

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Olathe

APRIL 2019 REPORT

JOHNSON COUNTY Education & Research Triangle Authority

MISSION | To be Kansas State University's leader in integrative education, applied research and engagement, and to enhance K-State's involvement in the Greater Kansas City region.



Message from the Dean & CEO

As many of you know, it was with mixed emotions when I announced earlier this year that I would retire as dean and CEO of Kansas State University's Olathe campus. I will step down in June, and an interim dean and CEO will be named in the next few weeks to continue moving work forward.

My 49-year career has revolved around veterinary medicine and the life sciences. In that time, I've seen the fields blossom and become pillars of strength for Johnson County and Greater Kansas City. Clearly, the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle has been transformative for our university, our higher education partners and our community. You are welcome to read more about my thoughts in a blog developed for the JCERT website - <http://www.jocotriangle.com/content/pillars-strength-life-sciences-and-jcert>.

Complimenting our JCERT mission, Kansas State University is working to strategically enhance K-State's position in the Greater Kansas City market. This features our campus as a hub for the university's many activities. A "K-State in KC" taskforce has met twice to explore how best to seamlessly serve the region and promote the success of individuals, communities and industry. More meetings are planned to outline a strategic action plan in the coming months.

Our focus in academics is adding new programming that better supports workforce development needs in the area as well as refining current programming to ensure it remains responsive to industry. To serve the entire continuum, our efforts also are focused on providing professional development opportunities and outreach to K-12 students.

I am very proud of the collaborative relationship between JCERT partners, and I am honored to have served as dean and CEO of K-State Olathe. I look forward to seeing continued and future successes that are sure to come thanks to the commitment of the JCERTA, Johnson County citizens, the entire Kansas State University organization and our partners.

Thank you,

Dr. Ralph Richardson

Dean and CEO

Education Program Highlights

- **K-State Olathe academic programs (credit bearing):**
 - **Professional Science Master's (PSM) Program Update** -- The current Professional Science Master's Program will be renamed to more accurately reflect its emphasis on animal health and food safety/security. In addition, the PSM program has two more students who will graduate in spring 2019, bringing the total number of PSM graduates to seven. To date, 25 students have been awarded the Professional Interdisciplinary Sciences graduate certificate, and five have earned the Professional Skills for STEM Practitioners graduate certificate, as part of the program.
 - **Collaborative academic programs** are being explored with Mid-America Nazarene and the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

- **Course development** for the Graduate Certificate in Regulatory Affairs for Animal Health are nearing completion. The first two courses will be offered in Spring 2020.
 - **Graduation** – Four more K-State Olathe-based students are receiving master’s degrees this spring, which brings the campus total to 73 since the first students graduated in 2014. As of fall 2018, 44 graduate certificates also have been awarded.
- **Faculty highlights:**
 - **Dr. Royce Ann Collins** and **Dr. Judy Favor** collectively presented five sessions related to improving interpersonal skills for the Veterinary Meeting and Expo (VMX) Industry Track at VMX Conference, Jan. 18-22, in Orlando, Florida.
 - **Dr. Ellen Lowery** attended the American Veterinary Medical Association Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago on January 9-13. As an invited speaker, she presented, “Bringing Out the Leader in You,” which focused on the importance of diversity and elusiveness in the leadership journey.
 - **Dr. Becky Stuteville** presented on the panel, “Public Service Tenets: Past to Present,” on March 9 at the American Society for Public Administration conference in Washington, D.C. She also recently published an article examining One Health’s status as a political priority in the U.S. Using agenda-setting models, the article explained why One Health is gaining traction as an issue in the U.S., and it makes recommendations for steps that can be taken to continue to build momentum.
 - **Dr. Jackie Spears**, associate dean for academic affairs, presented, “Math Matters: Toward a K-16 System,” on April 7 at the American Education Research Association in Toronto, Canada.
- **K-12 Outreach:**
 - **Impact** – From Aug. 2018 to date, more than 9,392 students were impacted in an effort to enhance STEM education experiences for teachers and students in grades K-12. The efforts are focused on filling the workforce pipeline for in-demand careers in Greater Kansas City and beyond.
 - **College Bound Latinx of Kansas** – Laura Loyacono helped plan and K-State Olathe co-sponsored the College Bound Latinx of Kansas event on Jan. 26 at the KU Edwards Campus. More than 75 high school students and their families engaged with post-secondary and community partners, and attended sessions about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and STEM careers. The event was successful, and the partners agreed to continue on an annual basis and rotate between KU Edwards, Johnson County Community College and K- State Olathe.
 - **KC STEM Alliance Partnership** – The K-State Olathe team hosted the Computer Science Teacher Mentor Day seminar on January 8 with KC STEM Alliance for area educators and Kansas Department of Education guests with approximately 80 in attendance.
 - **Career Exploration** – Nearly 50 high school students spent part of a day at K-State Olathe in early April. They explored career options, including working in the hospitality industry, learning how to be successful at college and participating in hands-on food safety experiments.
 - **One Health Online Summer Course** – This summer, K-State Olathe is offering high school juniors and seniors a free, non-credit, online course about One Health. One Health describes the complex interrelationships between humans and animals, humans and the environment, and animals and the environment. The course is designed to give students a taste of what will be required to take an online college-level course. Students also will learn how to work collaboratively using online resources and effectively manage their time in an online course. Topics that will be discussed include diseases shared between animals and humans, food safety and environmental issues impacting humans and the health of the ecosystem.

Research:

- **1Data Update** - The vision for 1Data is to bring together human and animal health data, pre-clinical trial data and medidata to develop a cohesive and structured environment to collect and disseminate information, which will improve the quality of animal and human health through refined and enhanced collaborative research and education.
 - Recently, the 1Data project team submitted a Research Concept Outline to the National Science Foundation's Convergence Accelerator Pilot. Invited full proposals are due June 3, 2019.
 - 1Data signed a first-of-its-kind, data-sharing agreement in March with Aratana Therapeutics, a Leawood-based company focused on developing and commercializing innovative therapeutics for dogs and cats. Aratana will share historic data from its clinical studies in dogs and cats. Another new data-sharing agreement with Elanco Animal Health will be formally announced in the next month. [Read more about the Aratana agreement.](#)
- **Dr. Eleni Pliakoni** received evaluation results from over 150 farmers and 20 trainers from her trip to Tanzania. During this trip, trainers - who were previously trained in 2018 - instructed growers about the postharvest handling techniques they learned from their train-the-trainer courses. This work is supported by the Horticulture Innovation Lab with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, as part of the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative called Feed the Future.
- The **Horticulture Urban Food Systems** Team recently kicked off its Food for Thought Film Series, which features thought-provoking films that are followed by panel discussions. The third in the series will be held on May 9.
- **Dr. Londa Nwadike** presented a poster at the Consumer Food Safety Education Conference in Orlando, FL, on regional efforts in home food preservation training evaluation.

Engagement:

- **Professional development programs (non-credit bearing)**
 - Professional development opportunities continue to be expanded at K-State Olathe. Feedback shows that participants consider programming to be high quality with evaluations consistently scoring 4.5 on a 5-point scale. Attendance in programming:
 - 2017 = 546
 - 2018 = 943
 - 2019 (actuals-to-date, based on four events) = 216
 - Professional development highlights:
 - On Feb. 26, the Olathe team hosted 38 training professionals from the KC Chapter of the Association for Talent Development on campus for technology and design training.
 - Regulatory Affairs Seminar Series - Nearly 80 attendees participated in a seminar focused on CRO-sponsor relationships, including best practices to improve outcomes. This event is part of K-State Olathe's ongoing regulatory affairs seminar series that targets hot topics in the animal health industry and works to enhance connections between industry, regulatory agencies and research organizations.
 - On March 27, the 1Data team collaborated with professional development staff to host a one-day conference, "Accelerating Health through Data." More than 60 attendees learned about a One Health approach to data sharing and how to bring together professionals from animal, human and environmental health sectors to explore ways that data can be used for mutually beneficial purposes, such as accelerating drug development, enhancing regulatory processes and decreasing animal testing.

- **K-State and Partner Programs and Events** – K-State Olathe has hosted a variety of professional development workshops, planning meetings and events. The table below provides event counts:

K-STATE OLATHE EVENTS - 2019	NUMBER OF EVENTS	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
January	126	2,094
February	182	1,864
March	160	2,252
Current Total	468	6,210

- **Highlights:**
 - **Kansas State College Advising Corps (KSCAC)** hosted its Junior Ambassador Summit for 120 high school students at the Olathe campus. KSCAC is a college advising model that helps low-income, first-generation students navigate the complex issues associated with selecting and entering a university of their choice. An ACT workshop for 100 high school students also was held in early 2019.
 - **The Regional Farmer’s Market Workshop** was held on Feb. 1 with 100 guests in attendance. This event was focused on ensuring that farmers are instructed about certain legal, safety and financial parameters related to selling their products at a market.
 - **K-State Research and Extension** along with the Olathe team hosted a one-day conference, Building Extension Connections – Mizzou and K-State. This was a networking and professional development event for faculty and staff working in Missouri and Kansas to help identify opportunities for collaboration that benefit the region.
 - **K-State Open House** – On April 6, K-State Olathe and its university partners hosted an Open House event that was free and open to the entire community. This was an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the university and campus’ mission, programs and activities, industry partners – and have fun! This year more than 1,100 guests, volunteers, hosts, and event staff were on site and another 400+ attended the K-State Women’s soccer game that the planning committee brought to College Boulevard Activity Center in conjunction with the Olathe Chamber of Commerce and the Kansas Youth Soccer Association.