



December 2021



Kansas Board of Regents names Richard Linton as the 15th President of Kansas State University

Yesterday, December 2, 2021, the Kansas Board of Regents voted to name Dr. Richard H. Linton as the 15th President of Kansas State University.

“Richard Linton has proven himself as a forward-thinking leader who knows how to seize opportunities in higher education’s rapidly evolving landscape,” said Regent Cheryl Harrison-Lee, KBOR Chair. “He shares the Regents’ strategic vision of higher education as a powerful force uniquely capable of revitalizing our economy. We are excited to have him as the next president of K-State and watch him lead the university into the future.”

“I’m honored to take on the role of president of Kansas State University,” said Dr. Linton. “The university is on an exciting trajectory, and its community has a contagious passion, culture and connectivity. I’m energized to help lead K-State forward and build on this positive momentum.”



The Regents chose Dr. Linton after a committee-led search to identify the next president of K-State. The search process began after current President Richard Myers announced in May that he would retire at the end of 2021.

Dr. Linton is Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) at North Carolina State University. Linton leads a college of more than 360 faculty, housed in 12 different departments, and more than 4,200 undergraduate and graduate students. Since he started this position in 2012, Linton has been committed to understanding the needs of CALs stakeholders, developing strategic relationships and delivering innovative solutions. The NC Plant Sciences Initiative and the Food Processing and Manufacturing Initiative stem from this commitment and are expected to create jobs, find solutions to global challenges in agriculture and foster support for local growers.

Kansas State University welcomes Dr. Linton, his wife and children to the K-State family.

K-State named in top colleges with best ROI in Kansas by Stacker

They say the college years are the best of your life. They shape the way you see the world, the passions you wish to pursue, and the person you hope to be. But much more than an emotional, personal, and professional starting point, college is a significant financial investment.

Students and families are going to want to ensure they are putting their dollars into an institution that is going to make it worth their while. Those who have a bachelor’s degree [earn about \\$32,000](#) more annually than those without, reports the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities. But some colleges have a

higher return on investment than others.

Universities that specialize in STEM studies (science, technology, engineering, and math) tend to have a higher return on investment for their graduates. STEM has gained ground over the past 10 years as more and more careers have a need for science and tech knowledge. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were [10.2 million STEM jobs in 2020](#), and that number is growing. The median annual wage of workers in STEM fields is more than twice the national average, as well.

[Stacker](#) compiled a list of the colleges with the best return on investment in Kansas, using a [2019 study](#) by Anthony P. Carnevale, Ban Cheah, and Martin Van Der Werf at Georgetown University. Colleges that primarily issue bachelor's degrees were considered. Colleges are ranked by the highest 40-year ROI, with ties broken by 10-year ROI. The study considered net present value, balancing today's costs against future earnings.

Stacker listed Kansas State University #3 in the state with the following value:

- 40-year NPV: \$951,000
- 10-year NPV: \$97,000
- Median debt: \$17,500



Commencement ceremonies Dec. 10 and 11 recognize fall degree candidates, summer graduates

Kansas State University fall commencement ceremonies will be Friday, Dec. 10, in Manhattan and Salina, and Saturday, Dec. 11, in Manhattan. Fall 2021 degree candidates and summer 2021 graduates will be recognized at the ceremonies.

Tickets are not required and all ceremonies are open to the public. Per the university's current COVID-19 policies, face masks must be worn at all times inside university facilities.

More than 1,325 students are candidates for degrees this fall from K-State. Projected to be awarded are 1,060 bachelor's degrees, more than 270 master's degrees and more than 60 doctorates. More than 220 graduation candidates are earning their degrees through distance education.

K-State awarded degrees to more than 580 students this summer, including more than 300 bachelor's degree graduates, 225 master's degree graduates and more than 50 doctoral graduates.

Ceremonies start at 1 p.m. Dec. 10 on the Manhattan campus with the Graduate School in Bramlage Coliseum. Herman "Mogri" Mongrain Lookout, a master Osage language instructor and founding director of the Osage Nation Language Department, will receive an honorary doctorate from K-State at the ceremony and deliver the commencement address.



K-State veterinary staffer hits model market with CHAMP

Veterinary students can now get a leg up on learning clinical skills thanks to a new tool envisioned by Kansas State University's Susan Rose, clinical education technician in the [College of Veterinary Medicine](#), and commercialized with help from [K-State Innovation Partners](#).

After recognizing a need for more accurate and robust models for veterinary teaching, one of Rose's latest models has been transformed into a product called CHAMP: Canine Venipuncture & Injection Trainer. This unique canine hind limb model was refined and produced in collaboration with REMEDY Simulation Group, a Pennsylvania-based company specializing in human/anatomical teaching models.

"CHAMP provides an opportunity for many students to learn how to handle needles and syringes properly for the first time," Rose said. "Additionally, it gives them the opportunity to develop muscle memory and hand skills they need to use traditional syringes and needles, butterfly catheters or vacutainers for obtaining blood samples, or how to insert and secure IV catheters."

Rose began creating models for use in K-State's veterinary courses years ago. The origins of the CHAMP began in March 2018 with her development of prototype model limbs for practicing venipuncture in

Wint Winter Jr., **Lawrence**, a member of the Kansas Board of Regents, will represent the board at the ceremony.

Commencement for Kansas State University Salina will be at 7 p.m. in the campus's Student Life Center.

KSU's physician assistant program receives accreditation status, will welcome first cohort in January

The physician assistant program, offered through the K-State's College of Health and Human Sciences, has received provisional accreditation status from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, or ARC-PA.

Having received the accreditation status, the program will welcome their first cohort of 36 students to campus to begin courses in January.

"The physician assistant program at Kansas State University has the potential to have great impact on the health of our communities," said Craig Harms, interim dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. "Graduates will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to advocate for patients, reduce disparities in access to health care, recognize and treat disorders and advance prevention of chronic disease. We are very excited to bring this new program to Kansas State University and the state of Kansas."

The physician assistant program is one of two programs available in Kansas. Housed in Mary and Carl Ice Hall on K-State's Manhattan campus, the 27-month, full-time graduate program, consists of 12 months of classroom instruction followed by 15 months of clinical training. The program follows the traditional medical model of training, providing in-depth analysis of disease processes, diagnosis and treatment, and prepares students to serve as primary health care providers who practice medicine with physician supervision.

"The faculty and staff of K-State's physician assistant program are proud of the work that led to receiving Accreditation-Provisional status," shared program director, Gwen Ferdinand-Jacob. "K-State's PA program provides an excellent opportunity to educate students from a broad geographical area who, upon graduation, will play an essential role in improving access to healthcare."

For more information on the physician assistant program, please visit their [website](#).

Here is the official statement from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant:

The ARC-PA has granted **Accreditation-Provisional** status to the **K-State Physician Assistant Program** sponsored by **Kansas State University**.

Accreditation-Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet ARC-PA *Standards* or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to

junior surgery lab.

"No hind limb models were on the market for that, so I went to work to create our own," Rose said. "I modeled, molded and then cast limbs that could be used for both lateral canine and feline medical blood draws and subcutaneous injections."

In summer 2018, Ryane Englar, former clinical education coordinator at K-State and current director of veterinary skills development at the University of Arizona, assisted Rose in the search for a company that might be interested in partnering to build a model. She and Rose both saw a need for veterinary models that could hold up to heavy use in a classroom setting.

"It's one thing to create a venipuncture task trainer," Englar said. "It's another for that task trainer to hold up to 110 needle sticks without exsanguination. Model-making is just beginning to take off in the realm of veterinary education — it is still in many ways in its infancy stage — and so there are only a handful of companies that produce these products."

After partnering with K-State Innovation Partners to license the model designs in June 2018, Rose came across REMEDY Simulation Group and reached out to see if the company would be interested in entering the growing veterinary model market. After a series of meetings, REMEDY acquired the exclusive rights to two of Rose's models and the development process began.

After many more meetings and some production delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the final product was released to the market on Oct. 15 in honor of Vet Tech Week.

Bindra receives DOE grant to study thermal transport within 3D-printed reactor components

Hitesh Bindra, Steve Hsu keystone research scholar and associate professor in the [Alan Levin Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering](#) at Kansas State University, is receiving a nearly \$800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to study thermal transport in 3D-printed ceramic nuclear reactor core components to help optimize reactor fuel design.

Bindra will lead the two-year project for the [Carl R. Ice College of Engineering](#), conducting research on "Experimental thermofluidic validation of TCR fuel elements using distributed temperature and flow sensing," alongside a pair of colleagues from City College of New York and the University of Pittsburgh. Of the total funding, \$50,000 was awarded to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The project will use infrared imaging and Bragg-grating sensors to obtain high-fidelity thermal scans of the transformational challenge reactor, or TCR, fuel elements. The measurements will be projected to the rest of the fuel domain with the help of a machine-learning algorithm. The 3D-printed mock ceramic fuel elements will be provided by Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

"Advanced manufacturing and artificial intelligence are critical for the successful deployment of microreactors and small-modular nuclear reactors,"

demonstrate continued progress in complying with the *Standards* as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Accreditation-Provisional does not ensure any subsequent accreditation status. It is limited to no more than five years from matriculation of the first class.

Bindra said. "This project will generate data and algorithms to enable their rapid prototyping."

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas State University Sales Team is the 2021 Collegiate World Cup of Sales university champion, after winning the International Collegiate Sales Competition.



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