College of Architecture, Planning & Design one of the top 10 in the nation

Professional design firms value Kansas State University graduates, according to rankings in the America's Best Architecture & Design Schools issue of DesignIntelligence, a bimonthly magazine.

Published by the Design Futures Council, the magazine ranks the Kansas State University College of Architecture, Planning & Design's interior architecture & product design graduate program No. 7 in the nation and the college's landscape architecture graduate program No. 8 in the nation.

In the Midwest region, the college's interior architecture & product design graduate program and the landscape architecture graduate program are both ranked No. 1. The architecture graduate program is ranked No. 4.

The rankings are determined from surveys sent to professional design firms and corporations that asked employers to evaluate which educational programs best prepared their newest employees for success in the profession. More than 1,400 professional organizations participated in this year's survey.

"The College of Architecture, Planning & Design has set high standards that engage a student's mind and encourage creativity," said Kirk Schulz, university president. "This ranking is confirmation that students graduate from the university with talent that is greatly valued by employers and places the university one step closer to becoming a Top 50 public research university by 2025."

"The consistently lofty recognition of our programs over the years is a clear indication of the quality and value of our degrees," said Tim de Noble, dean of the College of Architecture, Planning & Design. "It reflects the appreciation that professionals have for the curricular rigor, quality of instruction and drive exhibited by our graduates."

As part of the survey, deans and chairs of architecture schools also were surveyed. From the dean's survey, Kansas State's landscape program was most admired for its strong natural resource orientation and excellent faculty. The interior architecture and product design program was the most admired for its integrated curriculum and range of opportunities.

"When the leaders of the nation's most prominent design institutions champion our programs and recognize our faculty year in and year out, it helps us communicate the incredible value in a Kansas State University education," de Noble said. "These distinctions help us recruit great students and faculty while opening opportunities for our graduates in an ever-expanding base of firms across the nation and world."
National Bio and Agro Defense (NBAF) update

The National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF), located adjacent to the Kansas State University’s campus in Manhattan, may be coming closer to reality. The United States Congress in December did not provide funding, however language was included directing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) “to continue the preparations to award the construction contract for the NBAF facility by May 1, 2015” (Section 151 of HR 83).

On Tuesday, January 6, 2015, the State of Kansas took steps to authorize bonding for the remainder of the state's commitment of $231.5 million dollars. These funds will be transferred upon the Congressional appropriation of the final $300.0 million.

For up-to-date information on the NBAF project, including a new fly-through video of the facility, visit www.k-state.edu/nbaf.

K-State Geosciences Targeted Enhancement: Building for the future

Energy, finite natural resources, clean water, soil conservation - global challenges that affect us all. These are also global issues being addressed by geoscience faculty and students at Kansas State University. These challenges are being tackled by businesses that hire K-State graduates in Kansas, in this region and around the world.

The United States is experiencing a demonstrable shortage of geosciences talent, and job vacancies over the next 10 years are projected to grow faster than the average for nearly all other occupations. With its strengths in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines, K-State is uniquely positioned to provide the trained workforce that will address these challenges head on.

The Kansas oil and gas sector is a $4.3 billion industry that directly employs over 9,100 Kansans and over 17,000 in "downstream" sectors. It is comparable to the aviation industry in its significance to the

K-State Marching Band named best in the land

The Pride of Wildcat Land, the Kansas State University Marching Band, has been recognized as the best marching band in the nation.

The band has received the Sudler Trophy, which is awarded every two years to recognize the top marching band in the U.S. Frank Tracz, professor of music and the university’s director of bands, received the award last month at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago.

"We are so proud of Dr. Tracz, our students, our staff and all members who make up the Pride of Wildcat Land," said Kirk Schulz, university president. "This prestigious award shows that both our marching band and music program are recognized across the country as leaders in excellence and innovation. Such national recognition is a crucial part of our goal to be recognized as a Top 50 public research university by 2025."

The more than 400-member band includes musicians, twirlers, a color guard and the Classy Cats dance team. The Pride of Wildcat Land and athletic bands are the spirit of Wildcat Nation and involve students from every college at the university.

The Sudler Trophy is awarded biannually to a college or university marching band that has demonstrated
Kansas economy and ranks just below agriculture as
the most significant Kansas industry in terms of gross
state product. In addition, that natural resources and
mining industry make up about 5% of the nominal GDP
of Kansas.

To keep pace with these growing demands and to
better serve the needs of the state of Kansas, K-State
aims to expand its Department of Geology, more than
doubling the number of undergraduate majors and
graduate students over the next five years. To
achieve this ambitious target, new investment is
needed to accommodate the expansion, including
building facilities and equipment. A proposed new
78,000-square foot, state-of-the-art Geosciences
building will provide an additional 612 classroom seats,
8 new laboratories and 31 more offices.

Through teaching, research and outreach, the
Department of Geology and Kansas State University
aim to equip the workforce of tomorrow to address the
major challenges facing our world.

Click HERE to watch a video on this exciting project.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Over 2,100 K-State employees participated in the
2014 All-University Campaign, contributing more
than $1.2 million to support areas important to them
across campus.

the highest musical standards and innovative
marching routines and ideas, and that has made
important contributions to the advancement of the
performance standards of college marching bands for
a number of years.

"Our marching band is a point of pride for all of the K-
State Nation," said John Currie, Kansas State
University athletics director. "Dr. Tracz, his staff and
the Pride work so hard every year to provide a world-
class experience for our student-athletes and fans."

Among its many creative halftime performances this
season was a tribute to the military at the Fort Riley
Day football games. Click HERE to watch a video of
this performance.

**Political Science Graduate program ranked among best in the country**

According to GraduatePrograms.com, the graduate
education experience offered by Kansas State
University's [Political Science department](#) is among the
best in the country.

The GraduatePrograms.com website surveys recent
and current graduate students on the quality and value
of their graduate education, and then evaluates
programs across fifteen categories. Overall, the
graduate programs housed in KSU's Department of
Political Science were ranked the 13th best in the
country, between Harvard University (ranked 12th)
and Yale University (ranked 14th). KSU's graduate
programs were ranked No. 1 in the country for both
career support and faculty support.