

Center for Engagement and Community Development

# ENGAGE

magazine

summer 2018

## IMAGINING AMERICA

empowers students as citizens,  
community members through arts  
and humanities

**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

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## K-State faculty and staff are partnering with a variety of communities to address the needs and goals of Kansans and communities worldwide.

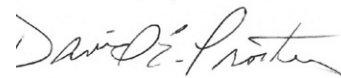
These are certainly busy times for engagement at Kansas State University. We just finished surveying K-State faculty regarding their engaged activity and you can read some of the results of this benchmarking later in this magazine. In November, we joined with the Kansas Health Foundation, NetWork Kansas and IFF, a community development financial institution, to launch the Kansas Healthy Food Initiative, or KHFI. We'll talk more about this in future editions of Engage, but KHFI is a very exciting funding and technical assistance program for businesses looking to create or expand access to healthy foods for Kansans.

We are proud to announce K-State's 2018 Excellence in Engagement Award winners: Bonnie Lynn-Sherow and her project, Lost Stories: Hidden Histories of the Flint Hills; and Richard Rosenkranz's project, Girl Scouts Wellness Promotion in Northeast Kansas. We'll share more about these engaged projects in the next issue. We are preparing for our 6th National Rural Grocery Summit this summer. Perhaps the biggest issue we are working on, however, is K-State's reclassification as a Community Engaged University by the Carnegie Foundation. Kansas State University first achieved this designation in 2010 and we are now preparing for reclassification in 2020. This designation is extremely important as it identifies K-State as a campus committed to working in partnership with our external communities to address some of society's most difficult challenges. This effort is just getting started and I will share more with you next year once our application is complete.

I am very excited about this issue of Engage. The articles in this publication highlight some of the diversity of K-State's community-engaged work. Communication studies professor Tim Shaffer talks about the value of a deliberative pedagogy, where students learn that we may not always agree with one another, but through deliberative practices we can learn to understand one another. Lisa Martin of K-State Research and Extension talks about conducting nutrition education through community gardening in Shawnee County. We have two essays that discuss economic engagement: Rebecca Robinson of the Institute for Commercialization talks about K-State achieving Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Innovation and Economic Prosperity designation. This is a designation recognizing K-State as an economic driver and the university's work to create economic growth; and Chad Jackson discusses K-State's Center for the Advancement of Entrepreneurship and its student entrepreneur program. We also highlight K-State's internationally recognized conflict resolution program.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Engage. K-State faculty and staff are partnering with a variety of communities to address the needs and goals of Kansans and communities worldwide. This magazine provides a glimpse into this amazing work.

Best,



**David Procter, Director**  
Center for Engagement and Community Development

# SHAFFER'S STUDY *focuses on* *democratic engagement*

How do we think about our relationships with one another?

This question is central to all aspects of communication studies professor Timothy Shaffer's work, including his research, community projects, courses at Kansas State University and in his recently published book, "Deliberative Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning for Democratic Engagement," released by the Michigan State University Press in 2017. The book, like much of Shaffer's study, is the product of interdisciplinary teamwork of people from many different disciplines and institutions.

One of Shaffer's projects that he assigns regularly to undergraduate students is called the Kansas Kitchen Table. The project invites people to explore such topics as what it means to be a citizen and what it means to be a part of a community. The project brings together people who do not know each other very well to share a meal and discuss topics such as identity, culture and anything else that comes up in the deliberately unstructured conversation. By the time the meals have ended, new relationships have begun.

Similarly, students and professors often enter classrooms without previously knowing one another. Classrooms can be impersonal spaces and, as Shaffer points out, their focus is largely on what the students are learning for an upcoming test and less about creating a shared learning environment. In his classrooms and in "Deliberative Pedagogy," Shaffer asks that individuals reassess this approach in ways that are impactful for both the students and the professors, engaging students through pedagogical approaches and topics that can be applied and useful

*"There are a lot of presumptions we make about what education is, what it looks like, what it feels like, how we're expected to interact." - Timothy Shaffer*





to their lives outside of the classroom. The goal – both inside and outside of the classroom – is to encourage people to interact, talk and learn from each other in a constructive manner. Inevitably, tensions will arise, but people can learn to work through those tensions and make sense of them rather than simply fight and walk away or no longer collaborate. In short, Shaffer attempts to create democratic spaces – in and beyond classrooms.

Consensus is not always the end result, and sometimes not even desired. In deliberative discussions and forums organized with students, they learn to tease out the tensions and tradeoffs with ideas, determining what they are willing to do for a larger community, whether that's with students in a class or as members of a broader community. Regardless, people leave with a new perspective. People may not always agree but they can learn to understand the people who live or think differently than themselves. This skill, Shaffer suggests, is critical for the time we are in now.

"There are a lot of presumptions we make about what education is, what it looks like, what it feels like, how we're expected to interact," Shaffer said. "A lot of 'Deliberative Pedagogy' is actually framed around rethinking the dynamic and the ways that we faculty members approach not just our teaching, but our interactions with students as well."

Shaffer continues to explore these themes of deliberation and higher education in two publications to be released this year: "A Crisis of Civility? Political Discourse and Its Discontents" from Routledge, and "Jumping into Civic Life: Stories of Public Work from Extension Professionals" from Kettering Foundation Press.

# TWENTY YEARS OF LEADERSHIP STUDIES

*leads to interdisciplinary learning*



As it marks 20 years of success, the Staley School of Leadership Studies at Kansas State University continues to evolve and offer its students, who come from every college on campus, one-of-a-kind opportunities to grow as leaders of their communities.

At the Staley School, students can choose from a minor in leadership studies, a focus in nonprofit leadership, a secondary major in global food systems leadership, or the Graduate Student Leadership Development Program. In all its programming, the school is committed to community-engaged scholarship, which it demonstrates in its teaching, research and service.

According to Brandon Kliewer, assistant professor of civic leadership, the school's faculty focus on strengthening the ability of students to exercise leadership on tough challenges by generating new knowledge that is mutually beneficial to both disciplines and the communities to which they belong.

Students put their learning into practice through leadership coaching as a method of community-engaged scholarship. One such program, the Snyder Leadership Legacy Fellows, is an undergraduate program that includes research and provides resources to students that connect them with their community.

The Staley School also recognizes that the tough challenges of the century are not isolated to one discipline or one community. That is why, since its inception, the school has offered a minor that complements any academic major so that students are able to come together from different colleges and backgrounds to work effectively and make progress on these tough community challenges.

"We are committed to offering leadership education, service learning and civic engagement programs, believing that through community engagement we are best able to engage students civically, academically and personally in their educational experience and in a global, inclusive world," said Mary Tolar, director of the Staley School. "And we remain committed to pursuing, in new ways, a vision of preparing, engaging and mobilizing leaders for the grand challenges of our times."

To start its 21st year, the Staley School will launch K-State's first interdisciplinary doctorate program in fall 2018. The program will be a partnership of leadership studies, communication studies, and communications and agricultural education and will center around community-engaged scholarship.

"It's not necessarily contributing to an existing body of knowledge that is recognized within the discipline but producing a form of knowledge that resonates with community to make sense of and make progress on tough challenges," Kliewer said about the purpose of creating the multidisciplinary program.

"Often times, it's about managing the contested way in which systems are understood because people bring different perspectives and ways to understand the world," Kliewer said. "The reason I think engagement is so important is it's developing skills, dispositions and mindsets that are responsive to complex challenges ... we make an assumption that students are getting their content expertise in their majors. What we're really focused on cultivating is the capacity of our students to make sense of the most difficult challenges confronting the 21st century."

*“Often times, it’s about managing the contested way in which systems are understood because people bring different perspectives and ways to understand the world.” - Brandon Kliever*



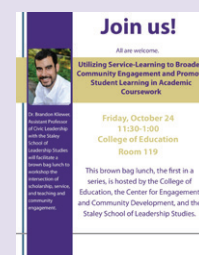
- K-State recognized as Community Engaged University by Carnegie Foundation.

# 2010



- K-State launches campus-wide Engagement Incentive Grant program.
- K-State administers campuswide Engagement Benchmarking Tool, or EBT, to capture K-State faculty engagement work.

# 2013



# 2012

- Because of Carnegie designation, K-State is selected as member of Engagement Scholarship Consortium (40 members nationwide).
- K-State launches campuswide Excellence in Engagement Award.
- K-State establishes Office of Corporate Engagement.



# 2015

- K-State approves "professors of practice." This designation helps recognize and reward engaged faculty.
- KSRE begins training all new extension educators in community facilitation practices.
- CECD launches brown bag development series for engagement professionals.
- Campus administers EBT for second time.

- K-State joins Imagining America consortia (110 members).
- Communication studies, leadership studies, and communications and agricultural education submit interdisciplinary doctorate in leadership communication to Kansas Board of Regents for approval.



# 2016

- Collaborate with KSRE to put statewide Master Facilitator program in place.
- Enroll first cohort of leadership communication doctorates.

# 2018



# 2017

- K-State launches cultural arts engagement strategic plan.
- K-State administers third iteration of EBT with goal to improve all engagement metrics campuswide.



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

# 2020

- Achieve Carnegie Foundation renewal as Community Engaged University.

## K-STATE ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

# CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*provides incredible opportunities for entrepreneurs*





*“This competition is a great way to allow students to think creatively and explore their entrepreneurial spirit.”*

*– Chad Jackson*



K-State Launch is a center program designed to connect with and assist the student entrepreneurs of K-State’s campus. To compete, students must create a feasibility plan, deliver a business pitch and present to a panel of judges that consists of local entrepreneurs, bankers and investment experts. Last year the competition awarded 38 students and 16 different business ideas with more than \$20,000 in prize money.

“This competition is a great way to allow students to think creatively and explore their entrepreneurial spirit,” Jackson said. “The real-world experience of pitching a business idea to the type of business experts we have on our panel is invaluable.”

The center also hosts a statewide entrepreneurship competition, the Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge. This particular challenge is open to all universities and high schools in Kansas. Last year the program really took off as the Kansas Masonic Foundation became a lead sponsor; every university in the Kansas Board of Regents system was represented, and 45 high school teams competed for \$75,000 cash. In the coming year; the challenge will be partnering with NetWork Kansas to attract more competitors.

Even aspiring entrepreneurs who are not K-State students can access educational opportunities through the center’s online and noncredit programs. The center provides a series of online webinars and a noncredit certificate for anyone to learn more about the fundamentals of entrepreneurship. An entrepreneurship conference is also available for those who want to learn from K-State faculty and entrepreneurial alumni in a face-to-face format.

“It’s not about ideas. It’s about making ideas happen.” – Scott Belsky

Kansas State University’s Center for Advancement of Entrepreneurship is well-known across the state for its desire to help, enhance and support the ideas of entrepreneurs.

Chad Jackson, director of the center, emphasized that while the center is housed in K-State’s College of Business Administration, its mission is to support all aspiring entrepreneurs.

# MAKING NUTRITION EDUCATION A SNAP – and more – in Shawnee County



Lisa Martin, Shawnee County extension agent, oversees two programs that provide nutrition education to individuals looking to take charge of their diets. This is a task especially important in Shawnee County because of the high population of food-insecure individuals living in and around the state's capital. Last year, the programs served more than 750 individuals, 500 of whom were children.

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, or EFNEP, has been teaching participants about healthy food consumption, food safety and budget-conscious shopping since 1969. It is a federally funded program for limited-resource families and children in the U.S.

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, called SNAP-Ed, provides similar services and reaches individuals who receive or are eligible for food stamps – a population that is low income and more likely to have poor access to healthy food. In Shawnee County, SNAP-Ed serves individuals who are

not eligible for EFNEP, such as young adults, empty nesters and seniors.

Both programs have a number of community gardens set up throughout Topeka that allow participants to learn how to grow and harvest fresh fruits and vegetables. Volunteers from Shawnee County's Master Gardner program work with participants at the gardens.

"Even though it's not direct nutrition education, it attracts people to that site," Martin said. "One garden has since been transformed into a demonstration garden to host community workshops. The EFNEP and SNAP-Ed participants continue to learn skills that they can apply to improve their quality of life."

Additionally, these programs collaborate with TARC, Shawnee County's most experienced provider of support for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to provide nutrition education to adults with disabilities. These

individuals receive lessons on healthful eating and the opportunity to work in the community garden by cooking with vegetables they harvest.

EFNEP and SNAP-Ed don't just educate adults. Students also receive nutrition education from the program through special catalogs distributed to school districts, especially those that have 50 percent or more of their students receiving free and reduced meals. Many teachers invite the nutrition educators from the program to their classrooms to teach students about healthier food choices.

Both EFNEP and SNAP-Ed have been successful programs that engage participants in the pursuit of living healthier lives. The SNAP-Ed programming is coordinated and delivered by Kansas State Research and Extension in 75 counties across Kansas, reaching more than 43,000 Kansans. In 2017, Kansas EFNEP served 1,029 adults, 823 youth and graduated 654 individuals, with more than 11 program volunteers and 1,144 volunteer hours. These statewide programs are fulfilling a significant need for Kansans pursuing healthier lifestyles.



***“Even though it’s not direct nutrition education, it attracts people to that site.” - Lisa Martin***



The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of pink flowers with dark brown centers, surrounded by lush green leaves. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and the lighting is soft, creating a natural and vibrant feel.

# IMAGINING AMERICA

*empowers students as citizens, community members  
through arts and humanities*

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Since becoming a member of Imagining America in 2016, Kansas State University has joined with more than 100 colleges and universities across the country to foster and advance engaged scholarship that draws on the arts, humanities and design.

Linda Duke, director of the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art at K-State, said she was eager to help bring the mission of Imagining America to the university.

***“Education can and should empower people to think through complicated issues on their own.”***

***– Linda Duke***

“Land-grant universities were set up to strengthen democracy, and Imagining America aligns with that mission by advocating for a comprehensive and well-rounded educational experience,” Duke said. “Supporters of this national consortium argue that for universities to provide education that empowers students as citizens and community members, the arts and humanities have to be a part of it.”

Duke believes that the arts are a way for people to develop skills that are useful to any discipline they may study. These can include observation and communication skills, and thinking that is rigorous, flexible and critical.

Existing Imagining America programs have redesigned course curriculums to integrate core competencies in history, culture and art into highly technical programs such as engineering, chemistry, agronomy and more. At the Beach Museum of Art, an interactive touch screen installation, “Touch

the Prairie,” models this type of arts integration. It offers visitors tracking data on movement patterns of bison at the Konza Prairie Biological Research Station, images on native wildflowers and grasses, historic information about prairie preservation efforts, and artwork related to the tallgrass prairie in one display.

Faculty of Imagining America institutions are encouraged to attend the consortium’s annual conference where community-engaged scholars collaborate and share ideas. Graduate students of Imagining America institutions can apply for the Publicly Active Graduate Education Fellowship and receive mentorship from the fellowship’s consortium of scholars. Graduate students also contribute to the Imagining America blog and journal while actively participating in the national conversation around the topic of public engagement.

“Education can and should empower people to think through complicated issues on their own,” Duke said. “The arts and humanities provide perfect arenas for developing thinking skills.”



# K-STATE LEADS

*as an economic development institution in innovation*

Economic engagement efforts at Kansas State University have earned two select national honors in the last year.

In summer 2017, K-State received the Innovation and Economic Prosperity University designation from the Association for Public and Land-grant Universities. With this national designation, the university joins 60 other public institutions across the country that are improving lives well beyond the confines of their campuses.

In October 2017, K-State's Knowledge Based Economic Development, or KBED, received the Award of Excellence for Innovation from the University Economic Development Association. The award was for a KBED event series that brings Kansas State University faculty and staff together for interdisciplinary collaboration and economic development.

To earn the Innovation and Economic Prosperity University designation, K-State conducted a self-assessment and obtained feedback from internal and external stakeholders to identify accomplishments and strengths as well as possible growth areas. The process also included cataloging more than 300 centers, institutes and programs that affect economic engagement.

KBED was established in 2008 to align the city of Manhattan's strategy for economic

development in a way that capitalizes on the university's research strengths and the area's growth opportunities. It is a combined effort by the city, the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, Kansas State University, the Kansas State University Institute for Commercialization, the Kansas State University Research Foundation, the Kansas State University Foundation and the North Central Kansas Community Network. The award-winning event series was created in 2010, and 24 meetings involving more than 900 faculty members have built teams to pursue large research proposals and industry partnerships. Event topics ranged from unmanned aerial systems to gerontology to pet food.

Kiley Moody and Rebecca Robinson, both with the Kansas State University Institute for Commercialization, helped the university with its efforts to receive both honors.

"Kansas State University is driving innovation in our state and leveraging it to create economic growth here," Robinson said.

Economic engagement efforts by the university are continuing. One of the next projects is to create a portal for industries to connect to K-State to find resources, expand networks and learn about the university in ways that are easily accessible.



*“Kansas State University  
is driving innovation in  
our state and leveraging  
it to create economic  
growth here.”*

*- Rebecca Robinson*

**Economic  
engagement  
national honors  
at Kansas State  
University**



Received the  
**Innovation and  
Economic Prosperity  
University designation**  
from the Association  
for Public and Land-  
grant Universities.



KBED received the  
**Award of Excellence  
for Innovation** from the  
University Economic  
Development  
Association.



# CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

*a necessary skill set across all disciplines*

Conflict occurs naturally in almost any social context and can be especially prevalent on college campuses where there is a large population of students with unique differences.

While most students are deeply focused on their majors and their futures, there is little attention paid to teaching students soft skills such as conflict resolution, which can help students and professionals from any discipline move ahead in their jobs and be better team members.

"Whether you're an industrial engineer, a landscape architect, or even a family therapist, you are constantly being forced to interact and engage with others, said Terrie McCants, program coordinator and professor of Kansas State University's conflict resolution certificate programs. "But we have not been exactly schooled in how to do that effectively."

K-State offers certificates in conflict resolution for both graduate and undergraduate students, and also offers a conflict analysis and trauma studies minor of which McCants is a co-coordinator. All of these programs allow students to learn the technical skills of conflict resolution and put them into practice.

For example, by taking part in the Riley-Geary Mediation Program, students have the opportunity to be professionally mentored by veteran mediators. This program is a point of pride for McCants as well as the students in the program.

"It's a win for the community to have quality, affordable mediation as an option, and it's a real win for our students to have the practical, experiential learning in real-life cases," McCants said.

Students taking conflict resolution courses said they can apply the course concepts to their personal and interpersonal conflicts. The first recipient of the conflict resolution certificate, who was initially skeptical of the

subject's effectiveness, was able to implement his learning to his mission at Fort Riley. Other students have used these tools to connect with a family member after years of dispute or even get along with their roommates.

"I've always told my students it's insufficient to just know about conflict resolution," McCants said. "We have to take this path of mastery where every day we try to kick it up a notch, we try to advance another skill ... anything we can do that will help us get to better solutions."



***"It's a win for the community to have quality, affordable mediation as an option, and it's a real win for our students to have the practical, experiential learning in real-life cases." - Terrie McCants***



# 2018 ENGAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

"Powerful Dialogue: Engaging Community Issues in Polarizing Times" was the theme of the Center for Engagement and Community Development's 2018 Engagement Symposium, building on the momentum of the university's KSUnite communitywide movement and the Living Democracy project.

As we witness nearly every day, the public is not content to merely wait for elections to address civic problems. Instead, we see citizens speak out in community town halls, demonstrate in the streets and rage on social media. Rhetoric and dialogue are everywhere, making voices heard on a host of urgent issues a significant task at hand.

The 2018 Engagement Symposium explored how voices can be harnessed and focused to effectively address the most pressing issues. The symposium featured faculty, student and community presentations around a variety of community topics, including affordable

housing, improving health, racism, food access, heritage preservation and water. The symposium sought to highlight how dialogue and deliberation are essential in understanding an issue, in providing voices to both policymakers and those impacted by policy and ultimately, in addressing the issue.

This year's symposium keynote was provided by Martín Carcasson, director of Colorado State University's Center for Public Deliberation. Carcasson is a noted theorist, practitioner and educator in the field of deliberative democracy. His Center for Public Deliberation is nationally known for educating students and working closely with community partners to address local and state issues.

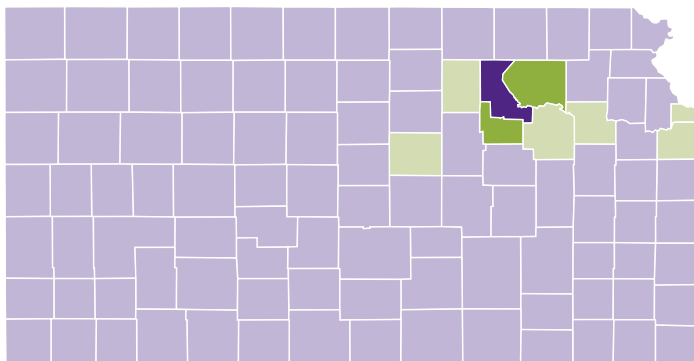
Iris Young reminds us: "Unity and understanding ... will not come from pretending that group differences do not matter, but rather from understanding precisely how they do matter, and so forging an inclusive picture of our social relations."

# EBT CAMPUS SURVEY RESULTS

*Engagement Benchmarking Tool*

## ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS BY COUNTY

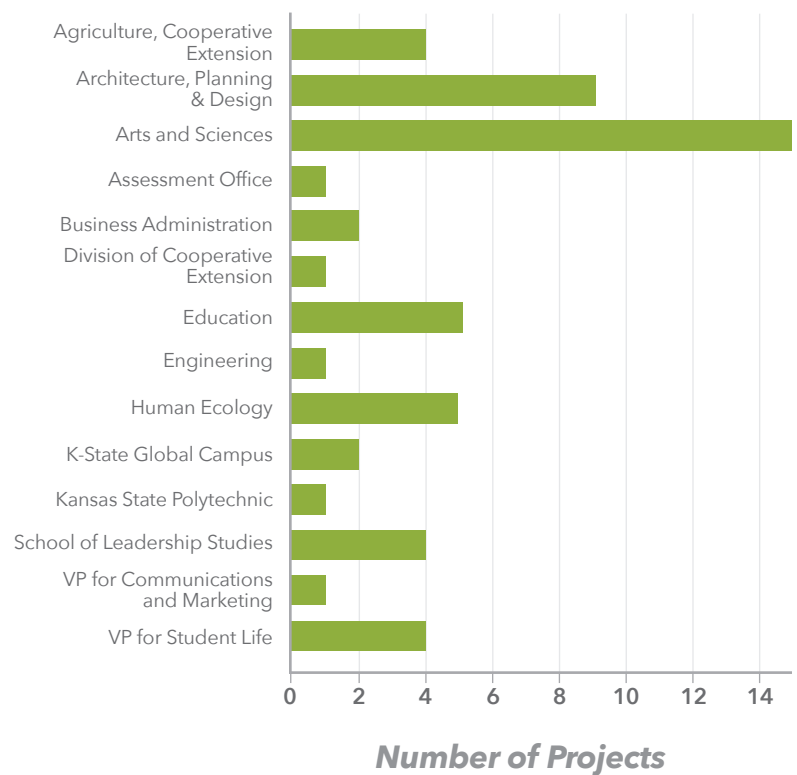
*K-State is working across Kansas to address the state's most important issues.*



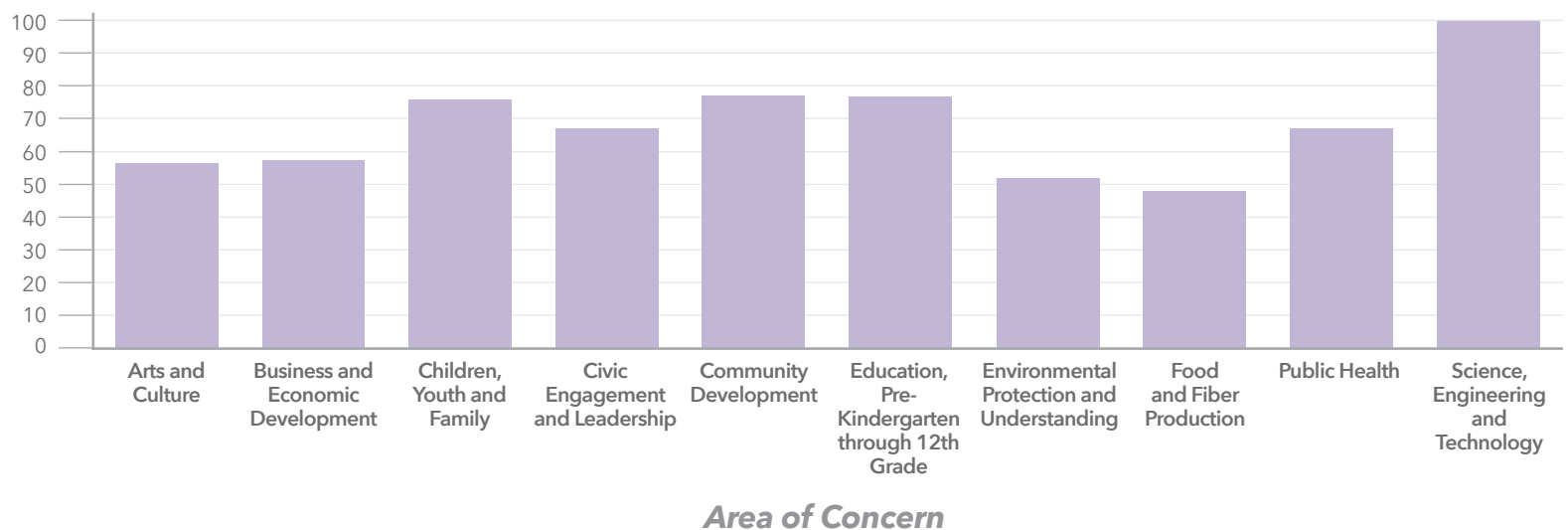
**Color Key:** Number of Projects

0-10 10-25 25-50 50+

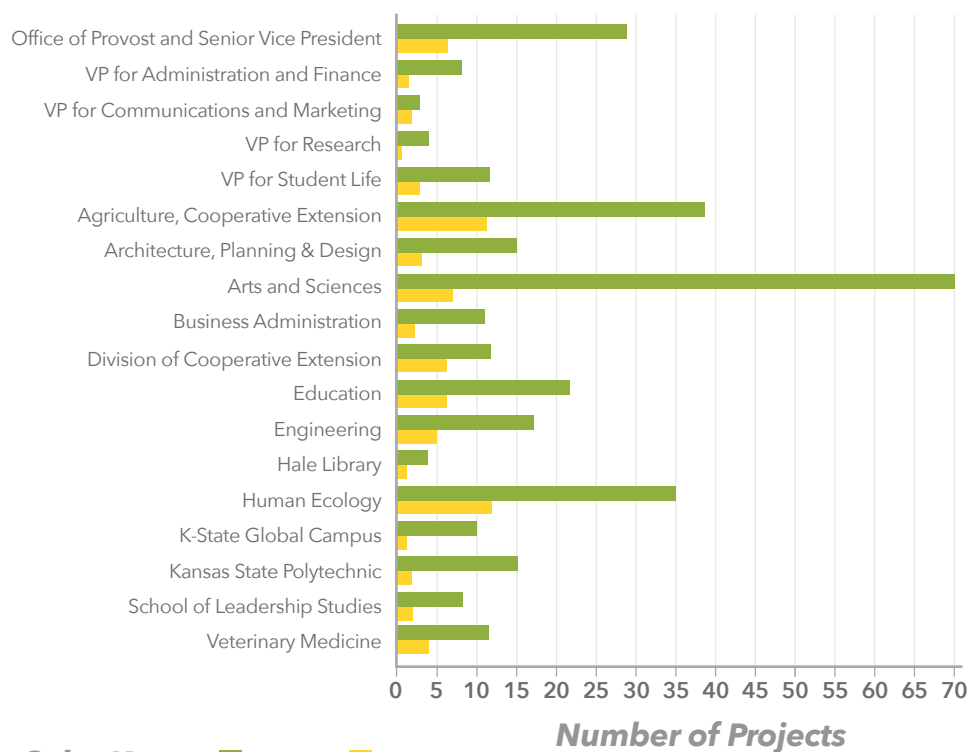
## SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS



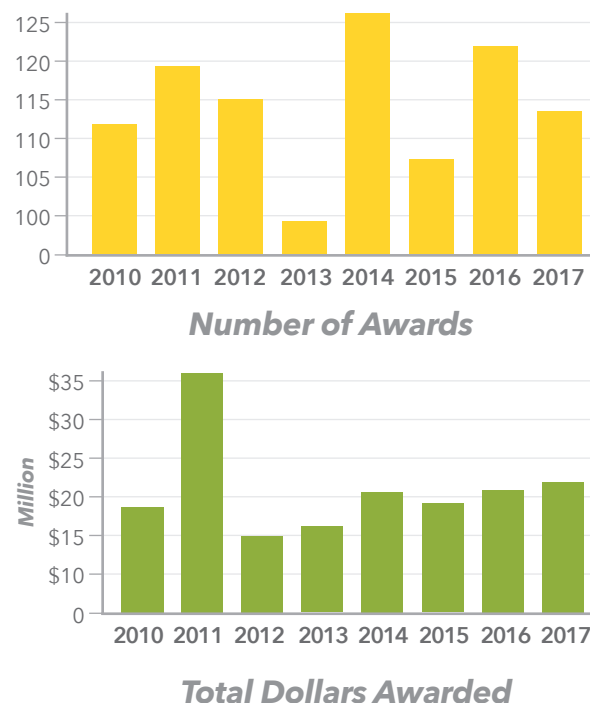
## ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS BY AREA OF CONCERN



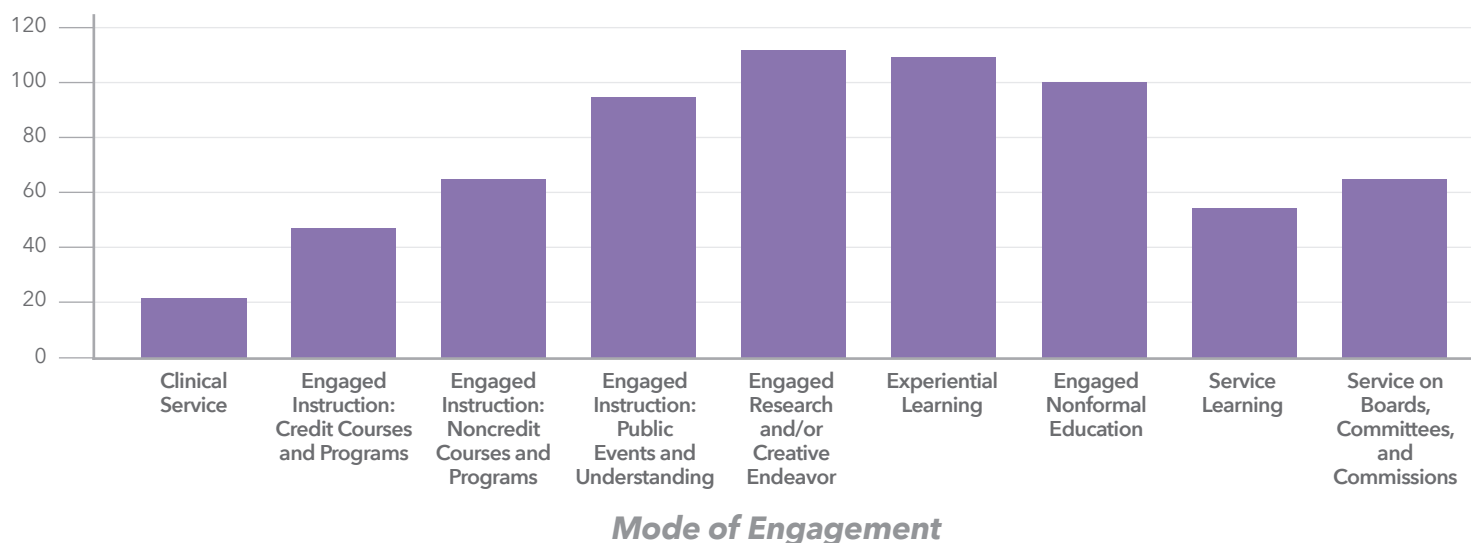
## FACULTY PROJECT ENGAGEMENT BY COLLEGE OR OFFICE



## ENGAGED EXTRAMURAL FUNDING PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS



## ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS BY MODE OF ENGAGEMENT



## ENGAGED IN GOOD WORKS

**grant program funds teaching, research and outreach projects**

The recipients of Kansas State University's spring 2018 Engagement Incentive Grants are involved in projects ranging from helping recent war veterans transition to new careers in farming to engaging the public in science communication.

Engagement Incentive Grants are a project of the Office of the Provost and the Center for Engagement and Community Development. These seed grants are designed to assist faculty and K-State Research and Extension specialists and agents to become more fully engaged in teaching, research and outreach.

Here's a look at the spring 2018 recipients and their projects:

## USING CHINESE CUISINE TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND TEACH FOOD SAFETY



Shijun Yan's project "Utilizing Chinese Culinary Events to Build Community Relationships, Multicultural Awareness, and Food Safety Training Models" had two main goals: promoting Chinese culture to build better relationships with the community, and working with local Chinese restaurants and community members to help solve some of their food safety issues.

Yan is associate director of Kansas State University's Confucius Institute.

Through collaboration with partners, including the Kansas Department of Agriculture and several K-State departments, the Confucius Institute organized two successful events, offered on May 22 and Sept. 11, at the Jardine Frith Community Center. At these events, instructors taught Chinese culinary practices and safety precautions alongside meal preparation. The next steps in the project will be to compile questionnaires from these events so that the effectiveness of the training can be measured. Yan hopes that this project will have a lasting effect on the community and local restaurants.

## ENGAGING PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE AND ACADEMIA



Ellen Mulcahy, director of Kansas State University's Master of Public Health Program and associate professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, partnered with health departments and extension agents in Kansas for the project "Engaging Public Health Practice and Academia: A Model for Public Health Partnership at Kansas State University."

The project's goal is to help students in the Master of Public Health program gain real-world experience before starting public health careers in such areas as rural and agricultural public health, epidemiology, food safety and veterinary medicine.

By establishing mutually beneficial partnerships with Kansas public health agencies, Mulcahy hopes to create long-term, sustainable relationships to promote and advance public health.

## GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION ABROAD IN GUATEMALA



Starting in fall 2018, Kansas State University students may be participating in a service-learning education project in Guatemala.

The goal of the year-round program developed by Linda Yarrow, assistant professor of food, nutrition, dietetics and health, is to let students apply their academic knowledge and skills to help the indigenous Mayan people improve their quality of life. The program is targeted toward junior- and senior-level students in public health nutrition, dietetics, athletic training, sensory analysis and pre-health.

The program will send a cohort of students to Guatemala approximately every eight weeks. The students will then spend anywhere from four to 16 weeks participating in service-learning and cultural activities in the Lake Atitlan region of Guatemala. Depending on their skill sets and interests, students will have the opportunity to work with clinics, a Spanish language school, a health nonprofit organization and/or after-school health programs.

Currently, the food, nutrition, dietetics and health department is working to find a local resident of the Lake Atitlan region to serve as the on-site program manager who will assist students during their stay.

## RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION FOCUS OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROJECT



Natalie Pennington, assistant professor of communications studies, and Amber Venum, associate professor of couples and family therapy, at Kansas State University, are involved in the project "Developing Connections Between Communities and Researchers: MyRelevate as a Mechanism for Adaptive and Accessible Relationship Education."

Relevate was created by Venum as a way to distribute crucial research on



interpersonal relationships through technology and community outreach. Pennington says that Relevate is currently in the process of developing a new website and mobile app to reach those beyond the K-State and Manhattan communities.

Relevate's primary target for relationship education is young adults or young professionals, making the university an ideal location for engagement once the website and the app are launched.

## HELPING SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS WITH BETTER DATA



The project "Identifying and Predicting Classes of Sex Trafficking Survivors in the United States" by Kansas State University's Briana Nelson Goff is addressing the lack of research and treatment options for survivors of sex trafficking.

Nelson Goff, a professor of family studies and human services, said that without proper treatment, there tend

to be higher rates of drug relapse, unsuccessful high school or college graduation, and other negative consequences among sex trafficking survivors.

"There is a lot we don't know about sex trafficking survivors, and the current intervention models in place assume a one-size-fits-all approach, which likely means that many people fall through the cracks and do not receive services specifically tailored to their individual needs," said Lauren Rulhmann.

With at least 500 participants, Nelson Goff and her team think that their project will be the largest sex trafficking research study to date. They hope results will help improve sex trafficking clinical survivor, intervention and prevention programs.



# SAVE THE DATE

*June 25-26, 2018*  
*Hilton Garden Inn*  
*Manhattan, Kansas*

**JOIN US FOR THE NATIONAL  
RURAL GROCERY SUMMIT VI**  
Strengthening Community; Strengthening  
Health: The Rural Grocery Store

.....  
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