

# Sunflower Service



## Quarterly

KANSAS CAMPUS COMPACT

FALL 2009

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **McPherson College and Pittsburg State University join KsCC**
- **Plans in place for regional conference Sept. 2010**
- **Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming events**

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## Pittsburg State, McPherson join Campus Compact

Kansas Campus Compact will add two more members to its ranks as McPherson College and Pittsburg State University join for 2009-2010.

This is the first time that either school has been a part of Campus Compact, though both institutions have long been involved in civic engagement efforts around the state. Students from PSU have attended Kansas Corps activities and faculty have applied for and received WaterLINK grants and other service-learning support in the past. And McPherson has a strong history of engagement in central Kansas and around the country.

Like several other schools across the state, McPherson and PSU are welcoming new presidents for 2009-10. On July 1st, President Steven A. Scott began his tenure as PSU's ninth president. Scott stepped into the President's Office after working and teaching at PSU for the past 20 years, including the past three as the school's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Scott



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## KsCC Fall Webinars offer alternative to travel

With every department at every university in Kansas scouring their budget for pennies to pinch and efficiencies to explore, conference travel budgets have been slashed everywhere. For an organization like Kansas Campus Compact, this has forced a review of how knowledge can be shared among the state's widely dispersed institutions.

So with reduced funds for bringing educators together to learn from one another, this fall KsCC is using web technology to

bring the learning to the educators.

Webinars have been used regularly by distance educators for some time, but have not until recently become a central tool for professional development. Recently the software has significantly improved, allowing multiple participants to actively and seamlessly engage with one another and a presenter, each of which can be located remotely.

For the fall, KsCC has lined up three webinars designed to bring in nationally recog-

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## KsCC Board adds two, elects officers

The Kansas Campus Compact Executive Board welcomed two new members for 2009-2010.

President Ed Berger of Hutchinson Community College and President Kirk Schulz of Kansas State University. Both will begin their three-year terms this year.

While Hutchinson Community College has been a stalwart member of KsCC from its inception, this is President Berger's first term on the Executive Board. He has taken the seat most recently occupied by Gar-

den City Community College president Carol Baltyne who had served since 2003.

President Schulz is Kansas State's fourth president, beginning his tenure officially on June 15th of this year. K-State, as the host institution has a permanent seat on the Executive Board. Until recently, Mary Hale Tolar, director of K-State's School of Leadership Studies and founding director of Kansas Campus Compact had been serving as the delegate for former President Jon We-

fald. Tolar will continue to serve on the board in an ex officio capacity.

In its summer meeting the KsCC board re-elected Richard Merriman, president of Southwestern College, to a second one-year term as board Chair. The board also chose to create a Vice-Chair position and elected President Jackie Vietti of Butler Community College to that position.

The next KsCC Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 19th in Manhattan, KS.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Kansas/Missouri/Oklahoma Campus Compact Regional Conference

“Engaged Scholarship through Community Collaboration:  
Students, Faculty, and Neighborhoods”

September 22-24, 2010

Tulsa, OK

# New VISTAs look to make a difference

by Kaitlin Emig

For the past five years, Kansas Campus Compact and AmeriCorps \*VISTA have teamed together to promote service-learning and civic engagement on college campuses through the placement of VISTA members at participating universities. During the 2009-2010 year, five Kansas universities are hosting VISTA members on their campuses and these new VISTAs are excited about the chance to make a difference.

aims for retention and success for low-income and first-generation students.

“I hope that what we start will be able to grow and last for future generations so that KU continues to offer quality programs to everyone, regardless of who they are and where they came from.”

Aly Rodee was attracted to KsCC and the VISTA program because it provided a chance to serve and volunteer for Kansas. Rodee will be working at the Civic Engagement and Community Development Office at K-State. Rodee hopes to make Kansas a stronger state through civic engagement during her service.

Similar to Rodee and Chavez, Danica Murray, returning VISTA at Butler Community College and Sara Weber, VISTA at K-State hope to give back to the community through their positions but also see their positions in line with their professional goals.

“I am compassionate and have a heart for helping others,” said Murray, “not to mention the great experiences and references I can gain to enhance my resume while developing lifelong professional skills.” Murray will be working on building a large campus/community partnership base in El Dorado. Weber will be working at the K-State Volunteer Center in Manhattan.

“My biggest ambition over the next year will be to understand non-profit management and how I can continue helping the community in any position in which I serve,” said Weber.

Julie Wilke, a VISTA at Southwestern College wanted to work on a college campus with volunteers and create awareness



KsCC 2009-2010  
VISTA Members (left-  
right)

Front: Sara Weber, Aly  
Rodee, Michael Knight

Back: Angela Deckard,  
Brae Johnson, Danica  
Murray, Julie Wilke,  
Michael Chavez

Not pictured: Leah  
Noakes

“What attracted me to KsCC and AmeriCorps was that I could actually put to use the skills that I’ve learned at KU and make a difference in the lives of those who are low-income and first-generation students,” Michael Chavez said. Chavez will be working with another VISTA, Michael Knight, at KU to come up with a leadership certificate and new transfer student program that

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*"I hope that what we start will be able to grow and last for future generations... to offer quality programs to everyone, regardless of who they are and where they came from."*

*Michael Knight,  
AmeriCorps\*  
VISTA*

## VISTA Reflections (from p. 3)

of service opportunities. Wilke will work on developing a campus volunteer calendar and the Careers for the Common Good program. Wilke will also team up with returning VISTA Brae Johnson to assist the three service-learning programs and grow Southwestern's partnerships with the city of Winfield.

"My biggest ambition is that I do a better job than I did last year at everything I do," Johnson said.

The new VISTAs will be supported in their project goals with a new VISTA Leader, Angela Deckard. Dekard was previously serving as a VISTA with the Goodwill Industries of Central East

Texas for the past two years. There she was the Mentoring Coalition Community Outreach Specialist which involved running the day-to-day operations of the coalition. She hopes to use her skills gained from this position to assist the VISTAs in their service-learning projects.

"In my two years of service with Goodwill I helped brainstorm service project ideas, gave resources to assist with individual projects and most importantly opened my heart (and quite often my home) and listened." Deckard said.

With the support of the new VISTA Leader, the VISTAs are well on their way toward better serving their communities.

## PSU, McPherson join KsCC (from p. 1)

replaces Tom Bryant, who had been PSU's president since 1999.

McPherson College's new president—Michael Schneider—has been with the school for seven years, previously serving as the school's Vice President of Advancement and Admissions. Schneider replaces Ron Hovis, who retired after five years of service to the school.

The two schools' decision to join comes amid a universally acknowledged time of immense challenge for all higher education institutions, and especially those dependent on public funding. A period of severe belt-tightening state-wide for 2010 was made only somewhat more manageable by federal stimulus funding and all agree that the 2011 budget will require difficult choices.

Nonetheless, Scott and Schneider and their colleagues point to the long-term benefits of KsCC's tools for civic education, both in educational quality and in school's ability to recruit and retain students.

"I'm thrilled to have these two schools join us. I'm impressed with the direction Presidents Scott and Schneider want to move as we enter the next decade and the dedication to civic education that they've expressed," said Matt Lindsey, KsCC Executive Director.

With more than 7,300 students among the two schools, Kansas Campus Compact members now represent nearly 60 percent of all higher education students in Kansas, including eight of the twelve largest schools in the state and schools in every region.

## New Webinars for Fall 2009 *(from p.1)*

nized experts to speak to and interact with Kansas faculty, administrators, and students. The first, scheduled for Sept. 17th, brings

Dr. James Heffernan, the director of the New York Campus Compact, to explore how best to make service learning work in a session called “Laying the Foundation.” This webinar is designed for those new to service-learning and for anyone looking to learn a few new tips.

After that, KsCC has scheduled two more webinars for the fall semester. On October 20th, two national

experts, Elaine Elliott from the University of San Diego and John Ziegler from DePaul University, will talk about strengthening community partnerships. On November 12th the topic will be civic engagement in science and mathematics curriculum with Dr. Edmund Tsang from Western Michigan University and Dr. Laura Salem from Rockhurst University. Registration is free to members of KsCC and \$25 for non-members.

These webinars will usher in a new tool for sharing of best practices. Topics are already being explored for spring, including applying for a Carnegie Classification, mobilizing students for disaster response, and others.



## KsCC to offer funds for Kansas Day events

Kansas Day. Most students or adults don't know that it takes place on January 29<sup>th</sup> or that this is the 149th anniversary of Kansas' statehood. But Kansas Day is a great opportunity to connect civic learning with service to the community. While there are plenty of national days of service, Kansas campuses do not have a state day to promote service and civic life.

This year, Kansas Campus Compact will be providing mini-grant funding to campus projects

that celebrate Kansas Day. The “2010 Celebrate Kansas/Serve Kansas” Program will support innovative activities at member institutions of KsCC that foster a greater appreciation for Kansas history and promote opportunities for students, faculty, and community members to do measurable, meaningful, sustainable service to their communities.

More information on this opportunity will be available soon, including the RFP which will be released on October 1st and will be due by November 18th.

## Kansas Service by the Numbers

83,499

Number of students served by Kansas Campus Compact member institutions

28

Average number of service-learning based classes per KsCC member institution (National Average = 43)

26

Average number of teaching faculty using service-learning techniques at KsCC member institutions (National Average = 28)



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## Fall 2009

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Kansas Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents dedicated to strengthening community service, civic engagement and service-learning partnerships between institutions of higher education and the communities they serve. Formed in 2003, KsCC currently consists of 13 member schools.

KsCC is one of 35 state affiliates of Campus Compact. Nationwide, Campus Compact represents over 1,100 schools and nearly 6 million students.

## KsCC CALENDAR

### September

- 17: KsCC Webinar—Laying the Foundation: Service-Learning 101
- 23-25: Conference of the Midwest Consortium for Service-Learning in Higher Education: Millennials Making a Difference (Omaha, NE)

### October

- 5-6: Fostering Global Citizenship in Higher Education Conference (Brattleboro, VT)
- 15: CCG Quarterly progress reports due
- 19: KsCC Executive Board Meeting (Manhattan)

- 20: KsCC Webinar—In it Together: Campus-Community Partnerships
- 23: Deepening Students' Academic and Civic Engagement: The First College Year as Pivot (Bennington, VT)
- 25-27: 2009 Assessment Institute (Indianapolis, IN)
- 29: President's Honor Roll Applications Due
- 29-31: Race, Ethnicity, and Community Engagement in Higher Education Conference (Lubbock, TX)

### November

- 6: VISTA Quarterly progress reports due
- 12: KsCC Webinar—STEM and Service-Learning
- 18: Celebrate Kansas/Serve Kansas Mini-Grant Applications Due

### September 2010

- 22-24: KS/MO/OK Campus Compact Regional Conference (Tulsa, OK)

**Have an event you'd like on the calendar? Send it to: [ksc@ksu.edu](mailto:ksc@ksu.edu).**