



**Engaging the Design Students in
Developing An Agricultural
Training Facility Prototype to
Assist the Veterans:
A Service Learning Project**

**Engagement Incentive
Grant**

*Grant Completion Report
Prepared by*

Vibhavari Jani,
Associate Professor
Interior Architecture and
Product Design
College of Architecture,
Planning and Design (APDesign)

Contact:
Email: vjani@ksu.edu
Phone: (785) 370 4202
Cell: 803 361 5570

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS SAVE?

SAVE (Soldiers Agricultural Vocational Education) is a 503C non-profit organization established to assist veterans transitioning to a civilian life. SAVE organization proposes to train veterans who are interested in farming.

WHY THIS PROJECT?

Our nation currently is experiencing shortfall of 100,000 farmers given the retiring farming community. This project was designed to help bridge a big gap: farm owners need help and our veterans needs jobs and peace of mind. SAVE wanted to help these veterans and farmers, and the grantee (Prof. Vibhavari Jani), wanted to help both by developing a community based service learning project to involve Kansas State University's APDesign students in assisting SAVE in designing an agricultural educational facility.

COLLABORATING PARTNERS:

- Veterans
- SAVE (Soldiers Agricultural Vocational Education) Organization Members
- Fort Riley Military Base and Hospital Staff
- USDA
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Kansas Rehabilitation Hospital
- Manhattan Farming Community Members
- KSU Colleges and other Units: APDesign, Agriculture, Horticulture, Arts and Sciences, and Extension Agents

FOCUS OF THE ENGAGED ACTIVITY:

This project focused on developing a building design prototype, a "model program" for agricultural education center for veterans that our own and other universities can adapt to strengthen the economic and social wellbeing of the veterans, farmers, and the country.

ENGAGED ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN THROUGH THIS PROJECT GRANT:

- Multi-disciplinary, collaborative, Service-Learning Design course and project development to assist the veterans, farmers and the SAVE organization;
- Agricultural Education Center Program Development
- Agricultural Education Campus Design

MAJOR OUTCOME OF THIS PROJECT SO FAR:

- **Engaged 100 + next generation of APDesign students** with SAVE organization staff members, veterans and farming community, Fort Riley Hospital staff.
- **Development of a new research based national model for an Agricultural Education Campus for veterans.**
- The SAVE Agricultural Campus will ultimately be built to train 100 service members through a farm training cycle. **The Kansas State University APDesign -IAPD students' final design will ultimately be built as seen in the attached document. The plans will have to be modified slightly to be placed on a different farm the SAVE purchased.**

- **APDesign's IAPD students Designed this Agricultural Education Campus Facilities** to solve the shortage of farmers and helping the veterans in gaining financial independence through vocational training. This campus facilities included:
 - Visitor Welcome Center
 - Educational Training Facility
 - Small Animal Care Facility
 - Equine Care Facility
 - Honey Processing Facility
 - Wood and Metal Workshops
 - Equipment Repair and Storage Facility
 - Residential Dorm Building
 - Cafeteria and Dining Facility
 - Wellness Center
 - Spiritual Center
 - Produce garden and Sales facility
- **KSU- IAPD Student Grace Emanuel designed the SAVE logo, which was adapted by SAVE for their marketing and website.**



LIST OF PRESENTATIONS AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND PUBLICATIONS IN THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Jani, V. (2019). **Assisting Veterans And Service Members Through Design: A Unique Educational Model.** 13th International Technology, Education and Development Conference, Valencia, Spain. Pages: 7550-7559. (Paper was presented and published in the conference proceedings in 2019).

Jani, V. (2019). Assisting Veterans and Service Members through Design. International Conference on Design Principles and Practices. St. Petersburg, Russia. (Due to funding issues, this paper was not be presented at the conference).

Jani, V., (2016). **Designers as Change Agents: A Farm Training and Healing Center Prototype Development Project for the Wounded Warriors. EDRA 47, Environmental Design Research Association Conference, Raleigh, NC.** (Paper was presented and published in the conference proceedings in 2016).

LIST OF PRESENTATIONS AT REGINAL OR NATIONAL SYMPOSIUMS AND PUBLIC FORUMS

Jani. V. (2018). Designing Healing Environments For The Wounded Warriors: A Service-Learning Project. Civic Engagement Symposium, Center of Engagement and Center For Design, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, USA.

Jani. V. (2016). SAVE: Rethinking Rehabilitation, Health and Healing Environments for Wounded Warriors. TedXICC Conference, Independence, KS, USA.

MAJOR PROGRESS SAVE HAS MADE SO FAR:

- **SAVE organization is now offering the hands-on training on the SAVE Farm.** The farm is located on N. 52nd Street in rural Riley County, west of Manhattan towards Keats.
- **Agricultural Theory courses are being offered at satellite Cloud County Community College campus in Junction City, Kansas** until the new SAVE campus is built.
- **SAVE staff members were able to develop a new mentorship model for the veterans where the farming community provide support and assistance to our veterans** and help them to continue their transition into a farm life.
- Veterans and service members had **a great year of learning on our 320 acres just 10 miles Northwest of Manhattan and adjacent to Fort Riley, Kansas through workshops and work sessions during 2018-19.**



SSG Clay Willis, a Soldier for Life Intern with SAVE, combines and loads soy beans from our farm during early November. Clay will farm in Georgia upon completion of his internship with SAVE.

- **During 2018 -19, Veteran trainees planted and harvested 90 acres of soybeans, managing forage crops (hay and alfalfa),** managing beehives and many other farming endeavors. These trainee veterans averaged nearly 53 bushels per acre.
- There were 25 Angus cows on the back pasture in 2018, and by the **end of this year, there will be 70 cows on this pasture.**
- The Veteran trainees also **harvested 600 pounds of honey (5000 pounds from all sites).**
- SAVE organization has also **arranged for an additional 1800 acres of farm just East of their main location and have 145 acres near LeCompton that has the largest blackberry plot in three states.**