



# 2016 - 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

## University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons

**FY 2017 Funding: University/State investment of \$1 returns \$6.13 in grants and contracts with total funding at \$3,722,355 in State/Federal Grants/Contracts.**

- LSI at Parsons' faculty and staff provide direct services, training, and technical assistance in all **105 counties in Kansas.**
- **Each year, 14,906 Kansans are impacted through training, technical assistance, and conference presentations.** (22 year average)
- Yearly, **2,530** professionals, trainees, educators, and others attend regional, national, and international presentations given by Parsons' faculty and staff. (13 year average)

- In FY 2016, LSI at Parsons' faculty and staff gave presentations to **29** state, national, and international audiences in addition to **250** other training and outreach activities.
- **Eight** peer-reviewed publications include **1** book chapter, **5** articles published, **2** articles in press. **Two** newsletter series were produced and distributed.

**Assistive Technology for Kansans** provided AT services to 83 infants and toddlers with disabilities and their family members; 157 adults with disabilities who were retraining or obtaining part-time or full-time employment; 92 farmers, ranchers, other agricultural workers with disabilities, transitioning soldiers and other veterans; 1,306 seniors needing services to stay in their homes and/or to be active in their communities in FY 2016.

**Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS)**, the state's inservice training program for early intervention professionals, provided training and technical assistance for early intervention and early childhood special education programs in Kansas reaching 2,205 teachers, related service providers, and administrators in FY 2016.

**Southeast Kansas Respite Services**, associated with the Life Span Institute at Parsons, provided respite, supportive home care, payee, and homemaker services to 140 families for a total of 35,797.25 hours, as well as, managing the Social Security benefits for 165 customers in FY 2016.

**LSI Parsons Research Center** is developing training procedures to prepare children with hearing impairment and other disabilities to learn to respond to the tones used in hearing evaluations; is collaborating with investigators at Texas Tech University on an NIH grant to develop an instrument to assess individuals' transition difficulties that may trigger problem behavior; and continues research on reading with individuals with intellectual disabilities.



Kansas AgrAbility is a collaboration between the University of Kansas and Kansas State University to serve farmers, ranchers, their families, and other agricultural workers in Kansas, and in recent years, returning wounded warriors at Fort Riley have been included. On April 29, the Farm Tour for Transitioning Soldiers and Veterans originating from Fort Riley was sponsored by Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education (SAVE) and Kansas AgrAbility.

# People are talking about LSI at Parsons!

■ The parents of a two-year-old with cerebral palsy borrowed a corner chair from the ATK Loan System. Now she can sit up, reach, grasp, and play with toys with her brother. Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) <http://www.atk.ku.edu>

■ “As a caregiver for my 95-year-old mother in my home, this service has allowed me respite care for out of town commitments, mainly doctor appointments. I am extremely grateful.” Customer comment. Southeast Kansas Respite Services <http://sekrespiteservices.org/>

■ “KITS Summer Institute was very beneficial to me as a professional. The wealth of knowledge the speakers shared with us was outstanding. As a result, I am going to share the information that I learned with my team members so we can refine our assessment procedures.” Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) <http://www.kskits.org/>

■ After a device demonstration, a young woman who is deaf selected a tablet that allowed her to send texts, use public transportation apps, and improved her computer literacy skills. She now has a full-time professional position. Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) <http://www.atk.ku.edu>

■ “The Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) is a valuable asset to early intervention providers. I have personally used their on-line resources and have attended staff development sessions. Addressing intervention topics specific to the early childhood level is a necessity. I appreciate being able to access professionally prepared materials and presentations to share with my staff.” Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) <http://www.kskits.org/>

■ ATK staff demonstrated four Braille note takers to a woman who is blind and has a significant hearing loss. The devices provide refreshable Braille to read and allow her to access the Internet, email, track appointments, and use GPS software. Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) <http://www.atk.ku.edu>

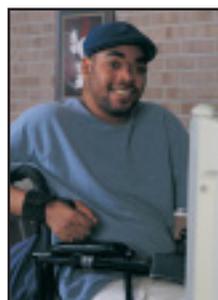


From left, Dean Williams, Kate Saunders, Sara Sack, David Lindeman

For more than 50 years the **University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons** has

- Partnered with national, state, regional, and community partners,
- Conducted research,
- Developed model service programs,
- Provided 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 Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD) and the Parsons Research Center.



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