

K-State's Engagement E-News

*Connecting K-State to Kansas
and Communities Worldwide*

Celebrating engaged work at Kansas State

by Jenny Barnes

The Center was a full house on September 11, when more than 50 people stopped by to participate in the "Celebrating KSU Engagement 2008-2009 Kick-Off Event."

The purpose of the event was to showcase all of the great things that the people of Kansas State have been able to accomplish with grant monies from CECD. Provost Nellis and Daryl Buchholz, Associate Director for Extension and Applied Research were both in attendance to recognize the work being done.

Nellis said, "If we are going to move KSU forward as a premiere land grant institution, engagement needs to be a top priority."

CECD was able to showcase the work that has been done towards that as 21 projects were represented at the celebration. They ranged from earlier projects started in 2006 when the center first opened, to projects recently awarded grants in 2008. Projects include everything from Greensburg rebuilding to obesity prevention in communities.

Through engagement, CECD is able to bring together different parts of the university such as arts and sciences with the department of agriculture, which might not otherwise happen.

There are also 260 extension agents working all over Kansas that prolong the impact of the work being done. Dan

Kahl, the Center's extension liaison, noted the importance of linking projects with those agents to create lasting affects.

Daryl Buchholz said, "Engagement is one element that makes extension successful. Knowledge, the ability to engage people in learning, and



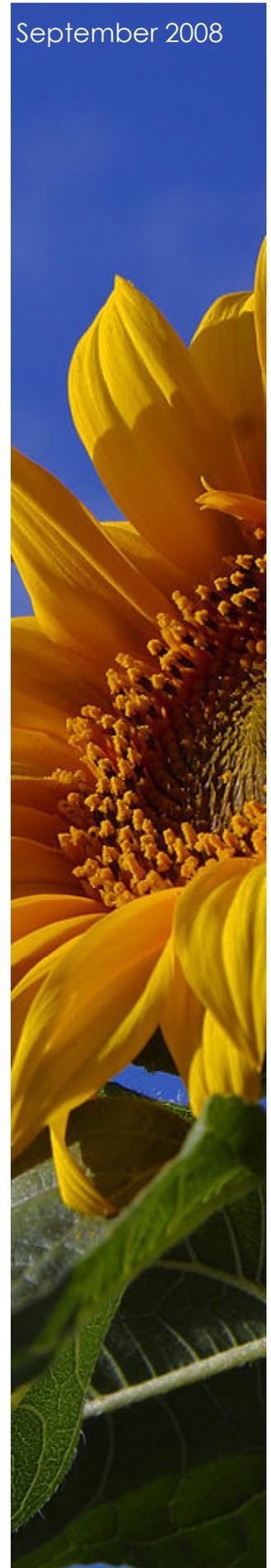
CECD Director, David Procter (left), looks on as Provost Nellis delivers remarks at the celebration.

the emotional connection is what engagement is all about."

Although attendees agreed that CECD has done a lot for engaged work at Kansas State University, people are confident that the work will not stop here.

Buchholz said, "We are still just at the tip of what we are capable of accomplishing here."

Each semester, CECD sponsors 4-5 projects through grants. These grants are usually what make it possible for great ideas to become actions. For a complete list of the CECD grants awarded in spring 2008, view the next page.



CECD sponsors engagement incentive grants, helps Kansans

by Jenny Barnes

Each semester CECD sponsors engagement incentive grants. "These incentive grants are intended to increase collaborations between the K-State campus and communities on public issues of need around Kansas and throughout the world," said David Procter, center director. Incentive grants can serve as a stimulus that moves a great idea to action. In spring 2008, four proposals received funding. A summary of each project is listed below.

Technology Enhanced Collaboration - Schools and Teachers Engaged in Professional Development (TEC-STEP)

The project will evaluate the design, delivery and evaluation of an on-line model of professional development for K-12 schools in rural Kansas. Kansas State University and the partner school communities will engage in a collaborative effort to develop and test a new instructional approach.

Principle Investigator: Tim Frey

Transportation Network Development: Leaping the Hurdles for Local Food Markets

This project will address transportation for local food distribution. It will identify opportunities to increase local food sales through efficient and effective models and processes. It will also quantify current transportation of local foods and identify gaps and opportunities.

Principle Investigator: Vincent Amanor-Boadu

Matchmaking Made Easy: Helping Jobs, Young Workers, and Trainers Find Each Other

The project is designed to bring together postsecondary educators, trainers, high school counselors, parents and employers in a pilot program to improve postsecondary choices for high school graduates and adult workers. A central goal for this project is to identify and remove real or imagined barriers that prevent individual graduates from finding and entering a suitable educational path.

Principle Investigator: Betty Stevens

Biscuits and Bison: Great Plains Foodways Connection Project

The project will develop the framework for a statewide organization to host events, develop archives, generate publications and sponsor research by Kansas State University students and faculty. Through research and education, this project will celebrate the state's food heritage and its contributions to the American culinary tapestry.

Principle Investigators: Jane Marshall and Deb Canter

Applications for the fall 2008 round of Engagement Incentive Grants are due by 5 p.m. November 3. For more information, please contact the Center for Engagement and Community Development at (785) 532-6868 or by visiting www.k-state.edu/cecd.

CECD Welcomes New Advisory Board Members

On-Campus Members

Ted Cable -
Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Services

Curtis Kastner -
Food Science Institute

Sue Maes -
Division of Continuing Education

Ruth Nellis -
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State Members

James Foster - Office of Rural Opportunity
Colby, Kan.

Dan Epp - Publisher, Greeley County Republican
Tribune, Kan.

Matt Jordan - Kansas Leadership Center
Wichita, Kan.

Dan Nagengast - Kansas Rural Center
Whiting, Kan.

Noelle St. Clair - FHL Bank
Topeka, Kan.

Professor Reaches Out to Kansas City Neighborhood

by Kristin Slater

The neighborhood Washington Wheatley, Kansas City, Mo., was in need of assistance. It faced problems with housing possession, crime and availability of jobs.

CECD awarded Sheri Smith, associate professor in the department of landscape architecture/regional and community planning at Kansas State University, an Engagement Incentive Grant in fall 2006 in order to carry out this project. Smith used the funding to reach out to the Washington Wheatley community, located between 18th and 27th Street, and between Prospect Avenue and Interstate 70.

Smith reached out to this community because she saw its need for momentum, and she wanted to provide technical assistance to the neighborhood association in the process of community development.

One of the issues Smith noticed was how uninformed the people of Washington Wheatley are. When an owner of a house passes, residents are unaware of the change of possession of the property, and in turn are unsure of what should happen with the property taxes.

Smith's focus is to provide the resources to help educate the citizens so they don't lose the homes that

have always been in their families. Smith is working with the president of the Neighborhood Association, Marlon Hammons, to keep the people of Washington Wheatley in their homes.

The Neighborhood Association is the main organization working to improve the Washington Wheatley community. It is working to create more jobs so the residents have money to pay for property taxes. The Association is focused on the need of its citizens to be incorporated. For example, if a new store or housing unit is going in, citizens could be hired to help with those projects. It could also be something as small as starting a micro business for mowing lawns.

Smith said, "While the Washington Wheatley community has a long road ahead of them, they have made significant strides."

Smith with grant support helped the neighborhood association create a newsletter to inform citizens of issues like property taxes, and to highlight companies committed to the neighborhood. The community also enlisted the help of some outside organizations. The city council, the Kansas City Police Department and University of Missouri Kansas City, have all helped with the various projects.

Smith also said the major focus of redevelopment in the community is not the physical aspect. It is about keeping the residents in their homes, and preserving the history the neighborhood represents.

WaterLINK: Water Quality Improvement Through Service-Learning

by Christa Smith

WaterLINK is an environmental service-learning program aimed at infusing community-based learning into the college classroom. The program engages instructors and students at Kansas colleges and universities in projects that aid in the restoration and protection of Kansas water resources.

Starting with a "real world" need or situation, the program links hands-on action and student learning with the ultimate objective of improving water quality in high priority watersheds. Service-learning is a method of education that promotes student learning, leadership skill development, civic participation and other personal development. Research indicates that students benefit from hands-on application of course learning objectives while the community benefits from the knowledge and skills students and faculty bring to the table. WaterLINK projects have included community water education fairs, water quality monitoring and assessment, urban community planning and design, integration of rain gardens and green roof design for stormwater runoff and stormwater conservation demonstration projects. Projects have varied depending on the classes they are part of, and are not limited to the hard sciences; for example, several journalism courses have been engaged in service-learning projects that included environmental reporting and public relations campaigns for watersheds.

To support this active learning experience, the WaterLINK program provides mini-grant incentives for



faculty. Faculty have been awarded \$250 to \$7,500 in mini-grant funds for implementing a service-learning project through their college course. "With nearly 60 two to four year institutions in the state, WaterLINK has tremendous potential to positively impact the condition of our state's precious water resources" said Christa Smith, interim WaterLINK project coordinator at Kansas State University.

The deadlines for fall and spring semester proposal submissions are August 1st and January 2nd, respectively. For more information about faculty mini-grant guidelines and the application process, visit www.ksu.edu/waterlink or contact Christa Smith, WaterLINK interim project coordinator, at 785-532-5127 or christas@ksu.edu. WaterLINK is funded by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment through EPA 319 funds and is coordinated by the KSU CECD.

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CECD Mission & Vision

Mission

To promote engagement across the breadth of Kansas State University - in teaching, research, and outreach - and to connect the vast resources of KSU to the significant issues of public need facing Kansas and communities worldwide.

Engagement occurs when collaborative partners — both on and off-campus stakeholders — work together to address a public need in a way that is both reciprocal and mutually beneficial. Through engagement, K-State endeavors to fulfill its historic land grant mission.

— David E. Procter, CECD director

Promoting Civic Engagement

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