



December 2017



## **Kansas State University wins national Innovation Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities**

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities named K-State the winner of the Innovation Award at its fifth annual Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness and Economic Prosperity's Innovation and Economic Prosperity University Awards on Nov. 12. The award recognized the university's extraordinary economic engagement efforts.

Economic engagement efforts include universities working with public and private sector partners in their states and regions to support economic development through a variety of activities, including innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development, and community development. Kansas State University was recognized for outstanding work in technology transfer, entrepreneurship and business development.

"Building the economic prosperity of Kansas has always been a priority at K-State, and we are pioneering efforts to understand what it means to be a 21st-century land-grant university," said Richard Myers, president of Kansas State University.

According to Myers, advancing prosperity in our complex environment requires building innovative partnerships.

"K-State has excelled at embracing the diversification, technology and business-friendly approaches that collaboration and economic development require," Myers said.

The university's award application highlighted the K-State Knowledge Based Economic Development partnership, the Center for the Advancement of Entrepreneurship and the K-State Institute for Commercialization. Knowledge Based Economic Development has facilitated partnerships with Manhattan and private sector organizations that have resulted in the creation of hundreds of jobs in the area since the organization's founding in 2008. The Center for the Advancement of Entrepreneurship provides mentorship, support and funding to entrepreneurs. In the last academic year, the center awarded more than \$256,000 in grants to entrepreneurs. Finally, the K-State Institute for Commercialization facilitates technology transfer, strategic partnerships with industry, and research and development collaborations. The institute facilitates an average of 500 unique industry interactions each year. In the past five years, those interactions have led to nearly \$15 million in corporate-generated cash royalties, funded research and company equity.

## Political science researchers receive \$1.2 million grant to study effects of U.S. military's overseas presence

The United States has maintained a large overseas military presence since World War II. The strategic advantages of such installations may be clear, but how troop deployments affect host nations is not.

Two Kansas State University political science researchers have been awarded \$1.2 million by the U.S. Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative to study the political, economic and social effects of the United States' overseas military presence. Carla Martinez Machain, associate professor, and Michael Flynn, assistant professor, will work with a team to engage in a large data collection effort to explore public attitudes and beliefs about American activities and installations abroad at the national, regional and local levels.

Both Martinez Machain and Flynn have longstanding interest in international conflict and security, with a specific interest in military deployments.

"As a country, we've been maintaining some of these deployments for more than 70 years now," Flynn said. "After such a long time, we've formed deep relationships with some of these countries through our military presence, but there's still a lot we don't know about those relationships and what kinds of effects these deployments have on the host country."

Collecting detailed data through public opinion surveys, interviews and other methods will help researchers address several questions. One is how the United States' troop presence and overseas military expenditures affect local economies. Another is how many crimes are committed by or against U.S. military personnel, civilian employees and contractors, and how tensions affect attitudes toward the U.S.

Documenting protests against American forces is another part of the project. Martinez Machain said protest motives or objectives are not always as they seem, so she and Flynn will try to uncover "fine-grained causes and effects."

The U.S. Department of Defense is keen to understand these issues, too, which is why it supports basic social science research through the Minerva Research Initiative. Flynn said the data will be available for public consumption when the three-year study is complete.



**Global honor: President Myers recognized for international statesmanship**



## K-State to hold fall commencement ceremonies Dec. 8 & 9

It's pomp and circumstance time at Kansas State University with fall commencement ceremonies set for Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9.

More than 1,500 students are candidates for degrees.

Kansas State University President Richard Myers received the 2017 Distinguished Service Award for International Statesmanship from the Kansas City International Relations Council.

For more than 30 years the International Relations Council has annually recognized dignitaries and thought leaders who have made outstanding contributions in international commerce, diplomacy and education. Previous recipients of the award include Madeleine Albright, Janet Napolitano, Robert Gates and John Danforth.

Myers was recognized for his distinguished international career before becoming president of K-State. Rising to the rank of four-star general in the U.S. Air Force, Myers served as the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation's highest-ranking military officer, from 2001-2005. In this role, he was the principal military adviser to the U.S. president, secretary of defense and the National Security Council.

A 1965 graduate of K-State with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Myers joined the Air Force through the university's Air Force ROTC program. As a command pilot, Myers logged more than 4,100 flying hours, including 600 combat hours. He has received numerous awards and decorations for his service, which include Legion of Merit, French Legion of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom.

## **K-State research drives wheat straw forward as ethanol fuel source**

Wheat grown from the heartland may soon fill gas tanks.

Thanks to an international and interdisciplinary collaboration, faculty at Kansas State University's [Institute of Computational and Comparative Medicine](#) and bioenergy researchers at Yangzhou University in China have marked a significant milestone for the production of ethanol fuel from wheat.

Their study, "[Predictive temperature modeling and experimental investigation of ultrasonic vibration-](#)

To be awarded will be more than 1,300 bachelor's degrees, 240 master's degrees and nearly 50 doctorates. Around 170 of the degree candidates are distance education students.

Ceremonies kick off with commencement for the Graduate School on Dec. 8. At the ceremony, Jim Richardson, photographer for National Geographic magazine and its sister publication, TRAVELER, will be awarded an honorary doctorate from the university, one of the highest honors the university bestows. He will also serve as commencement speaker at the ceremony. The Kansas Board of Regents will be represented at the ceremony by Regent Shane Bangerter.

"Mr. Richardson has made significant contributions to communicating complex environmental problems and social issues through his compelling photographs and stories," said Carol Shanklin, dean of Kansas State University's Graduate School. "He has a passion for his work and is dedicated to such important issues as world food production and grasslands preservation. An exceptional Kansan, he continues to make a difference in the world."

Also on Dec. 8 will be commissioning ceremonies for K-State's Army and Air Force ROTC units and commencement for Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus in Salina. Commencement ceremonies for the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Education, Business Administration, Agriculture, Human Ecology and Engineering will be held in Manhattan on Saturday, Dec. 9.

## **Going green: Kansas State Polytechnic adds renewable energy to campus**

K-State Polytechnic Campus cut the ribbon on a new wind turbine and solar panels on Nov. 8.

The energy-efficient additions to campus are outside of the Student Life Center. The building will see the benefit of the alternative energy production, while the campus now has the first pieces in place for its goal to become more energy efficient and increase its sustainable energy production.

[assisted pelleting of wheat straw.](#)" was recently published in Applied Energy, a top-tier journal in the field of energy.

"To the best of our knowledge, previous studies haven't systematically investigated the underlying mechanisms for continuous temperature rise during pellet production, which can hinder effective production of biomass pellets and directly reduce the final ethanol production," said Majid Jaber-Douraki, an assistant professor of mathematics at the Institute of Computational and Comparative Medicine.

The research team developed a computational and mathematical model to determine factors that impact temperature rise during a pelleting process of biomass. The condensed biomass, or pellets, can be easily handled and transported to make ethanol. Ethanol extracted from pellets can substitute for fossil fuels and mitigate accumulation of greenhouse gases.

By studying the entire pelleting process of biomass, the proposed mathematical model determines the key factors and delivers a new guideline for pellet production by avoiding unnecessary experiments.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The documentary "[I was a Buffalo Soldier: The Story of Nolan Self](#)" is available on the Kansas State University's [College of Education's YouTube page](#) as a resource for teachers to view and share with their classes.

"As I look at our campus and how to prepare it for the future while reflecting technology, adding renewable energy through solar and wind power seems a natural fit," said Verna Fitzsimmons, CEO and dean of Kansas State Polytechnic. "Faculty and staff can use the systems for education. Facilities can use the systems to monitor energy usage and integrate the findings into future energy projects. Students can witness the complex technology firsthand and use the systems to learn more about renewable energy systems, collect data, and analyze and draw conclusions. This idea fits perfectly with our programs and the polytechnic model of education."

Integrating the wind and solar technology into the hands-on education model of the campus was a key selling point, Fitzsimmons said. The technology provides multiple opportunities for collaboration across campus, including biannual safety inspections of the turbine via drone - one area of national recognition for Kansas State Polytechnic.

The addition of the wind turbine and solar panels is part of a larger energy savings program across campus. K-State Polytechnic is reducing its energy footprint by replacing all interior and exterior building lighting, sidewalk and parking lights with LED lightbulbs; updating envelope infiltration on exterior and overhead doors; replacing thermostats to more energy-efficient, Wi-Fi technology; and taking steps to reduce water intake and adjust heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.



Facebook



Twitter



Website

### K-State Governmental Relations Staff

Sue Peterson, Chief Government Relations Officer

Kristin Holt, Government Relations Coordinator

Caleb Hurst, Legislative Assistant

Lacy Pitts, Legislative Assistant

### Contact Information

Office of Government Relations

110 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506

785-532-6227

[www.ksu.edu/govrelations](http://www.ksu.edu/govrelations)