HIGHLIGHTS

• NIH-funded research to understand and develop novel treatments for self-injurious and aggressive behavior by combining laboratory and clinical research.
• One of a handful of research programs on the development and assessment of early reading skills in students with intellectual disabilities.
• NIH-funded training grant supports the participation of post-doctoral trainees in the research programs of the Life Span Institute.
• Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) was 1 of 4 programs invited to present to the U.S. Department of Education and this project has provided technical assistance to 17 other states in 2012-2013.
• Innovative program for support of foster and biological parents of children with challenging behaviors and has been identified to be replicated across the state of Kansas.
• Nationally recognized statewide training and technical assistance system for early childhood special education professionals.
• OSEP-funded research to develop procedures for teaching nonverbal children to complete a behavioral hearing assessment.
• Joint Lawrence/Parsons project is a part of the nation’s only Early Childhood Personnel Center.
• Joint Parsons LSI/KU Department of Social Welfare project working to develop strategies for early identification and intervention to reduce the effects of toxic stress on young children and families.
• Joint Parsons/Lawrence/KU Medical Center research studying the effects of propranolol in reducing self-injury and aggression induced by activity transitions in children with autism.
• KU and KSU work together to operate the AgrAbility project to assist farmers and ranchers who have been injured acquire the technology to enable them to return to work.
In February 2013, Dean Williams (left), Kathryn Saunders, Sara Sack and David Lindeman, Parsons’ Principal Investigators, were recognized as “Leading Lights.” The Leading Light award recognizes researchers who have obtained research grants totaling $1 million or more. At the Luncheon, Steve Warren, Vice Chancellor for Research & Graduate Studies, said, “KU researchers in all fields are competitive with the best in the country. Success in obtaining large grants is just one indicator of that, and this recognition is well deserved.”

- Dr. Kathryn Saunders was granted Fellow status by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI).

### Ongoing Collaborations with Other Universities

Columbia University • Florida State University • Johns Hopkins School of Medicine • Kansas State University • University of Colorado School of Medicine • University of Connecticut • University of Kansas Medical Center • University of Massachusetts School of Medicine, Kennedy Krieger Institute • University of Oregon

### FUNDING

**University/State investment of $1 returns $6.01 in grants and contracts.**

The research faculty and staff at Parsons have generated more than $4.294 million in Federal and State Grants and Contracts for FY 2014. The physical location of the Parsons LSI site in southeast Kansas benefits the entire region and its economic base.

For more than 50 years, the **University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons** has partnered with national, state, regional, and community partners to:

- Conduct research,
- Develop model service programs,
- Provide training for professionals involved in services to young children, youth and adults with disabilities, and their families.

The Parsons LSI includes the Kansas University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD) and the Parsons Research Center.

The **KUCDD**, with core funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, focuses on activities that include exemplary client services, research activities and the development and dissemination of information to local, state, regional, and national agencies that provide services to persons with intellectual or other developmental disabilities and their families.

Project activities include:

- Early childhood intervention
- Assistive technology
- Family care treatment
- Behavioral crisis intervention
- Respite care

**Parsons Research Center** is the research component of the LSI at Parsons and home base to a number of projects, many of which are funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Current research includes studies of reading; the effects of reinforcement variables on self-injurious and destructive behaviors; the treatment of sexual offenders; the effect of drugs on aberrant behaviors, adaptive behaviors, and cognitive skills; and audiometric assessment for young children.