



October 2022



Regional Community Visits: The university for the people of Kansas

As the nation's first operational land-grant university, we care deeply about Kansans and their communities. And there is no better way for Kansas State University to demonstrate our commitment to Kansans than through intentional visits across our state.

During academic year 2022-2023, we are visiting nine communities throughout the state of Kansas to listen and learn from the people who live there.

K-State's regional community visits will help to shape K-State's new strategic plan to become a [next-generation land-grant university](#). These regional community visits will serve as an important first step in how K-State engages Kansans through this planning process and how the university listens to communities throughout the state about the future of K-State.

The initiative consists of nine regional community visits throughout the academic year that:

- Establish a consistent opportunity for engaging with, listening to and learning from Kansans directly within the communities they call home.
- Recognize and reaffirm the strong relationships K-State holds with Kansas communities through our K-State Research and Extension network, industry partnerships, community engagement/volunteerism, and educational partnerships
- Strengthen and create new relationships that support Kansas citizens.
- Celebrate our alumni who contribute to Kansas communities, as the K-State graduates who power our state's workforce are integral in building a stronger future for Kansas.
- Empower K-State students from your region to share their K-State experience and how they will take what they have learned to make the world a better place.
- Heighten awareness for and access to the educational and experiential opportunities K-State offers to the next-generation of difference-makers.

When K-State visits your community, you can expect:

- A community open forum where you can learn how K-State supports local Kansas communities and share your ideas for how to strengthen the university's impact specifically in your area.
- Listening/Learning sessions with community leaders designed to facilitate critical dialogue to build solutions for Kansans.
- Visits with local partnerships and initiatives, celebrating the incredible work Kansans do every day.
- A future student information session that lets you hear directly from students about K-State and provides access to our admissions and financial aid experts, helping you take the next step in your education journey whether you're 18 or 85.

During academic year 2022-2023, K-State will visit nine communities throughout the state of Kansas to listen and learn from the Kansans who live there.

More details about each visit will be provided closer to the dates.

Fall 2022 regional community visit schedule:

Thursday, Sept. 1	Flint Hills region
Tuesday, Sept. 27	Ford County/Dodge City
Wednesday, Nov. 2	Greater Kansas City area
Monday, Dec. 5	Central Kansas/Salina

The five spring 2023 semester locations will include locations in northeast, south central, southeast, southwest and northwest Kansas.

The conversations, input and ideas from the community visits will help establish the vision, programmatic priorities, strategies and outcomes from K-State's new strategic plan.

College of Business responds to supply chain crisis with new degree program

In keeping with its mission to create value for students, business and society through programs that lead to career success and the advancement of knowledge, the Kansas State University [College of Business](#) is now offering a major in [operations and supply chain management](#).

This major focuses on the movement of goods and services through the global supply chain network from point of origin to point of consumption. Graduates of this program will be able to help companies and organizations more efficiently manage their operations by overseeing the sourcing of raw materials, the manufacture of goods and the storage, transportation and distribution of products to consumers.

The operations and supply chain management program has been offered as one of three academic tracks in K-State's management major for more than 10 years, with student demand increasing each year. The need for operations and supply chain management talent is at an all-time high as the nation and world cope with product shortages and skyrocketing costs of parts and materials.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment of supply chain professionals is projected to grow 30% from 2020 to 2030. Nationally, an entry-level salary for individuals entering the operations and supply chain management field is about \$60,000.

"Our management faculty are experts in all areas of supply chain management and our advisory board was unanimous in voicing its support for the development of this major," said Bill Turnley, professor and head of the K-State management department and Sam and Karen Forrer chair in business ethics.

K-State's operations and supply chain management major offers classes such as Supply Chain Analytics, Project Management, Supply Chain Planning and Control, Quality Management, Procurement, Logistics and Supply Chain Design, and Transportation and Warehouse Management that provide insight into how global supply chains operate and how to manage them efficiently, effectively and ethically. The objective of the major is to prepare students for careers in procurement management, manufacturing operations, warehousing, logistics, and transportation management in organizations that produce, sell and distribute goods and services to end customers.

"We know there is growing demand for individuals with these skills in the workplace, and we have developed excellent relationships with our corporate partners in this area," Turnley said. "The time is right for this launch, and we are confident that this major will meet the needs of both our students and our corporate partners."

"Operations and supply chain management is the fastest-growing business sector in the heartland region," said M.K. Kim, associate professor of management at K-State. "In fact, Kansas City is now seen as a center of choice for warehousing, manufacturing and distribution. Regional third-party logistics/trucking companies and some of the most prominent companies in the world like Amazon, DHL, Panasonic and Walmart are establishing or expanding their facilities due to the region's abundant, multi-modal transportation network."

Even before becoming a major, K-State's operations and supply chain management program had gained national recognition. K-State is one of 20 supply chain management programs around the world that has been selected to compete in [General Motors' Global Supply Chain Case Competition](#) for four years in a row. As a key partner of the Kansas City Roundtable of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, one of the largest associations of supply chain professionals in the region, the K-State

operations and supply chain management program has attracted major companies to campus for recruitment and received donations and student scholarships from corporate partners.

Recent graduates of the operations and supply chain management track in the management major have been recruited to work for companies across the country, including Amazon, BNSF Railway, Cargill, Cerner, DHL, General Electric, John Deere, Koch Industries, Lockheed Martin, PepsiCo, Southwest Airlines, Target, Union Pacific and UPS.

Learn more about the operations and supply chain management major [online](#), or contact Bill Turnley at turnley@k-state.edu.



Inauguration of Kansas State University's 15th President

The inauguration of Richard H. Linton as the 15th President of Kansas State University was held on Friday, Sept. 2, in McCain Auditorium. Linton was selected as K-State's new president by the Kansas Board of Regents on Dec. 2, 2021, stepping into the role in February. Highlights from the day can be viewed by clicking the picture above.

Kansas Farm Bureau donates \$5 million for K-State's new agriculture building project

Kansas Farm Bureau has pledged the largest donation in the organization's history: \$5 million over five years to support the Kansas State University College of Agriculture's innovation centers for grain, food, animal and agronomy research. The two new innovation centers will focus on the development and diversification of Kansas and the world's food and agricultural economy.

This investment will fund new facilities, renovations of current buildings and improvements in the technology and equipment necessary for interdisciplinary, cutting-edge research and continue to enhance the college's exceptional student experience.

"We've known for a long time the facilities at the country's first operational land-grant institution needed updating," said Rich Felts, president of Kansas Farm Bureau. "We're excited to come alongside President Linton to make an investment in our industry, our state and future students to ensure K-State remains in its position as a global leader in agriculture.

"Kansas Farm Bureau's gift ensures that K-State will continue to positively impact the lives of Kansas farmers and the Kansas economy," Felts said.



K-State students' winning idea casts insects as the heroes in tackling two big global issues - pollution and food security

What a winning makeover! Pesky insects — the house cricket, mealworms and flies — are becoming heroes. These unpopular insects are now key fighters of pollution and food insecurity, thanks to the visionary thinking of K-State students.

Combining her love of the environment and enthusiastic fascination with insects as food, K-State master's student Mollie Toth of Blue Springs, Missouri, sparked the idea that would lead [K-State's entomology](#) team to a national championship.

"Insects are high in protein. They have chitin, which is similar to fiber, so that helps with digestion. They are low in saturated fats and high in unsaturated fats," Toth said. "They are an overall good source for your macro- and micro-nutrient needs."

They also eat all types of waste, including plastic.

In 2022, Wilbur-Ellis, one of the world's largest family-owned agribusinesses, launched an innovation challenge for its 100th anniversary. The big idea? How to feed the world's growing population.

Out of 30 teams nationwide, K-State won with this striking idea: introduce symbiotic plastic-deteriorating gut bacteria into insects that consume plastic waste — and use the bugs later as livestock feed. Also, their manure, called frass, can be used as fertilizer.

"Using insects in feed is a lot more environmentally friendly because they are so efficient at converting resources into food. They use less water and less feed to produce their biomass," explained Brandon Hall, a doctoral student from Crete, Nebraska.

"Insects have a well-rounded nutritional profile and are starting to be used more in animal feed to replace other high protein sources like fish meal or soybean meal."

“We want to thank Kansas Farm Bureau for this investment in the future of agricultural teaching and research at K-State,” said Ernie Minton, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of K-State Research and Extension. “This gift is proof of the strong, long-standing relationship between the university and the agricultural industry, which is the lifeblood of Kansas. We are excited for the opportunities our innovation centers will bring to our students, faculty and the producers who drive this state’s robust agricultural economy.”

“Kansas Farm Bureau’s investment in new facilities and technology at K-State demonstrates the importance of university-industry partnerships to advance agriculture in an ever-changing world,” said K-State President Richard Linton. “Constantly adapting and innovating requires new ways of thinking and doing; and Kansas Farm Bureau’s gift will empower K-State faculty, researchers and students to work closely with industry partners to find the necessary solutions to this grand challenge.”

As Kansas State University’s strategic partner for philanthropy, the KSU Foundation inspires and guides philanthropy toward university priorities to boldly advance K-State family.

DID YOU KNOW?

The open/alternative textbook initiative has saved K-State students more than **\$10.0 M (since 2016)**.

The team’s idea isn’t limited to industrial use only. It could start at home.

“You could scale this idea from your backyard compost all the way up to industrial facilities that can degrade plastics for whole cities,” explained Cameron Osborne, doctoral student from Fresno, California.

Undergraduate and graduate students from all over the country, from different backgrounds and from multiple specialties made up the winning team.

K-State’s entomology team took something that is often bad — insects — and found a way to use them for good — for the planet and for their futures.

“Usually, we entomologists are trying to address challenges on how insects are affecting the world negatively — eating crops and spreading disease,” Osborne said. “But we enjoyed finding a way insects can help address the grand challenges of pollution, food insecurity and the environmental impacts of some food production.”

The team was comprised of students from their freshman year up to their final year of doctoral studies. While the more experienced students had the technical knowledge, the undergraduates contributed enthusiastic ideas and a perspective that hadn’t been dampened by the rigor of academia.

And the competition will provide benefits beyond the prize money that most team members used for tuition and research travel.



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