. Endowed funds provide long-term funding for the purpose they support, and create a legacy for the donor.

Of the $211 million total, 63 percent is available for the university’s use immediately, while donors committed 37 percent through pledges and deferred gifts, which will be realized by the university at some point in the future.

"Charitable gifts have a great impact on students, faculty and facilities at K-State, both immediately and in the future," said Kirk Schulz, university president. "There is no question that this level of support from the K-State family will advance the university in our quest to be recognized among the nation's top 50 public research universities."

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**Cheryl Johnson named K-State vice president for human capital**

Following a national search, Kansas State University has named Cheryl Johnson, a highly experienced global human resources expert, as its first ever vice president for human capital.

Johnson has served as chief operating officer of JVision Inc. in Kalamazoo, Michigan, since 2012. Johnson also has served as vice president at Meijer in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she was the human resources leader for 60,000 employees in retail operations, supply chain and pharmacy retail.

Before joining Meijer, Johnson was a human resources leader at Wolverine World Wide, Whirlpool, Textron, Fluid Handling Products and DuPont. At DuPont she worked in several divisions, including agricultural products and automotive product's research and development center. She also has worked in Asia and Europe.

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**K-State welcomes the Embassy of Ecuador**

Kansas State University will welcome Ecuadorian officials on Wednesday, August 6, for a Day of Ecuador.

Ecuadorian Ambassador Nathalie Cely; Vice Minister Maria del Pilar Troya from SENESCYT, the Ecuadorian governing body of higher education; and Freddy Alvarez, general research dean of the Instituto de Altos Estudios Nacionales, will participate with university administrators as part of the program.

The Day of Ecuador will provide a forum for researchers, educators and students to exchange and discuss ideas, approaches and research findings about the role of education in generating human development in a global era.

Kansas State University and the Ecuadorian government are partners in increasing access to education for Ecuadorians. In the past seven years, the government of Ecuador has made great strides in increasing educational opportunities for its citizens, especially indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorians. Since 2007, more than 7,000 scholarships have been
"Cheryl Johnson is an exceptional leader who will guide us as we integrate and transform our human capital services here at Kansas State University to meet our 2025 goals," said Kirk Schulz, university president. "Her expertise throughout the globe as an HR leader will support the university's core asset - our people."

Johnson assumed her role at K-State on July 14, 2014.

K-State Day at the State Fair on September 7

K-State will be the official sponsor of the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson on Sunday, September 7. Special outdoor exhibits will be set up near Lake Talbott Stage from 9am to 8pm to share college and department information with visitors.

Performances on the stage will showcase university musical and dance groups from noon to 6:30pm. Pep rallies at noon and 6:00pm will feature members of the K-State Marching Band, Willie the Wildcat and cheerleaders.

provided to students to attend universities around the world, including Kansas State University as part of the Go Teacher program.

Go Teacher is a scholarship program developed through a partnership between the university and the Ecuadorian government, including the Ministry of Education and SENESCYT, to enhance the English skills of teachers in Ecuador and to provide them with instruction in Teaching English as a Second Language methodologies. Through the program, teachers in Ecuador attend classes on the university’s Manhattan campus and at three partner institutions across the United States.

DID YOU KNOW?

Kansas State University's Robotics Team is again the winner of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers' annual student robotics design - a title they have earned each year since the competition began in 2007.

K-State Governmental Relations Staff
Sue Peterson, Director of Governmental Relations
Kristin Holt, Assistant to the Director
Ben Brown, Legislative Assistant
Garrett Kays, Legislative Assistant

Contact Information
Office of Governmental Relations
110 Anderson Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-0112
785-532-6227 | www.ksu.edu/govrelations