



July 2022



Save the date for inauguration of Kansas State University President Richard Linton

The inauguration planning committee invites you to save the date for the inauguration of President Richard Linton at 2 p.m. Friday, September 2, 2022, in McCain Auditorium on K-State's Manhattan Campus. A reception will immediately follow in the lobby. The ceremony and reception are open to the public.

The ceremony will also be livestreamed on the president's website, as well as recorded for those unable to attend or watch live.

Questions regarding the inauguration can be sent to the planning committee co-chairs, Sue Peterson and Gary Pratt, at inauguration@k-state.edu.

K-State Rural Education Center partners with Rural Schools Collaborative to boost rural education in Kansas

The [Rural Education Center](#) in the Kansas State University [College of Education](#) has entered a strategic partnership with the Rural Schools Collaborative to strengthen and advance every aspect of rural education in Kansas.

The Rural Schools Collaborative, housed at Monmouth College, is a national grassroots network of rural schools, higher-education institutions and organizations focused on rural teachers and rural education.

Lori Goodson, Rural Education Center assistant director and assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, believes important synergies will develop from this initiative.

"We see the center's involvement with the Rural Schools Collaborative network as a significant opportunity to unite with other stakeholders and join the growing chorus of educators and researchers raising their voices for the good of all rural communities," Goodson said. "We are excited about this partnership because Kansas communities will both benefit from and contribute to the overarching effort."

Goodson is joined by Spencer Clark, Rural Education Center director; Diane Beets, the center's program coordinator; and Kevin Colle, center program/project coordinator, to diligently challenge and ultimately change stereotypes surrounding rural schools.

"We need to rewrite the rural narrative to help the broader society move away from a deficit perspective regarding rural schools and shift to an assets-based perspective," Goodson said. "Rural schools and communities are so unique and distinct — and there are tremendous educational assets embedded within that uniqueness — that we need to leverage and make others aware of authentic stories of rural life."

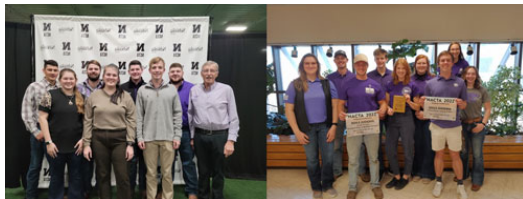
The Rural Education Center supports all the rural school districts throughout the state and works especially closely with districts in the southeast, southwest and northwest regions of Kansas to:

- Generate grants and other projects to help rural school districts.
- Create a homegrown workforce for schools.
- Advance rural student leadership in the College of Education.
- Help generate place-based curriculum that makes use of the unique learning available to rural schools.

Over the past two years, the center has instituted three key programs to support rural education and rural teachers throughout Kansas, including:

- [LEAPES](#), an acronym for Learning Exploration and Application for Prospective Engineering Students, is a collaborative project funded by a \$2.7 million grant from the Department of Defense that promotes STEM education among seventh to 12th grade students throughout the state.
- [ED ASTRA](#), an acronym for Education Advocates Supporting Teachers in Rural Areas, launched in fall 2021. It is designed to emphasize future rural educators by creating a community of rural-focused future teachers.
- [RPDS, or Rural Professional Development School, Network](#) was launched in 2020 and expanded in 2021. The RPDS network is a critical component of the center's efforts to create opportunities for all Kansas rural districts. It brings together representatives from school districts across the state to help address the most pressing needs of rural schools by providing a discussion space and forum to share best practices, explore grant opportunities, and highlight accomplishments.

More information about the [Rural Education Center is available on its website](#) and through the center's e-newsletter, [Rural Crossroads](#).



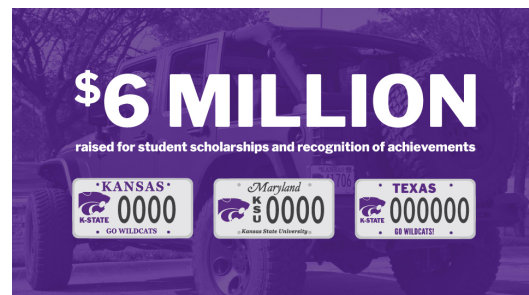
K-State Crops and Soils Judging teams complete successful spring season

The Kansas State University Crops and Soils Judging teams competed in the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Judging Conference in early April. The conference, in North Platte, Nebraska, was hosted by the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. Forty-two four-year and two-year schools competed in 13 contest areas with over 500 students and faculty members in attendance.

The Crops Judging Team competed in three events, placing first in precision agriculture and second in the crops contest and the ag knowledge bowl. The Soils Judging Team took second place in the soils contest.

Members of the Crops Team were Evan Bott, Palmer; Jaden Strohl, Cunningham; Kel Grafel, Oberlin; and Austin Hobbs, Buffalo. All are seniors majoring in agronomy. Alternate members of the Crops Team were Macy Hoskinson agricultural education, Hutchinson; Josie Harris, animal sciences and industry, Burrton; and Grant Graber, agronomy, Wichita. Graber was also an alternate in precision agriculture. The knowledge bowl team members were Harris, Bott, Strohl, Grafel and Hobbs.

In the precision agriculture contest, Bott placed second overall, first in component identification, second in problem-solving and third in lab practical. Strohl was the third-place individual, tying for first in component identification and receiving second in both the lab practical and exam. Hobbs placed fifth overall



\$6 million raised for students through the KSU License Plate Program

Whenever you're driving down the road and pass by a car with a K-State License Plate, it feels like finding a friend. Seeing the trademark purple and the Powercat logo brings some of that special K-State spirit to your day.

"It's a warm feeling to pull into a parking spot next to a K-State tag and know you've shared so much," says Victoria Lynch '05, K-State License Plate holder.

There are now over 11,000 official K-State License Plates on the road in various states. Thanks to everyone who has driven with pride since the program began 26 years ago, the tax-deductible royalties paid on K-State License Plates have raised more than \$6 million for student scholarships and recognition of achievements.

"Since 1996, K-State has been the leader in affinity license plates in the state of Kansas and we are thrilled to have reached this milestone," said Amy Button Renz '76, '86, K-State Alumni Association president and CEO. "K-Staters can drive with pride knowing they're making a difference by providing funding for scholarships and student recognition

and second in the exam. Grafel placed fifth in both math and lab.

In the crops contest, Bott was the second-highest individual, placing first in the math practical, second in the lab practical and fourth in identification. Grafel was fifth place overall, tying for second in lab practical and receiving fourth in the agronomic exam. Strohl placed fifth in the lab practical.

In the soils contest, Emily Kovar, an agronomy and environmental science major from Lenexa, was fourth overall individual and placed first on one of the four soil pits evaluated. Jacoby Kerr, an agronomy student from Manhattan, placed 10th. Additional members of the second-place team in the soils contest were Sydney Baughman, agricultural education, Moberly, Missouri, and Isaiah Euler, geology, Overland Park. Alternate members competing in soils were Evan Hutley, wildlife and outdoor enterprise management, Maple Hill; Kaitlyn Peters, agronomy, Lakin; Shelby Richard, agronomy, Tucson, Arizona; and Braden Hudelson, agronomy and environmental science, Lenexa.

The judging conference concluded the spring competition season for the K-State teams. Earlier in the season, the Crops Judging Team placed second in the West Texas A&M Invitational Contest in February at Canyon, Texas, and second in the KACTA Regional Contest at Kansas State University in March.

The Crops Team was coached by Kevin Donnelly, professor of agronomy. The Soils Team was coached by DeAnn Presley, professor of agronomy, and Colby Moorberg, associate professor of agronomy. Agronomy graduate students Luke Ryan, Solomon, and Sarah Zerger, Abilene, assisted with the Crops Team. The Soils Team assistant coach was Kendra Stahl, New Washington, Ohio.

DID YOU KNOW?

Creative work to support Kansas State University earned international recognition with [four Circle of Excellence honors](#) from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, or CASE. It is the most Circle of Excellence awards received by the university in a single year.

programs.”

The K-State License Plate supports programs like our Legacy Scholarship, which helps the children and grandchildren of K-State alumni to attend K-State; and the International Student Scholarship, spreading purple pride across the globe.

“Our family chooses to purchase K-State License Plates to not only show our loyalty on the road, but also because we know that the money raised from the program goes directly back to students,” says Amanda Lee '08. “It is truly a win-win — we know that by displaying our support for K-State on our vehicles, current students are being directly impacted through positive experiences such as scholarships and programs. Which in the end, positively impacts the overall university experience.”

The official K-State License Plate is currently offered in Kansas, Maryland and Texas — with a license plate in Oklahoma coming soon.

K-State students earn degrees, graduation honors

More than 3,100 students completed degree requirements from Kansas State University in spring 2022. The graduates are from 100 Kansas counties, 42 states and 41 countries.

The university awarded 2,263 bachelor's degrees, 651 master's degrees, 215 doctorates and 12 associate degrees. Several students earned multiple degrees.

For outstanding academic performance, 727 students earned graduation honors. Of those, 248 students graduated summa cum laude with a grade point average of 3.95 or above, 269 students graduated magna cum laude with a grade point average of 3.85 to 3.949, and 210 students graduated cum laude with a GPA of 3.75 to 3.849.

A list of students who have earned degrees and, if applicable, graduation honors from Kansas State University can be found [HERE](#).



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