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
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 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 $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 State University, and other institutions.

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."
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.