



April 2020



We are #kstatestrong

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kansas State University plans to maintain its limited operations status through the end of the semester, based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the State of Kansas.

We will continue to teach all classes remotely through the end of this semester. Despite the university's limited on-campus operations status, our priorities are to teach and advise students through the semester, continue to recruit and enroll students for the next academic year, and conduct limited mission-critical research and engagement.



Watch a #kstatestrong [video with Kansas State University President Richard Myers](#), who offers words of encouragement during this difficult time.

Kansas Telecommunication companies sign FCC pledge

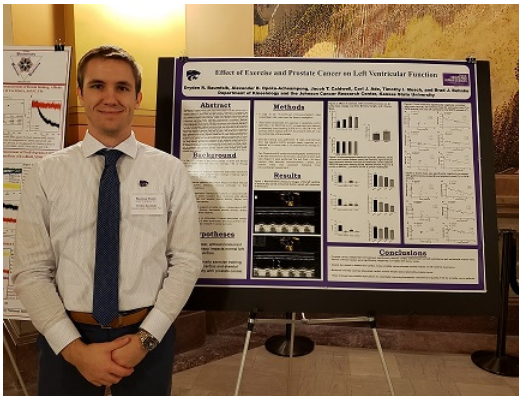
We appreciate the Kansas Independent rural telephone companies who have signed the [Federal Communications Commission's Keep Americans Connected Pledge](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following Kansas companies have signed the pledge and may be able to help K-Staters across the state with internet services.

- Blue Valley — Home, near Marysville
- Consolidated — several small companies around Kansas
- Craw-Kan — southeast Kansas
- Cunningham Telephone
- Epic/Elkhart
- Golden Belt — south of Hays
- KanOkla — south-central Kansas
- Madison Telephone
- Moundridge

- Mutual Telephone — Little River
- Nex-Tech — northwest Kansas
- Peoples Telecommunications — southeast Kansas
- Pioneer Communications — southwest Kansas
- Rainbow — northeast Kansas
- S&A — south of Topeka
- S&T — northwest Kansas
- SC Telcom — southwest Kansas
- Tri-County — Council Grove
- Twin Valley — Concordia/Beloit
- United Telephone — south of Dodge City
- Wilson Communications
- WTC — Wamego

The pledge reads "Given the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on American society, (the company name) pledges for the next 60 days to:

- Not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic;
- Waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and
- Open its Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them."



Three graduate students receive awards for their State Capitol poster presentations

Three Kansas State University graduate students received statewide recognition for their Kansas-related research at the [17th Capitol Graduate Research Summit](#), Feb. 26, at the State Capitol in Topeka.

Dryden Baumfalk, Colby, doctoral student in human ecology specializing in kinesiology; **Arvind Damodara Kannan**, doctoral student in civil engineering, **India**; and **Ashish Kumar**, doctoral student in biochemistry, **India**, were the three Kansas State University winners at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit. Kannan was the Kansas State University winner and recipient of a \$500 scholarship. Kumar and Baumfalk were selected as award recipients by BioKansas. Kumar received a \$500 award sponsored by MO Valley PDA, and Baumfalk received a \$100 award sponsored by Labcono. Both Kumar and Baumfalk received a \$250 certificate for enrollment in a professional development workshop sponsored by BioKansas.

The Capitol Graduate Research Summit is a statewide event that features current research of graduate students at Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, the University of Kansas Medical Center, Wichita State University, Fort Hays



Interior design program recognized as one of the best by Architectural Digest

The interior design program in the College of Health and Human Sciences has been named a top program by ADPRO, Architectural Digest's members-only community for design industry professionals.

K-State made the list along with other notable design schools, including the Rhode Island School of Design; The New School, Parsons School of Design; University of Cincinnati; Cornell University; and the New York School of Interior Design.

This is the second recognition for the program this academic year. This fall, DesignIntelligence, an independent company focused on the design and construction industry, ranked K-State's program eighth among the most admired interior design schools in the nation.

"We are pleased to be recognized as a top program in interior design," said Barbara Anderson, professor and department head. "Recognition like this is rewarding for our students, alumni and faculty who are committed to improving human lives through design."

State University, Emporia State University and Pittsburgh State University. Each university invited a university professor and an industry representative to judge the student poster presentations. The top presenters from each university received awards. Additionally, BioKansas judges selected one winner from each school whose research best aligns with the mission of BioKansas. BioKansas judges also selected four award recipients for research related to drug development.

Baumfalk's poster was "Effects of prostate cancer and exercise training on left ventricular function and cardiac and skeletal muscle mass." His research deals with prostate cancer and exercise. Prostate cancer is the most common solid tumor diagnosis among men, and the incidence rate of prostate cancer in Kansas is higher than the national average. Baumfalk's research demonstrates the atrophic effects of prostate cancer on cardiac and skeletal muscle mass independent of anti-cancer treatments that can be mitigated with moderate-intensity exercise. These findings have notable implications for potentially improving therapeutic outcomes and quality of life for prostate cancer patients.

Kannan's poster was "Beneficial recovery of ammonia from swine wastewater for reuse as a targeted slow-release fertilizer." His research examines anaerobic membrane bioreactor treatment of swine wastewater from animal feeding operations to extract valuable fertilizer macronutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus. The major goal of this work is to produce an ammonia-based soil fertilizer to enhance soil quality, prevent nitrate and phosphorus contamination in surface water and groundwater aquifers, and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions due to land application of agriculture waste biosolids. This could create a greener workforce in rural Kansas communities pivoted around nutrient product marketing, water and renewable energy — biogas — management, as well as reused water reallocation budgeting, without compromising cropland and food safety.

Kumar's poster was "Fluorescence assays for detection, discrimination, and quantification of siderophores." His research focuses on creating fluorescent sensors that detect, discriminate and quantify small molecules in the environment. His research demonstrated this technology by studying microbial iron chelators, called siderophores, that are secreted by bacterial pathogens to obtain iron in human and animal hosts. The sensors are useful for many purposes, including rapid identification of siderophores in clinical and food samples, and detection of specific infectious bacteria in blood, serum, tissues or foods.

To learn more about the Capitol Graduate Research Summit and who participated in the event visit the [Capitol Graduate Research Summit website](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Board of Regents approved the naming of the Carl and Melinda Helwig Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering in the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering to honor the couples dedication and commitment to Kansas State University.

K-State's program is the only interior design program in the state of Kansas for students who want to earn a four-year baccalaureate degree from a program accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. The ADPRO ranking highlights the program's areas of strength in evidence-based design and focusing on the impact of interior environments on human well-being as hallmarks for career preparedness.

K-State scientist earns early career award for fighting weeds

Vipan Kumar, an assistant professor of weed science at the Kansas State University Agricultural Research Center in Hays, received one of the top awards for young professionals during a joint meeting of the Weed Science Society of America and Western Society of Weed Science.

At the annual meeting in Maui, Hawaii, the organizations named Kumar as the recipient of the award for outstanding early career weed scientist. Each year, the group selects one scientist who has earned the doctoral degree within the previous 10 years.

As its name suggests, the award recognizes outstanding achievements in weed science early in the individual's career, which includes innovative approaches that result in learning, the ability to clearly communicate ideas, excellence in research accomplishments, and more.

Kumar, a native of northwestern India, began work at the Agricultural Research Center in 2017. His research includes several weed-related issues, but focuses on herbicide-resistant Palmer amaranth and kochia — aggressive weeds that steal water and nutrients in Kansas cropping systems.

Last year, Kumar's research team confirmed the first report on a strain of Palmer amaranth in central Kansas that resists the 2,4-D herbicide, one of the most commonly-used broadleaf weed killers.

Since 2017, he has secured more than \$1.2 million in extramural grants and contracts to conduct his research. He has published 38 refereed journal articles; written 14 extension articles and technical reports, and 104 abstracts; and documented four new cases of herbicide resistant weeds across the Great Plains.

Kumar also hosts numerous extension meetings and events, and has supervised several graduate students, visiting scholars and postdoctoral researchers.

At the same meeting, Kumar also was recognized by the Weed Science Society of America with an award as an outstanding reviewer. He is currently a reviewer for seven publications: Weed Technology, Weed Science, Pest Management Science, Crop Protection, Agronomy Journal, Nature Scientific Reports and PLoS ONE.

The Weed Science Society of America was founded in 1956 to promote knowledge about weeds and their impact on the environment.

Learn more about the [K-State Agricultural Research Center online](#).



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