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## **The Princeton Review ranks Kansas State University, Manhattan relationship No. 1; university named Top 10 in nine categories**

Kansas State University has again been recognized as one of the nation's top undergraduate college experiences.

The Princeton Review ranked Kansas State University No. 1 for great town-gown relations in the 2018 edition of ["The Best 382 College."](#) The university was ranked in 15 categories - nine of which are in the Top 10. These rankings and many like them reinforce a view that K-State offers a superior undergraduate experience, according to Pat Bosco, vice president for student life and dean of students.

In addition to the No. 1 town-gown rankings, the university is No. 2 for best athletic facilities, No. 3 for best quality of life, No. 3 for students pack the stadiums, No. 6 for happiest students, No. 6 for students who love their colleges, No. 6 for best health services, No. 7 for best-run colleges, No. 8 for everyone plays intramural sports, No. 16 for best career services and No. 19 for best college dorms.

"These national rankings reflect decades of quality and value provided by K-State's talented and caring faculty, academic advisers and student life staff," Bosco said. "Supported by a family-like atmosphere, K-State's numerous leadership and volunteer opportunities help students round out their academic career. In addition, the many undergraduate research programs available give students a competitive advantage in the job market, which is one reason we have a 94 percent job placement rate."

In the last 10 years, the university also has had high rankings in many national and regional publications, including most recently [Business Insider](#), [Money Magazine](#), [SmartAsset](#), [College Choice](#), [Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' economic prosperity](#) designation, [Wall Street Journal](#) and [Travel + Leisure](#), as well as many other discipline-specific rankings.

The Princeton Review, an education services company, surveyed more than 137,000 college students to rank schools in 62 categories.

In addition to the Princeton Review rankings, ESPN is calling K-State football fans No. 6 happiest in the nation. The network recently introduced its [Fan Happiness Index](#), which gauges the fan sentiment at the nation's 128 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) programs. K-State fans earned fifth place nationally on the index and first in the Big 12

## KSU Foundation announces \$152.6M in fundraising in fiscal year 2017

Philanthropic gifts and commitments to Kansas State University given through the [Kansas State University Foundation](#) totaled \$152,680,585 for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017. This year's fundraising results mark fiscal year 2017 as the second most successful year in the university's history. Of the \$152.6 million raised in fiscal year 2017, donors gave 41 percent - \$61.8 million - through endowed gifts, pledges and deferred gifts, which will ensure the long-term prosperity of the institution. In addition, fiscal year 2017 was punctuated by another important first: The value of the endowment pool surpassed \$500 million in assets for the first time. As of June 30, 2017, the university's endowment was valued at \$506 million. Endowment growth is key to becoming a Top 50 public research university by the year 2025.

"We are so thankful to our generous donors and their commitment to K-State and our 2025 vision," said Richard B. Myers, university president. "Gifts that support K-State's endowment are essential to our continued ability to support students, faculty and research as a land-grant institution."

Fiscal year 2017 was also noteworthy for the progress made in the Innovation and Inspiration Campaign for Kansas State University. Total multiyear gifts and commitments for then campaign reach \$1.03 billion. The campaign surpassed its original \$1 billion fundraising goal in March - one year ahead of schedule - and was extended in April with a new goal of \$1.4 billion by the year 2020.



### Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus, Geary County USD 475 team up to improve STEM education with technology grant

With jobs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) some of the most in-demand in today's work force, coupled with an expanding focus put on STEM curriculum in the classroom, [Kansas State University Polytechnic](#) Campus and Geary County USD 475 have joined together to enhance technology education for elementary, middle and high schools in Junction City, Milford, Grandview Plaza and Fort Riley.

Kansas State Polytechnic and USD 475 have been



### K-State biology professor helping military fight skin cancer

One in five Americans will develop skin cancer, and military personnel and their families are affected at a greater rate, according to a Kansas State University researcher who aims to understand whether a vaccine could prevent one type of skin cancer.

Nicholas Wallace, assistant professor of biology, has received a \$510,231 Career Development Award from the U.S. Department of Defense's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, which support collaborative research to deliver health care solutions for service members, veterans and the public. The grant will help Wallace investigate the role of human

awarded a more than \$160,000 Title II grant that will help 12 schools in Geary County implement adequate technology training for teachers, specifically in computer science and robotics, and increase STEM-related learning opportunities for underrepresented students. The grant, "Enriching and Integrating 21st Century Science and technology Knowledge and Skills into Today's Classroom Through Effective Partnerships," also provides for the purchase of new technology pieces for each classroom, such as a 3-D printer, Osmo kits, a Circuit Playground and Edison robots.

"The primary goal of the grant is to get new technology in both the hands of the teachers and the students through experiential and engaged learning, which is the polytechnic approach that this campus is passionate about," said Terri Gaeddert, director of academic operations for Kansas State Polytechnic.

The two entities kicked off the grant's agenda with a two-week teacher institute for Geary County educators to learn computer and programming concepts. Followed by a one-week student camp for those teachers to practice the skills, new ideas and innovative techniques that were learned in the institute.

Kansas State Polytechnic also will work with Geary County educators four times during the upcoming school year to answer any questions that arise, help them refine their curriculum and provide professional development on evolving technologies. In summer 2018, an additional 20 Geary County educators will take part in a second two-week teacher institute as the final piece of the grant. The 40 total teachers who participate, including library media specialists and technology integration specialists, will then instruct their peers in future years to keep advancing STEM education in USD 475.

"Because of this grant, technology is now readily available in our classrooms and our comfort level with integrating new concepts into lesson plans has strengthened," said Abby Allen, a third-grade teacher at Spring Valley Elementary in Junction City. "Overall, our ability to teach STEM-related activities has been taken to the next level."

papillomavirus (HPV) in skin cancer. The HPV family includes viruses that infect the skin of a vast majority of people.

Wallace is studying how HPV binds to a particular cellular protein, p300, that then affects the pathways and mechanisms through which cells respond to damage from ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Wallace will also investigate p300-independent factors that inhibit the body's ability to repair damaged DNA.

Because the technology to make a vaccine to protect against any HPV already exists, Wallace has high hopes of expanding that vaccine to protect against HPV-caused skin cancers. Another outcome could be additives to sunscreen that kill the virus.

## **American College of Veterinary Microbiologists selects Michael Dryden for one of its highest honors**

A Kansas State University professor who is an internationally recognized expert on fleas and ticks has been named the 2017 Microbiologist of the Year by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Michael Dryden, university distinguished professor of veterinary parasitology in the [College of Veterinary Medicine](#), is being recognized for a distinguished career that has made important contributions to the field of veterinary microbiology in the areas of research, teaching and/or service.

Dryden will be formally recognized with the award at the American College of Veterinary microbiologists' annual banquet on Dec. 4 in Chicago.

Dryden's research program is involved in two primary areas: the biology and control of fleas and ticks infesting dogs and cats, and the diagnosis and control of gastrointestinal parasites of dogs and cats. While he has published more than 140 manuscripts and 12 book chapters on numerous internal and external parasites, it has been his research with *Ctenocephalides felis* - the flea that commonly infests dogs and cats - that has become the most widely known.

## DID YOU KNOW?

K-State's [Division of Biology](#) is celebrating it's 50th anniversary this year.

An invited lecturer in 22 countries, Dryden has presented more than 1,000 invited seminars at scientific conference and at dozens of veterinary continuing education meetings. He also has been recognized with numerous awards and honors for his teaching, research and service to the veterinary profession.



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