Welcome, first family!

K-State welcomes Dr. Richard Linton, incoming 15th president, and his family to the Wildcat Nation! The Lintons come to us from North Carolina State University, where Dr. Linton served as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He begins his new role on behalf of K-State on February 14, 2022.

Incoming first family of K-State, from left: Sally, Lily, Rich and Chris Linton. (Mango and Willow too!)
Solid foundation to further excellence

Steering Kansas State University through the COVID-19 pandemic is the most recent challenge Richard B. Myers has had to face in his nearly six years as president. Myers was the right person at the right time to set K-State on the path to becoming a stronger, healthier and more modern university. In the following pages, you’ll hear from President Myers and campus leaders about how addressing issues such as budget modernization, diversity and inclusion, declining state funding, student recruitment and overall student well-being has helped K-State remain one of the best student-serving public universities in the nation.

As we say goodbye to President and Mary Jo Myers, we say hello to Dr. Richard Linton, who will formally begin work as the 15th president of K-State on February 14. Dr. Linton comes to us from North Carolina State University where he served as the dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. We look forward to working with him to boldly advance K-State, and we welcome him and his wife, Sally, and their two children, Lily and Chris, to Manhattan.

With Purple Pride,

Greg Willems
President and CEO
KSU Foundation
Welcome to Good for K-State, a magazine devoted to the inspiration and impact of private philanthropy for Kansas State University. We invite your comments, questions and ideas. Just send an email to good@ksufoundation.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Cover: President Myers high fives students after K-State beat Oklahoma at the homecoming football game October 26, 2019.

Cover photo: Tim Schrag

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Accomplishments that make you proud to be a Wildcat

K-State among top LGBTQ-friendly colleges and universities

K-State continues to be recognized as one of the most LGBTQ-friendly colleges in the nation. K-State ranks in the top 30 universities where members of the LGBTQ community feel most accepted, according to Campus Pride, a national nonprofit working to create a safer college environment for LGBTQ students. "It is a tremendous honor for K-State to continue to be nationally recognized for being a university where our LGBTQ+ students can thrive as their authentic selves," said Thomas Lane, vice president for student life and dean of students.

Continuing the fight

COVID-19 made the whole world stop. However, K-State kept going, determined to remain at the forefront of COVID-19 research. By February 2021, nearly a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, K-State had generated $35 million in coronavirus-related grant proposals, more than $12 million in contracts for COVID-19 research, and several new technologies that were created and licensed to corporate partners to combat the disease.

Research is focused on everything from vaccine development to understanding COVID-19’s early effects. K-State remains committed to producing high-quality research and technology devoted to understanding and subsiding the effects of COVID-19.

K-State researchers Yungeong Kim (left) and Kyeong-Ok “KC” Chang demonstrated a successful post-infection treatment for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

UNIVERSITY’S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, INCLUSION EARNS NATIONAL HONOR

K-State’s long-time commitment to inclusion and diversity has earned it the prestigious Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award (HEED) for the eighth year in a row. The HEED award is given by INSIGHT into Diversity magazine and celebrates universities whose efforts demonstrate what diversity, inclusion and acceptance entail. “The HEED Award symbolizes that Kansas State University remains true to its land-grant university mission to encourage diversity and learning opportunities created through societal differences,” said Richard Myers, K-State president.

GOOD FOR K-STATE • WINTER 2022
College of Veterinary Medicine gets new core research facility

The College of Veterinary Medicine is combining five separate laboratories to create a single core research facility. This landmark achievement is made possible by a $3.43 million grant given to the college by the National Institutes of Health. The consolidation of the separate laboratories into one research facility will provide better workflow and improve laboratory access for researchers.

“Kansas State University is poised to become the preeminent institution to advance the discovery and development of biosecurity strategies for emerging and zoonotic infectious diseases,” said Dr. Bonnie Rush, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Valent BioSciences, K-State sign collaborative agreement for soil health research initiative

A long-term, collaborative agreement has been reached between Valent BioSciences and K-State to advance critical research in the areas of soil health and carbon-smart farming. The collaboration will be led by Chuck Rice, distinguished professor of soil and microbiology at K-State and world-renowned researcher in carbon cycling in climate change.

“This collaboration with Kansas State University marks the next important and exciting step in our commitment to soil health in agriculture,” said Warren Shafer, vice president of global research and development and regulatory affairs at Valent BioSciences.

Rural Education Center receives $2.7 million grant

The Rural Education Center in the College of Education has been awarded a three-year U.S. Department of Defense grant worth nearly $2.7 million to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees and careers to middle and high school students throughout the state. The funds will support Project LEAPES, which stands for learning, exploration and application for prospective engineering students. The college’s Virtual Summer STEAM (STEM plus arts) Academy will also be expanded to offer a virtual camp experience for 40 schools and up to 500 middle schoolers.

Engineering Extension surpasses $1M in grant assistance

Thanks to the partnership between the K-State Engineering Extension’s Kansas Energy Program and the Kansas State Energy Office more than $1 million in federal funds has been raised to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects since 2016. Rural businesses and agricultural producers who seek help from this K-State program will save greatly on annual energy costs, which helps them remain profitable while simultaneously helping the rural communities they serve.
By Dr. Charles Yang as told to Allie Lousch

When Dr. Charles Yang was deprived of a Chinese government scholarship to study in the United States, K-State offered him a graduate assistantship, which made it possible to launch his researcher career in the U.S. at the age of 39. K-State gave him hope and encouragement to pursue his dream. That’s why Charles decided to give to K-State — to help recruit graduate researchers in chemistry and so others might share his dream.

A difficult beginning

Charles was born in China in January 1944. Just a couple months later, during the turmoil at the end of World War II, his father was kidnapped. Charles was only two months old. The family paid the demanded ransom, but his father never returned.

“My father was the only son, and his death devastated the family. It was just my grandparents, my mother and me in the family,” Charles said. “My mother never remarried.”

From a very young age, Charles felt responsible to care for his mother and grandparents. Knowing education was the key to providing for them, he committed himself to being a successful student. After graduating from high school in 1963, he was admitted to Peking University in Beijing, which was one of the first universities in China and is still one of the best universities in the country.

“I majored in chemistry. It appeared to be the beginning of a happy story,” Charles said, “but it turned out to be the start of a very difficult period in my life.”

A disrupted life

Peking University took over the library of Yenching University after it was dismantled by the Chinese government in 1952. Yenching University was a prestigious English-speaking university established by Americans in Beijing in the 1920s. Charles enjoyed reading the
English books originally belonging to Yenching University library. In October 1965, classes ended abruptly as Charles had just begun his third year of a six-year chemistry program. Students were sent to the countryside to participate in the “Socialist Education Movement,” the purpose of which was to purge the local communist party organizations. The political movement in the countryside was followed by the Cultural Revolution, which started nationwide in May 1966. The Cultural Revolution became a decade-long campaign against traditional Chinese culture and “capitalists” in the party. The university was closed, and college education became brainwashing and factional fighting among students, faculty and staff. The government deemed Charles “graduated” in 1969, and he was sent to a remote rural area in central China for “re-education” in the spring of 1970.

In the early 1970s, Mao’s class struggle started a new political campaign mainly targeting younger intellectuals. A mysterious counter-revolution organization called “May 16” was created as an excuse for the new purge. Thousands of people were imprisoned nationwide. “One day in February 1971, I was taken from the rural village in central China and put into solitary confinement in a small room in the Southern Physics Building on the Peking University campus,” Charles said. The psychological pressure in solitary confinement was unbearable, but Charles could not give his interrogators the desired confession of belonging to May 16 because it had never existed.
In the earlier years of the Culture Revolution, Charles had three close friends from Peking University who committed suicide. At one point in September 1971, Charles was close to the mental breaking point his friends had reached before they took their own lives. Thinking of his aging grandparents and his mother eventually gave Charles the strength to endure the unendurable.

After 14 months of solitary confinement and four months of manual labor at Peking University, Charles was set free because no evidence had been found to prove any of the charges against him.

**Reaching for hope**

After his release, Charles worked in a chemistry research institute in central China, but he felt inadequate to the job because his college education was cut short by the Cultural Revolution. After Mao Zedong’s death in 1976, the Chinese education system gradually returned to normal. After the 13-year disruption of his education, Charles passed the exam in 1978, and while still a student at Nanjing University in 1979, he prepared to study abroad.

Because China had been in total isolation for the previous three decades, information about application and admission procedures in American universities was not available to students in China. At Nanjing University, students who received government scholarships relied entirely on inefficient university administrators. Wanting to send his applications to the U.S. directly, Charles approached an American professor from State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany when the professor was giving a lecture at Nanjing University in April 1979. He asked the professor about how to apply to the graduate school at SUNY, and the request was later passed to the SUNY president who was also in the delegation visiting Nanjing University. “I did not realize that such an individual-driven initiative was interpreted as ignoring the university communist party leadership,” Charles said, “I was in deep trouble.”

In the summer of 1979, the Ministry of Education scholarship was taken away by a vice president of Nanjing University. “Such a tremendous setback did not weaken my desire to go to the U.S. for a terminal degree,” Charles said. He completed his course work and research project successfully. All his research data was published in peer-reviewed journals later in the U.S. He received a master’s degree in polymer chemistry in 1981.

Charles applied to four universities in the U.S., including Kansas State University, in the fall of 1981. Admission to graduate schools in the U.S. required passing scores on TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and GRE exams, and transcripts of college courses completed. Charles had a problem because the GRE and TOEFL tests were not offered in China at
that time, and his Peking University transcript only listed courses for two years in a six-year chemistry program.

A hope fulfilled

Charles returned to the research institute in central China after completing his studies at Nanjing University. All he could do was wait, hoping at least one of his applications would be accepted, but he heard nothing. In late May 1982, while on a business trip to Nanjing, Charles visited Nanjing University. He found a letter for him setting at the chemistry department office. It was a letter from the KSU chemistry department offering both admission to its graduate program and a nine-month assistantship. The letter specifically required notification of acceptance by May 31, 1982. When Charles opened the letter, it was already late in the afternoon of May 31. An American student at Nanjing University reminded him that it was still early morning in Kansas because of the 13-hour difference. Charles used half of his monthly pay, $15, to send a four-word telegram to K-State: “ACCEPT ADMISSION. LETTER FOLLOWS.”

“After the political witch hunt in Peking University and the mistreatment in Nanjing University, K-State welcomed me,” Charles said. “K-State even extended the offer for one year so I could have enough time to navigate a complicated process to obtain a passport.” On December 25, 1982, Charles finally arrived in Manhattan, Kansas. “It was a very cold Christmas night with snow everywhere, but I felt extremely warm in my heart,” Charles said.

As the spring semester began, Charles turned 39-years old, an atypical graduate student. Professor William Fateley, a well-known vibrational spectroscopy scholar, became Charles’ major advisor. “The department gave me a job in the lab storeroom for the first semester, which allowed me to have more flexibility to fit in the busy class schedules,” Charles said. Dr. Fateley’s consistent support, guidance and encouragement in all those years helped Charles to become a very productive graduate student. He published eight papers for research conducted at K-State and three papers based on the research data he had collected at Nanjing University. Charles finished his graduate study and received his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry in August 1987.

With the research and teaching experience he received at K-State, Charles was well prepared for a successful career in academia. He accepted an offer as an assistant professor at Marshall University in West Virginia and joined the chemistry department there in September 1987. Within three years, Charles moved to the Department of Textiles, Merchandizing and Interior at the University of Georgia as an associate professor to teach analytical chemistry and polymer chemistry. He was promoted to the rank of professor in 1995, eight years after he had earned his Ph.D.

Charles published more than 120 papers in peer-reviewed international journals and holds seven patents on chemically modified cotton. He has received several national and international awards and recognitions for his work, and in 2012, Charles received the Olney Medal, the highest honor of the American Association of Textiles Chemists and Colorists. He recently retired after 23 years of teaching and research at University of Georgia.

Recently, Charles created the Charles Yang Graduate Student Research Fund at K-State to provide financial assistance to graduate students performing research in K-State’s Department of Chemistry. He hopes his gift will help attract more qualified students to become innovative chemistry researchers and live their own K-State stories.

“In my most difficult time, having been unfairly denied my scholarship to study in the U.S. and not fully recovered from the physical and mental damages during the Cultural Revolution, I finally had a new start in a new world because of the support from Kansas State University in 1982,” Charles said. “Coming from China to the U.S., I was so excited — like a bird finally leaving the cage to fly under a blue sky. I could pursue my dream.”

To learn how you can help students pursue their dreams with an estate gift, visit our gift planning website, k-statelegacy.org. You’re invited to contact our Gift Planning Team via email, giftoptions@ksufoundation.org, or phone, 785-775-2000, to help K-State.
When applying for scholarships in the past, Keaton Whetzal, a junior studying human development and family sciences and financial counseling, was typically met with a multitude of detailed applications. Despite needing the financial support of scholarships, Keaton did not feel that receiving sufficient scholarships would be possible based on the application process. Although Keaton started her continuing student scholarship application in the K-State Scholarship Network (KSN) with a bit of skepticism, the process took her by surprise. “Filling out scholarship applications before the KSN was a very tedious, time-consuming task. As a student in the middle of the school year, I just did not know how it would be feasible for me to fill out all of these applications to scholarships separately, though I very much needed them,” said Keaton. “I decided to give the KSN application a try to see what it was like. My perspective

K-State Scholarship Network helps students find funds fast

By Ariana Brancato
quickly shifted as I found that the KSN was completely different than anything I had come across previously.”

After filling out the general application, then continuing to the College of Health and Human Sciences application, Keaton was awarded the 2021–2022 Raymond and Geneva Dobbins Scholarship. The KSN system utilized her specific major, interests and involvements to match her to an applicable scholarship. Keaton heard back about what scholarships she was awarded just a few weeks after she submitted the application, receiving the financial aid to her student account quickly.

“The KSN makes for a better and more financially supportive K-State by making scholarships and financial aid more accessible and realistic for all students,” said Keaton. “I cannot even begin to explain how much these scholarships make a difference, easing some of that financial burden, as well as making going to and paying for school that much less intimidating.”

The KSN works by pulling data, such as grade point average, major, hometown or financial need, from the student’s database, called their KSIS account. This up-to-date information helps match awarding criteria for different scholarships with qualifying attributes from the student’s profile. With the advancements of the KSN, the general application only has 20 questions for new students with 10 additional questions for returning students.

The matching technology and centralized platform were key benefits in the scholarship application process for Kendra Marstall, a senior kinesiology and French double major. For the 2021–2022 school year, Kendra is the recipient of the Wilma Johnston and Jean Hollis Modern Language Scholarships and the Department of Kinesiology-Ice Family Scholarship, both awarded through her specific college application, and the Craig and Carolyn Swan-Mary Vanier KSU Family Scholarship and the Heritage Award, awarded through the general application.

“My experience with KSN has been nothing but positive, and I feel very fortunate that K-State offers a one-stop shop for applying for scholarships. By offering this tool, K-State provides its students opportunities toward a more financially secure future.”

KENDRA MARSTALL

how to fill out the different required areas. By offering this tool, K-State provides its students opportunities toward a more financially secure future.”

The KSN creates a collaboration between the Kansas State University Foundation and the university. Each foundation fund has preset qualifications, such as GPA or major, which are then connected to students who meet the criteria for that specific scholarship. The advanced technology monitors units that have not yet made awards to ensure that students receive the full amount of scholarship money available each year.

Christy Scott, senior director of compliance services at the Kansas State University Foundation, says, “As the university continues to improve and streamline their entire scholarship awarding processes, we believe KSN gives us an advantage. We can set awarding timelines that work for the entire university and move these deadlines such that returning students can know what their entire awarding package is going to be before they leave campus in the spring. We know that this could have a tremendous impact on improving our retention numbers while reducing the stress that students have regarding their financial needs for the fall.”

The K-State Scholarship Network streamlines the application process, helping students find funds and focus on their studies.
From a car breaking down to unforeseen medical expenses, there are many financial situations that students cannot predict throughout their time in college. Enter K-State Proud, which allows students to help their fellow students remain in school during these challenging times.

K-State Proud is the fundraising campaign for the Kansas State University Student Foundation, which serves as the student arm to philanthropic giving. Nationally recognized for its work, K-State Proud has been able to help more than 900 students continue their education over the past 15 years.

K-State Proud awards students money through Student Opportunity Awards (SOAs). SOAs are given to degree-seeking students who have a temporary financial need and have exhausted all other financial resources, including loans. When a need arises, applicants submit a statement of need and future outlook, and a student committee reviews their requests.

The primary way K-State Proud raises money for SOAs is through Proud Week. Throughout the week, members of the Student Foundation

Through student philanthropy, K-State Proud ensures that no student has to choose between paying their bills and continuing their education

By Ariana Brancato
educate students on the importance of philanthropic giving and hold fundraisers, with donors receiving a T-shirt that was designed by a K-State student and selected through a design competition.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, K-State Proud leaders had to diversify their approach to philanthropy as there was no longer a way to set up tables for donations at sporting events and in the K-State Student Union. With more students in need than ever before, K-State Proud held a digital campaign, $15K in a Day, event during the fall 2020 semester. The event proved to be such a success that it will become an annual event. Students’ perseverance in providing support to their peers during a difficult time represents that K-State Proud is more than a T-shirt, it’s an essential resource for students in need.

K-State Proud provides students with a way to get involved with philanthropy while still a student and demonstrates how contributions of time, talent and treasure can directly support fellow K-Staters. This year K-State Proud is returning to a two-week time period for Proud Week, which will be held February 14–25, 2022. For more information or to get involved, visit proud.twentyfor.org. Donors can give to the Student Opportunity Award fund year-round and learn more about the campaign at ksufoundation.org/k-stateproud.

“The aid I’ve received has helped tremendously in lightening the burden of financial difficulties. Anyone who has dealt with that knows it can put a damper on a lot of things; and for me, that was performing how I know I can in school. Always having the worry of not having enough money to finish college at the back of my mind had left me demotivated for so many days, weeks even, as thoughts of what’s the point of going on if I can’t even finish one semester flooded my mind. When COVID-19 took the world by storm, those worrisome voices became even louder making it hard to be productive in multiple ways. Receiving this [award] not only helped renew the hope I had during my freshman year, but it helped me become hopeful for the future. It helped me believe that I still have a shot at my dreams here at K-State. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity, this chance at a fresh start.”

Anonymous, K-State Proud SOA recipient

“I got second degree burns when hot water spilled on my hand, and I had to rush to the emergency room. I was billed more than $2,000, out of which insurance covered only $1,000. I had limited savings and was in a major fix when I decided to contact International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). My ISSS adviser told me about K-State Proud; I applied for it and got the aid. I was extremely thankful for getting the assistance.”

Anonymous, K-State Proud SOA recipient

“Last year, K-State Proud had a record-setting year despite all of the obstacles that stood in our way. Our team stepped up to the challenge and brainstormed innovative ideas to raise money to serve students in their time of dire need. We had so much fun running social media campaigns with creative incentives like desserts from our parents, MHK giveaways and even an ‘expert’ oil change from a StuFo member. I can’t wait to see how we incorporate the creativity of last year into the in-person elements of this year!”

Sydney Henry, K-State Proud volunteer

“Last year, Proud Week looked completely different than it ever had before. It was so rewarding to still see students supporting Proud even though we ran a virtual campaign and did not get the opportunity to table in person very much. We also provided a shipping option for the first time, and we were able to reach K-Staters from across the country. It was so fun to see all the familiar names as we shipped out the shirts. Even with the roadblocks of the last year, we were able to develop new ideas and still have a successful Proud Week campaign.”

Baleigh Fry, K-State Proud volunteer
A LIVING LEARNING LANDSCAPE
The Meadow at K-State’s Beach Museum combines art and science in a natural setting

By Allie Lousch

While K-State’s Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art building was closed during the pandemic, the Beach staff created innovative exhibits to be viewed from outside the museum. One existing exhibit, the living Meadow, remained accessible to visitors while the museum’s building was closed. The Meadow is a natural laboratory of native grasses, wildflowers, insects, birds and animals growing in the wedge of ground bordered by the Beach Museum, Danforth Chapel and McCain Auditorium. The multi-sensory Meadow continued to offer the K-State community cheerful colors, gentle movement, sounds and scents, and discovery in all weather conditions and through ever-changing public health updates.

How the Meadow began

What began as a conversation during a gallery opening between Beach Museum Director Linda Duke and then-associate professor of landscape architecture, Katie Kingery-Page, now associate dean for the College of Architecture, Planning and Design, has become a resource-rich laboratory for aspiring artists, scientists and Wildcats who wish to satisfy their senses with growing wonder.

A family explores the K-State Meadow’s early summer profusion of blooms and birdsong, while learning about the coexisting flora and fauna.
“Many people appreciate the beauty of the prairie landscape. The art museum has an opportunity to connect that aesthetic experience with the one offered by works of art,” Duke said. “A number of artists in our collection celebrate the prairie landscape.”

Making the Meadow experience possible

It is not uncommon to see a fox step into the Meadow’s prairie grasses at dusk, or hear a lone guitarist strumming chords, or watch people discovering a new-to-them insect or native wildflower. When the Pride of Wildcat Land practices nearby, visitors to the Meadow experience both the marching band’s music and the Meadow’s music woven with the wind.

Intended to be both accessible art-in-transformation and a sustainably managed landscape, the Meadow has benefited from generous K-State donors and engaged colleagues. “Though campus’ Division of Facilities does not maintain the Meadow, we could not have done it without them, and we are lucky to have them as partners,” said
Fred and Judith Henley established the Henley Meadow Excellence Fund as a maintenance fund for the Meadow’s upkeep. Fred is a 1960 landscape architect graduate who worked for the Forest Service in Washington. He and his wife heard about the idea and wanted to help the "minipark" grow.

A living learning landscape

On a recent visit to the Meadow, a group of young learners planted their own prairie wildflowers, made rubbings from the leaves they found, drew what they saw in chalk along the pathways, and practiced new words they learned describing what they saw and touched. Around the corner and through the tiled Bird Arch, a group of senior adults began their tour of the Meadow and other flora on K-State’s Manhattan campus.

“The Meadow is a great learning facility. It’s sort of magic,” said Kathrine Schlageck, associate curator of education at the Beach Museum of Art. “Our collection connection is so strong to the prairie and the Meadow is a little piece of it. It’s not just people who sign up for art classes — tons of art students come to draw in nature when they can’t get out to the Konza Prairie. And you’ll see people eating lunch, reading or writing on the benches in the Meadow. It offers all of these academic and imaginative opportunities and a little bit of respite. There are so many ways departments use the Meadow.”

You can help the Meadow grow

The Beach Museum’s exhibits and activities, including the outdoor exhibits, are fully funded through philanthropy. To support the Meadow and the Beach Museum, give online at ksufoundation.org/give/beach or contact Heather Strafuss at heathers@ksufoundation.org or 785-775-2146.

Karen Hummel and the Hummel family are original donors to the Meadow, and she continues to volunteer. She believes that K-State is much richer culturally because of the Beach Museum and references a discovery process that museum educators use to connect experiences people have with art, science and the natural world. “Kathrine’s (Schlageck) work with Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) has opened a new way of experiencing art. First the (Touch the Prairie) touchscreen in the museum was a link between nature, art and artists,” said Hummel. “Now, you can do a VTS in front of a piece of art and then in the context of the real Meadow.”

The Meadow: discovering community

It’s been said that a museum is a place of informal, lifelong learning and exploration. With the added living Meadow exhibit, it becomes more meaningful — especially as the K-State community’s shared experience in the last nearly two years of isolation. Throughout the year, volunteers and the staff of the Beach Museum have continued to offer a diverse range of virtual and out-of-doors, art-full experiences.
At 83, Larry Erickson is not riding the bench.

Larry is an alumnus, professor emeritus of K-State’s Carl R. Ice College of Engineering, former director of the Center for Hazardous Substance Research, author, mentor, husband and president of the Kansas Square Dance Association. His dedication to students, the university, his field and to the environment keeps him actively teaching, researching and giving to K-State.

It’s rumored Larry still works more than 40 hours each week as a researcher and mentor in the Tim Taylor Department of Chemical Engineering as he continues to find less expensive, more successful and sustainable ways to improve soil quality in contaminated sites around the world.

In 50-plus years at K-State, Larry has coauthored nearly 500 academic papers and mentored 70 graduate students from around the United States and beyond. He is motivated to share knowledge, inspire stewardship of the environment and support K-State.

When asked why he gives, Larry answered, “We try to do our part in our corner of the world.”

Larry’s tenacity as a researcher and professor extends to his K-State support. In addition to more typical ways of giving, Larry and his co-authors donate royalties from three
books directly to K-State to help fund dialogue and research on sustainability. Larry and a research partner have made their most recent book — Phytotechnology with Biomass Production: Sustainable Management of Contaminated Sites — “open access.” This means that people from around campus and around the world, including his seminar students, have access to the book online and free-of-charge.

Larry and his wife Laurel have chosen to help meet the needs of people and programs across campus and with a variety of gifts. In addition to donating the proceeds of book royalties, the Ericksons have given real estate to support students; cash donations toward the Dr. Larry Erickson Fellowship Award and faculty support; a charitable annuity to the Library Acquisition Endowment; and gifts, IRA rollovers and bequests to the Tim Taylor Department of Chemical Engineering. As creative and tenacious as Larry has been in his professional life, he and Laurel have been regularly supporting Kansas State University.

As a recipient of scholarships, fellowships and more, Larry knows how important financial support can be to advance research, inspire students and cultivate needed change. He compares philanthropy to his work in environmental sustainability. “Take a barren site that is contaminated, add nutrients and grow a forest,” Larry said. “This adds value to the site and for the region.”

In the same way, Larry and Laurel’s support of K-State will leave the university better than when he arrived as an aspiring K-State student from Wahoo, Nebraska. “We do our part and things happen.”

Just as his latest research demonstrates economic, environmental and cultural benefits of planting trees to foster life in soil, Larry Erickson’s generous investments in K-State will yield growth and opportunity for generations of K-State students and graduates.

To support research like Larry’s in the Tim Taylor Department of Chemical Engineering, contact Jenna Brown, senior director of development for the Carl R. Ice College of Engineering, jennab@ksufoundation.org or 785-775-2043.
On the occasion of his retirement, we look back to how President Richard Myers’ leadership changed K-State for the better.

By Marisa Larson

During the nearly six years of Richard Myers’ presidency, K-State has faced a pandemic, dealt with declining enrollment and funding, examined how racial and social justice issues impact the whole university, expanded resources for mental health and food security, and strategized how to be more relevant in addressing global issues.

In the following pages, we reflect on President Myers’ time at K-State — the challenges and the successes — and how the extraordinary leadership of our 14th president left K-State a better place for students.
It didn’t take long for Richard Myers, president of Kansas State University for the past nearly six years, to decide what had been one of his and the university’s most important accomplishments. “It would have to be one nobody anticipated, which is dealing with the pandemic and coming out of that probably stronger than when we went into it,” he said. “The challenges it presented made us realize we’re going to have to pivot to the future as a university. Using the pandemic as leverage we have to move the university forward when we might not have had the incentive to do otherwise. This will be critical for our future.”

Dealing with the pandemic has made K-State leaders think about more than how they deliver education; they are also evaluating what degrees they are offering. “We’ve started taking a universitywide view of our program offerings to see if we’re offering what students need, what society needs and what we’re good at,” Myers said. “We have to get ready for the future by offering more classes and programs that are
interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary. This approach is in demand and needed by society to deal with some of the complex problems our world has that can’t be solved by one discipline. The way we ensure K-State’s future is to have the kinds of offerings people want and to produce the kind of talent the world needs.”

When Myers was named the 14th president of K-State in 2016, university leaders hoped his ability to “tell it like it is” would make the state legislature listen to his and the Board of Regents’ concerns about declining state investment in higher education. Twenty years ago, state appropriations to K-State funded 34.5% of the university’s budget. This past year it was down to 18.8% of the budget. Declining state support means students and their families shoulder more of the financial costs of earning a degree.

“The biggest challenge, in my view, is helping people in Kansas, particularly in the state government, to realize the value of higher education,” Myers said. “If we want to be an economically prosperous state, they need to support higher education. All universities, but especially the big research universities, contribute to economic prosperity. Yet we continue to see a decrease in support from the state government. Kansas’ college-attending rate is toward the bottom of the U.S., and that’s not a good place to be if you want to have a prosperous state that attracts new industry; a state where people want to come and live.”

Thankfully, philanthropy has helped to fill some of the financial gaps. The Innovation and Inspiration Campaign raised $1.6 billion for K-State, providing scholarships for students, faculty awards to attract and retain outstanding faculty, support for academic programs and facility upgrades.

“Beyond philanthropy, I think the real estate development capacity of the KSU Foundation is a game changer,” Myers said. “With the Edge Collaboration District, the foundation is helping K-State develop opportunities with business partnerships, internships for our students, and bringing jobs and a stronger economy to the community.”

Despite reduced state funding, K-State continues to rank high in many categories:

**NO. 1** Best college value in Kansas *(SmartAsset, 2021)*

**NO. 1** Highest starting salaries in Kansas *(SmartAsset, 2018)*

**NO. 1** Happiest students *(Princeton Review, 2021)*

**NO. 1** For free speech among public universities *(Real Clear Education, Oct. 2020)*

**NO. 2** Best-loved colleges per AP Q&A *(Princeton Review, 2021)*

**NO. 3** Best employer in Kansas *(Forbes, 2021)*

**NO. 3** Best health services *(Princeton Review, 2021)*

**NO. 3** Best quality of life *(Princeton Review, 2021)*

**NO. 4** Best town-gown relations *(Princeton Review, 2021)*

**NO. 7** Best counseling services *(Princeton Review, 2021)*

**NO. 9** Best athletic facilities *(Princeton Review, 2021)***

KSUFOUNDAION.ORG
KSUnite rally brings students, faculty and staff together every year. Right: Students, faculty and staff share their stories to encourage understanding during KSUnite events.

PHOTOS: K-STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Building on this position of strength, K-State, under President Myers’ leadership, began addressing underlying issues that were preventing the K-State community from becoming as strong as possible, mainly making sure everyone at K-State felt valued, respected, included and had equal access to opportunities. “We’ve made some pretty good strides in becoming a more diverse and more inclusive university,” Myers said. “It’s a journey. It’s never over, but there has been some real progress.”

K-State has adopted Principles of Community that all are encouraged to acknowledge and follow.

*We affirm the inherent dignity and value of every person and strive to maintain an atmosphere of justice based on respect for each other.*

*We affirm the value of human diversity and inclusion for community. We stand united against all forms of discrimination.*

*We affirm the right of each person to freely express thoughts and opinions in a spirit of civility and decency. We believe that diversity of views enriches our learning environment, and we promote open expression within a climate of courtesy, sensitivity and mutual respect.*

*We affirm the value of honesty and integrity and will act accordingly in all professional endeavors and expect the same from our colleagues.*

“We acknowledge that we are a part of multiple communities, and we have a responsibility to be engaged in a positive way with our civic partners.

“We recognize our individual responsibilities to the university community and to the principles that sustain it. We will each strive to contribute to a positive spirit that affirms learning and growth for all members of the community.”

“After the George Floyd murder and the nationwide concern about social justice, we created an 11-step action plan with distinct steps to address racial and social justice issues at K-State,” Myers said. “We created this plan with a lot of student help. We looked at all our policies, procedures and processes to make sure there wasn’t discrimination or bias built in, and we’ve revamped all of those. We are working to make K-State more diverse and more inclusive with this comprehensive action plan, some are still being developed and completed.”

Myers’ biggest challenge, the COVID-19 pandemic, also made K-State stronger. “People may not realize it now, but I think we’re more resilient. We were slapped in the face and we got up and did what we were supposed to do as a land-grant university,” Myers said. “Take the faculty, for example. They were given one week to deliver their classes in a virtual format. Some could do that pretty well, but others needed some assistance. We got people through that semester and our students stayed on track and graduated. I think that’s one example of how we’ve built resiliency.”
The pandemic forced many people and institutions to think about what is vital to survive and thrive, and that’s true at K-State. “One of the things we’ve learned is how important our Lafene Health Center is; what a central role they played during the pandemic, and what a critical resource they are for campus,” Myers said.

During Myers’ tenure, several aspects of health for all Wildcats have been improved, and philanthropy has played an important part. Cats’ Cupboard supports students, faculty and staff with food and personal essentials. Powercat Financial teaches students how to budget and manage their expenses and to plan for their financial future. Counseling and Psychological Services help guide students through life’s challenges. All of these programs are supported by philanthropy and overseeing all of these services is the new Morrison Family Associate Vice President for Student Well-being Kathleen Hatch.

“Her efforts will help foster a culture of well-being at K-State that connects students to the right resources at the right time and in ways that work for them,” said Thomas Lane, vice president for student life. “The last five years, and especially the current pandemic, has highlighted the powerful connection between a student’s sense of well-being and their personal and academic success. Along with academic support, providing resources and opportunities for students to thrive in key aspects of their lives — emotionally, physically, socially and financially — helps ensure they achieve their goals at K-State and beyond. The caring and generous support from the K-State family has been pivotal in helping us address student well-being and will be critical for us moving forward in expanding much-needed programs and services.”

Energy is high on campus to bring change as society is growing and adapting to how overall well-being is addressed, and Hatch is excited to build on that feeling. “COVID-19 has disrupted all patterns and so this is a good moment, as patterns are being reestablished, to focus on well-being as an essential element to advance learning, persistence and student success,” Hatch said. “The fragility of the human experience has been made visible, and these are new strategies, at an institutional level, to create a chance to strengthen and elevate the beautiful K-State character and extended family.”
New and renovated facilities are visual proof of K-State’s modernization. Right: The Morris Family Multicultural Center.
The most obvious, visual proof that K-State is becoming more modern are the new and renovated facilities on the Manhattan and Salina campuses, nearly all funded through private gifts. “Think back to the new construction since I came here as president; it was mostly all done with philanthropy,” Myers said. “Whether it was the expansion of McCain Auditorium or the Morris Family Multicultural Student Center, those were done with philanthropic dollars. Jim Bob Morris, a former K-State football player of Cherokee descent, made the lead gift for the center. He hopes it’s a bridge for better understanding between all people.”

“I’d also add, we didn’t have a chief diversity and inclusion officer on the president’s cabinet when I came here,” Myers said. “We put that in place and that will live on, which is very important. We weren’t very modern when it came to that piece of our administrative oversight.”

Administratively, remodeling the budget and revamping the strategic enrollment management (SEM) system are two more ways K-State has modernized under Myers’ leadership. “We had a budget model that was antiquated and out of date, so we revamped that and are implementing that now,” Myers said. “The new model rewards performance, incentivizes innovation and holds people accountable. The methodology and process are much more modern now.”

When Karen Goos, vice provost for enrollment management, started at K-State in 2019, she encountered a big challenge. “The biggest challenge I encountered were our processes.

We had dated technology, lack of knowledge about market-based best practices and manual processes that prevented us from doing any personalized outreach in a scaled way,” Goos said.

A $5 million gift from Greg and Mamie Case enabled Goos’ office, with collaboration from the provost and student life offices, to invest in the necessary technology and research to greatly improve K-State’s strategic enrollment management system.

“The philanthropic support allows the university to have a more nimble approach. It also allows the university to quickly catch up to be more competitive in the market compared to others who have been working on strategic enrollment management efforts for many years,” Goos said. “Great examples include our ability to text prospective students, offer a virtual tour, increase our early high school programs and increase access to the university by offering increased application waivers, all made available because of the philanthropic support we received. These kinds of changes are major game-changers that would have taken the university many years to start up. Instead, we have been able to implement all of them within the last 18 months.”

The investment is already bringing positive outcomes. “We have seen enrollment gains in almost every student population,” Goos said. “Last year we saw increases in our transfer, international, graduate and online students. We are really optimistic about the future of K-State enrollment. We are better positioned today than ever before to share the story of K-State and what makes the university so special.”
he new president of Kansas State University, Dr. Richard Linton, will have his own priorities. But one area Myers suggests the KSU Foundation and K-State donors focus on is updating and upgrading classrooms. “We have a lot of infrastructure that is very old. Some of that needs to be modernized, and some of it needs to be replaced,” Myers said. “I don’t think we can count on the state to help us too much in that endeavor, so we’ll have to turn to philanthropy.”

A new initiative at the KSU Foundation has been started to renovate classrooms on campus. Similar to the successful K-State Family Scholarship match program, the foundation is seeking donors to invest matching funds to inspire more gifts, spurring the number of classrooms K-State can upgrade more quickly. University leadership has identified more than 276 classrooms to be renovated.

Improved facilities help recruit and retain students, faculty and staff to K-State, and make the learning experience more effective and enjoyable. New and renovated facilities, on campus and in the Edge Collaboration District, also enhance K-State’s reputation as the place to be for agriculture, global food systems, and animal and human health. “New infrastructure so close to the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility will help us attract a lot of industry and give us bragging rights about being the Silicon Valley of bio and agro-defense,” Myers said.
Kansas State University has played a major role in President Myers’ life. He came to K-State as a student and met Mary Jo Rupp at a fraternity football game. Mary Jo graduated in 1964 with a degree in English and Myers graduated in 1965 with an engineering degree. They got married in All Faiths Chapel during the summer of 1965.

Myers’ military career kept them moving, a total of 26 times, but everywhere they went, they both made a difference. Mary Jo has a rich background in public service related to military, educational and humanitarian organizations. A military spouse for more than 40 years, she has won multiple awards for her humanitarian work. And Myers rose through the ranks to become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff before retiring as a four-star general in the U.S. Air Force.

The Myerses have been KSU Foundation trustees since 2005, and Myers served on the Board from 2008 to 2015. They co-chaired the Innovation and Inspiration Campaign with Rand and Patty Berney. They give of their time and money to K-State, supporting a variety of programs across campus and lending their expertise in the classroom.

As the Myerses make their plans for retirement, one thing is certain — K-State will continue to hold a special place in their hearts.

“This is a great place for students, and I’m humbled and grateful that I had a chance to come back,” Myers told KSU Foundation trustees at their fall meeting September 17, 2021. “I’ve had about every role you can have here, from student, ROTC cadet graduate, to an alum, donor and now president. I mean, it’s when you think about that kind of scope, it’s certainly quite meaningful to me, so I thank you all.”

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESIDENT MYERS’ NEARLY SIX YEARS AS K-STATE PRESIDENT**

- Advocated for increased state investment in higher education
- Concluded $1.6B fundraising campaign
- Steering K-State through a pandemic
- Intentional work toward diversity, equity and inclusion
- Modernized budget model
- Improved strategic enrollment management system
- Focused on well-rounded student well-being
- Moving toward a more multidisciplinary approach
- Built a high-performing, collegial administrative team
Passion drives philanthropy, and our donors are passionate about K-State. In our last issue of Good for K-State magazine, we asked you, our readers, to share your “Why I Give” story. Many of you responded, and here are a few of those giving stories we think you’ll enjoy.

Adrianne DeWeese ’08

“I graduated just as the Great Recession set in, not making a whole lot of money, but I knew that my education from K-State would carry me far. With my student loans paid off, I feel a moral duty to continue to pay it forward for students who may not be as fortunate as I was. We are truly all one Wildcat family!”

John Walters ’63

“My education at K-State laid the foundation for a very successful career in chemical research. I support scholarships for the Department of Chemistry, as I want other students to find the benefits of education in preparation for their successful careers.”
Maryann Johnson

“My late husband, Ron, graduated in 1957. He became a successful CPA with his own practice. He gave K-State credit for his success. Ron established the Ronald and Maryann Johnson Accounting Scholarship, which I still contribute to in his memory.”

Richard Teichgraeber ’64

“K-State engineering came to my rescue when I really needed it with a three-year NASA traineeship. That enabled me to pursue my goal — technical excellence in engineering and a successful career. I always wanted to give back somehow, and the KSU Foundation came along at just the right time when I was able to fund a scholarship and support other priorities. We enjoy being connected forever to K-State!”

Melody Millick Aldrich ’78

“My parents loved K-State. It was close to our hometown, it had Bill Snyder as the football coach, and my brother, Monte, and I both attended. I wanted to honor my parents by establishing a memorial scholarship in their names, Leslie F. Millick and Romaine Dodds Millick.”

Dr. Lou Jean Moyer ’52

“My four years at K-State started me on my professional path to teach physical education and enjoy sports for women who were overlooked prior to Title IX. I am now retired after serving 60 years in education, with my final 30 years as a professor at Northern Illinois University, where I taught, coached and directed the major program. I am now retired and support each of my educational institutions.”
August 2011: Dr. Dawn Deeter is hired in the College of Business Administration to develop and lead the National Strategic Selling Institute.

October 2011: The first K-State Sales Team is established. Three students participate in the Great Northwoods Sales Warm-up at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

March 2012: The first Sales Week takes place, with five companies attending the Sales Career Fair.
The National Strategic Selling Institute has become a prestigious program in first decade

By Ariana Brancato

In the past 10 years, the National Strategic Selling Institute (NSSI) has grown to be a vital program in Kansas State University’s College of Business Administration. Beginning as a one-class program, the NSSI now offers a full major and certificate, widely considered among the top sales programs in the nation.

As a part of the Department of Marketing, the NSSI is a point of pride for both the College of Business and Kansas State University. As the only university in Kansas offering a major in professional strategic selling, K-State is able to recruit top sales talent through its selective application, innovative curriculum, nationally ranked faculty and unique extracurricular enrichment opportunities.

Since the launch of the major in professional strategic selling in 2018, enrollment has grown 16.5% each year. Graduates from the NSSI find 99% full-time job placement and an average starting salary of $56,000.

Within the sales curriculum, students are taught the fundamental skills that ultimately make them successful in the industry. Among these skills are the ability to coach and be coached, how to score prospects and customers, how to manage a sales pipeline and how to maximize return on investment for time and resources. The use of role-playing allows students to practice their skills in a realistic setting and directly apply what they are learning in the classroom. Throughout a student’s time in the NSSI, they will complete a minimum of five role-plays.

When asked how the NSSI differentiates students in the workforce, Kellie Jackson, managing director of the NSSI, and Dawn Deeter, director of the NSSI said: “According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, sales-related jobs are expected to rise 7.1% over the next 10 years. Given the demand for sales talent, it is not surprising that approximately 30% of business graduates and 80% of marketing majors accept a sales position immediately after graduation. However, not all of these graduates have taken a sales class and understand what it means...
March 2018: Enrollment in the certificate program reaches more than 200, necessitating new faculty and staff hires.

November 2014: The Sales Team wins its first competition at the RBI Sales Challenge, followed by many more wins.

December 2013: The first student to earn a Professional Strategic Selling certificate graduates.

“We Without a doubt, our donors and corporate partners have provided the foundation for our success. Donors have provided funding that allowed us to hire student workers, staff and adjunct faculty and improve our technology.

... We do not doubt that our donors and corporate partners will continue to play a key role in the future growth and success of the NSSI.”

— Kellie Jackson, managing director of the NSSI, and Dawn Deeter, director of the NSSI

enables branded events, speakers, sales competitions and more. Most importantly, corporate partners add to the business networks of sales students.

The connections made with corporate partners have been especially beneficial for senior professional strategic selling major Blake Bontrager. Although Blake started his time at K-State on a completely different career track, he was drawn to the professional strategic selling program because of its relationship-centered approach and the opportunity to help others solve problems.

“The National Strategic Selling Institute at K-State was too good to pass up. As I toured the business building for the first time, the NSSI suite, facility and role-play rooms made me feel as if this program cared deeply for its students,” Blake said.

“The NSSI has created its curriculum to help students gain real-life sales experience while providing opportunities to network and connect with highly respected sales professionals.”

Blake says that the opportunity to learn from professional speakers and meet industry leaders at the Sales Career Fair have been among his favorite parts of being a sales major. Getting to interact and connect with professionals who have made an impact in the sales world has taught...

December 2013: The first student to earn a Professional Strategic Selling certificate graduates.

November 2014: The Sales Team wins its first competition at the RBI Sales Challenge, followed by many more wins.

March 2018: Enrollment in the certificate program reaches more than 200, necessitating new faculty and staff hires.
October 2021: 253 students are enrolled in the professional strategic selling certificate or major, with nine faculty and staff members.

August 2018: The major in professional strategic selling is established, just one of 19 in the United States at the time.

Blake about how to be successful in his own sales career.

The growth of the NSSI over the past decade wouldn’t be possible without philanthropic support. Other than faculty salaries, the NSSI is entirely self-funded. Through donations, the NSSI is able to provide students with professional speakers, career development opportunities and new sales technology.

A donation from Larry and Pat Kendall has been critical to the success of the NSSI, establishing a state-of-the-art sales lab and a funded program coordinator position. Doug and Vicki Hill, in conjunction with Edward Jones, have also provided a lead gift to the NSSI. Through this collaboration, the NSSI was able to hire an instructor and add additional courses, a key component of the launch of the major in professional strategic selling.

Kellie and Dawn commented on the support of donors by saying, “Without a doubt, our donors and corporate partners have provided the foundation for our success. Donors have provided funding that allowed us to hire student workers, staff and adjunct faculty and improve our technology. Donors to our annual benefit auction, raising $515,000 to date, have provided scholarships and merit awards for our students. We do not doubt that our donors and corporate partners will continue to play a key role in the future growth and success of the NSSI.”

November 2021: K-State Sales Team places first in 2021 Collegiate World Cup of Sales.
A grand new experience

McCain upgrade includes event and performance space — and yes, more restrooms

By Dalton Burton
Laughter and comradery fill the night air as guests come together in the expanded Jack and Joann Goldstein Grand Lobby and the Todd Holmberg Family Plaza at McCain Auditorium.

When you first walk into the new lobby at McCain Auditorium, you are awestruck by the culmination of a vision realized that establishes McCain Auditorium as the standard in auditorium excellence.

The 2,000-square-foot renovation of McCain Auditorium, fully funded by philanthropy, represents excellence in design and guest accommodation. From the expanded and accessible Jack and Joann Goldstein Grand Lobby to the new indoor and outdoor engagement spaces, McCain is second to none.

"I personally am so proud I had the opportunity to provide leadership from start to finish of this highly needed project," said Todd Holmberg, executive director of McCain Auditorium. "Thanks to private donors, we now have a space that is welcoming, aesthetically pleasing and can be utilized to further McCain’s mission-related activities as an inspirational space to provide service to our campus and community."
The K-State community has more space to mingle in the Jack and Joann Goldstein Grand Lobby and the Todd Holmberg Family Plaza. McCain staff will enjoy new office spaces in the Linders Family Administrative Suites.
Renovated areas include:

- An expanded Jack and Joann Goldstein Grand Lobby that now includes a handicap-accessible elevator to reach the top floor
- The Linders Family Administrative Suite, which provides multiple new offices for the McCain leadership team, along with meeting rooms and study spaces for student workers
- A multipurpose room that features an intimate space for performances, meetings, social occasions, classes and other types of outreach activities
- A new conference room overlooking Nichols Hall
- More restrooms
- The Weary Family Ticket Office, which provides a more efficient space for box office workers
- An outdoor engagement space
- A room dedicated to serving volunteers, The John and Cheryl Walters Volunteer Services Center

McCain Auditorium is good to go with more restrooms for guests and a new conference room with an inspirational view of Nichols Hall.
For many programs on campus, gifts of any size can make a big difference. Discover a program you care about.

Barry Flinchbaugh (center) led a Landon Lecture panel discussion with six former U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture, including Dan Glickman and Mike Espy.

PHOTOS: K-STATE DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

With a booming, gravelly voice, Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, professor emeritus of agricultural economics at Kansas State University, taught and advised students, agricultural leaders and politicians on agricultural policy. As one of America’s leading experts on agriculture, Flinchbaugh’s influence can be seen in regional, national and global ag policies. But his greatest joy was teaching. Whether enlightening legislators on Capitol Hill, lecturing to students at K-State, or sharing information with farmers and ranchers at field days and workshops, Barry Flinchbaugh was always ready to share his knowledge with anyone who was interested — and he did it with unmistakable flair.

Flinchbaugh passed away on November 2, 2020, at the age of 78. This straight-talking, cigar chomping (and later, lollipop chomping), intelligent, wise and kind man is greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Barry Flinchbaugh challenged everyone to be a critical thinker, and that is the best way to honor him — think critically. Students and faculty at K-State strive to honor Flinchbaugh this way. Three funds at Kansas State University bear his name: a scholarship to support students studying ag policy, a faculty chair in the Department of Agricultural Economics in his honor, and the Wildcat Pride award, which recognizes a K-State faculty or staff member for his/her advocacy of alumni relations through support and participation in Alumni Association programs that engage members of the Wildcat family. To contribute, contact Casey Droddy via email, caseyd@ksufoundation.org, or call 785-775-2042. You can also give to these funds online at ksufoundation.org/give/Flinchbaugh.
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

The Academic Achievement Center (AAC) has something for everyone at all K-State campuses (Manhattan, Salina, Olathe and K-State Online). The main purpose of the AAC is to demystify higher education, teach students how to navigate K-State and become active participants in their learning. The AAC is open to all undergraduate and graduate students, serving an average of 7,000–10,000 students each academic year, plus students using the online resources. After working with an academic coach, students report more confidence in time management and study and test-taking skills. Eighty-two percent of students who participate in AAC services end the semester in good standing.

Philanthropic gifts to the AAC support equitable access to academic success for all students, and the sustainability, scaling and innovation of programs and services that have a direct impact on a student’s retention, persistence and graduation. The COVID-19 pandemic has made visible that academic support resources that equip students to navigate and author their academic journeys are essential to every student’s ability to succeed and thrive at K-State and beyond.

To support the Academic Achievement Center, give online at ksufoundation.org/give/aac or contact Heather Strafuss at heathers@ksufoundation.org or 785-775-2146.

FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

As climate changes, K-State researchers are on the forefront of finding ways to limit adverse impacts and adapt to this global issue. One of the most prominent researchers in this field is Dr. Chuck Rice, university distinguished professor and chair of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources of the U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. Internationally, he served on the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to author a report on Climate Change in 2007 and 2014 and was among scientists recognized when that work won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. He’s a global leader in the conservation of soil, water and natural resources.

The Fight Climate Change Fund supports graduate students in the College of Agriculture, with whom Rice works. It provides funds for student internships, travel to conferences and resources for scientific writing and presentations. “Receiving support from the Fight Climate Change Fund makes me believe that together we can change the world and make it a sustainable and safe place to live,” said Carlos Bonini Pires, graduate research assistant in Chuck Rice’s lab.

To support the Fight Climate Change Fund, give online at ksufoundation.org/give/fightclimatechange or contact Heather Strafuss at heathers@ksufoundation.org or 785-775-2146.
Welcome, first family!

K-State welcomes Dr. Richard Linton, incoming 15th president, and his family to the Wildcat Nation!
The Lintons come to us from North Carolina State University, where Dr. Linton served as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He begins his new role on behalf of K-State on February 14, 2022.

Incoming first family of K-State, from left: Sally, Lily, Rich and Chris Linton. (Mango and Willow too!)