$19 million dollar grant benefits statewide research program, K-State faculty, students

Kansas State University faculty and students will benefit from a five-year, $19 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health. The grant will continue a statewide cell and developmental biology research program that has brought $64 million into the state since it was first funded in 2001. The Kansas IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) is one of the largest biomedical research grants awarded in Kansas. The network is a multidisciplinary program to enhance Kansas’ research capacity through faculty development, retention and infrastructure, as well as inspire undergraduate researchers to pursue careers in biomedical research.

Jim Guikema, associate vice president for research and professor of biology at K-State, said, “Kansas State University is pleased to be a full partner with our statewide colleagues and with the National Institutes of Health in bringing our highly qualified student clients to the forefront of medical science. What we do in Kansas today prepares our students for medical advancements for the state, the nation and the world.”

The grant will fund numerous research initiatives, including research projects and startup funds for new faculty, postdoctoral fellowships and undergraduate student research projects. The grant also supports translational research partnerships between clinicians and basic scientists, and provides bridging funds for national-level applications that are close to acquiring national funding. A major initiative of the grant is to enhance bioinformatics research in Kansas that builds biological information databases. Known as the K-INBRE Bioinformatics Core, the facility is directed by Susan Brown, university distinguished professor of biology at K-State.

The K-INBRE network is comprised of 10 campuses in Kansas and northern Oklahoma: Kansas State University, University of Kansas Medical Center, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Haskell Indian Nations University, Langston University, Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas-Lawrence, Washburn University and Wichita State University.

K-State’s College of Architecture, Planning & Design receives $1 million gift

The Kansas City, Missouri-based William T. Kemper Foundation has made a gift of $1 million to the College of Architecture, Planning & Design, known as APDesign, at Kansas State University to support the Seaton Complex revitalization and expansion project.

With expected groundbreaking in fall 2015, the $75 million project will renovate 80,000 square feet of Seaton Hall and
add 114,000 square feet of new construction. The building will include consolidated fabrication capabilities, integrated design labs, collaborative spaces and a 300-seat auditorium. In recognition of the gift, the exterior amphitheatre will be named the William T. Kemper Foundation Amphitheatre. Upon completion, the amphitheatre will serve as a public gathering place for students, faculty and visitors to interact outdoors.

“We are deeply grateful for the William T. Kemper Foundation’s generous show of support for the Seaton Complex revitalization and expansion, a project that will bring our learning environment in line with our exceptional national reputation,” said Tim de Noble, dean of A/Design. “Design aesthetic and environmental stewardship are foremost in our mind throughout this process, to align with the principles we teach. The William T. Kemper Foundation Amphitheatre touches on both those elements.”

Noel Schulz earns honor from Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

Cited for her “outstanding contributions in advancing recruitment and retention of women in IEEE, the Power and Energy Society, and the engineering professions,” Noel Schulz, associate dean for research and graduate programs in the College of Engineering, has been named the 2014 Hewlett-Packard Harriet B. Rigas Award recipient by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Education (IEEE) Society.

“We are extremely proud of Noel, her accomplishments, and her outstanding efforts put forth for our research and graduate programs in the college,” said Gary Clark, former interim dean of the College of Engineering. “She is certainly deserving of this recognition that marks yet another contribution toward reaching the university goal of K-State becoming a Top 50 research institution by 2025.”

Distance student featured on cover of military magazine

A Marine. A wounded warrior. An award-winning K-State student. It’s no wonder Michael Feingold’s

University names new residence hall for former president Jon Wefald

K-State’s newest residence hall on the Manhattan campus will be named Wefald Hall in honor of Jon Wefald, who served as the university’s 12th president from July 1986 to June 2009. It will be the first residence hall built on the university’s main campus since Haymaker Hall in 1967 and will be open for the fall semester in August 2016. The hall’s naming was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents on June 18, 2014.

“We are pleased to honor one of our key figures in Kansas State University’s proud heritage with a residence hall that will be a cornerstone in the student life experience on campus,” said Kirk Schulz, university president.

Wefald Hall is an eight-floor, 129,000-square-foot residence hall that will house 540 students with additional apartments for key staff. The hall will be part of the Kramer Complex on Claflin Road and is designed to be a transformational space for student living and integrated learning. Currently, the Manhattan campus can accommodate 5,469 students in its residence halls and Jardine Apartments. Demand for on-campus housing has remained high for a decade, with roughly 600 students in overflow housing for the past two years and a constant waiting list to live on campus.

Incoming vice president for research selected as AAAS-Lemelson Invention
story is one that a magazine for military transitioners wants to tell.

Feingold, Lenexa, a graduate of K-State's online food science bachelor's degree completion program and a current online food science master's student at the university, was recently featured on the cover of G.I. Jobs magazine. To read more about his story, click HERE.

K-State received designation as a top military inclusive school for 2014 by both Military Advanced Education and Victory Media Inc., the publisher of G.I. Jobs magazine. This recognition names the university in the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide for military students based on a survey of more than 12,000 schools conducted by Victory Media Inc. Kansas State University is listed in its 2014 Guide to Military Friendly Schools.

DID YOU KNOW?

Manhattan, KS was named in the Top 10 Most Exciting Small Communities in America by Business Insider?

Ambassador

Karen Burg, who will join K-State on August 3 as vice president for research and professor of chemical engineering, has been named one of seven new American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)-Lemelson Invention Ambassadors.

AAAS is the world's largest and most prestigious scientific society. Ambassadors are tasked with cultivating a new and diverse generation of inventors as well as increasing the global importance of research, discovery and invention education.

"We are thrilled to learn that a prominent figure at the university also will be playing a prominent role in advancing research, discovery and invention around the world," said Kirk Schulz, university president. "We congratulate Karen and look forward to her leadership as vice president for research as Kansas State University works to become a Top 50 public research university by 2025."