



The Insider

The University of Kansas
Life Span Institute at Parsons

www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu
Patty Black Moore, Editor

ATK and KS AgrAbility Partner to Conduct a Farm Tour with Transitioning Soldiers and Veterans



On Friday, April 29 at 8:15 a.m., the big bus began loading for the Farm Tour for Transitioning Soldiers and Veterans originating from Fort Riley, home of the Big Red One. The tour was sponsored by Servicemember Agricultural Vocation Education (SAVE) and Kansas AgrAbility. Forty soldiers, veterans, KS AgrAbility Specialists and others traveled to a north central Kansas farm near Jewell to meet Michael Bolte and his wife Becky, and their son Marcus.

The Bolte's have a typical Kansas farm with row crops and livestock. Mr. Bolte uses a power wheelchair for mobility because of a progressive health condition. He showed tour members how his use of assistive technology

enables him to remain an active farmer, including a chair lift that he manages with a remote control to put him in the driver's seat of his machinery.

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After lunch, the tour proceeded to visit Galen and Marilyn Seehafer's farm near Beloit that features a high tunnel (hoop house) to grow vegetable crops. Mr. Seehafer depends on assistive technology to help him compensate for lower extremity mobility issues.

On hand to answer questions and brainstorm solutions were Kerri Ebert, Kansas AgrAbility project coordinator (Kansas State University); Sheila Simmons, Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) program coordinator; and Kansas AgrAbility Agriculture AT Specialists, Cassie Ramon and Nancy Stork. Kerri Ebert noted, "On a daily basis AT Ag Specialists combine their knowledge of agriculture with disability expertise to provide farmers, ranchers, and farm workers with the specialized services needed to safely accommodate their disabilities in everyday farm and ranch operations. Additionally, the project engages extension educators, disability experts, rural professionals, and volunteers in offering an array of services."

After seeing the standing platform lift and chair boom lift in action, one soldier said, "I never knew there was equipment like this."

One soldier commented, "It's amazing how he (Bolte) can run his farm and do pretty much anything he wants to do."



Another soldier with balance and mobility issues preparing to leave the Army asked what states had AgrAbility programs. He was interested in funds available for beginning farmers and veterans for high tunnels and possible help from AgrAbility in figuring out modifications might be useful for him.

The Kansas AgrAbility Project staff provide a range of no-cost assistance to farmers, ranchers, and farm workers who have disabilities such as spinal cord injuries and amputations or other health conditions such as arthritis, chronic back pain, and behavioral issues.

AgrAbility is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and consists of a National Project and State/Regional Projects, including the Kansas AgrAbility Project. Each project is a collaborative partnership between a land grant university and one or more nonprofit disability services organizations.

Kansas AgrAbility partners are: Kansas State University, Southeast Kansas Independent Living (SKIL), and Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) (University of Kansas).

How does a person apply? Simply call our toll free number 1-800- KAN DO IT (1-800-526-3648) and ask to have someone with AgrAbility return your call. The Assistive Technology Ag Specialist who returns your call will discuss your situation and what modifications might be needed

to keep farming and will help determine if a farm visit will be necessary.

Just the “STATS” LSI at Parsons faculty and staff provided direct services, training, or technical assistance (TA) to people in over **450** communities in all **105** counties in Kansas. Last year, more than **15,165** (average over 21 years) Kansans were impacted through Training, Technical assistance, and Conference presentations.

Presentations

- Horn, E., & Palmer, S. (2016, February). *Children's school success: A framework for inclusive early education*. Preconference workshop presented at the 34th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference: Building Real Relationships with Professionals and Families Using Evidenced Based Practices, Wichita, KS.
- Innocenti, M. (2016, February). *What's the PICCOLO: Observations and strategies for increasing developmental parenting*. Post-conference workshop presented at the 34th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference: Building Real Relationships with Professionals and Families Using Evidenced Based Practices, Wichita, KS.
- Johnston, K., Helfer, M., & Kemp, P. (2016, February). *Parent-early start Denver model and the primary service provider approach/coaching with parents (Part 1)*. Paper presented at the 34th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference: Building Real Relationships with Professionals and Families Using Evidenced Based Practices, Wichita, KS.
- Johnston, K., Helfer, M., & Kemp, P. (2016, February). *Parent-early start Denver model and the primary service provider approach/coaching with parents (Part 2)*. Paper presented at the 34th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference: Building Real Relationships with Professionals and Families Using Evidenced Based Practices, Wichita, KS.
- Lindeman, D.P., & Rinkel, P. (2016, April). *Individualized intensive behavior support in preschool: An online community of practice approach*. Poster presented at the 2016 Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, St Louis, MO.
- Lindeman, D. P., & Rinkel, P. (2016, February). *Revitalizing your commitment to inclusion*. Paper presented at the 34th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference: Building Real Relationships with Professionals and Families Using Evidenced Based Practices, Wichita, KS.
- Lindeman, D. P., Rinkel, P., Heintz, C., & Mitchell, L. (2016, February). *Kansas early learning standards: Training modules and supporting resources*. Paper presented at the 34th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference: Building Real Relationships with Professionals and Families Using Evidenced Based Practices, Wichita, KS.
- Sack, S., Edmonds, C., Myers, J. L., & Black-Magnussen, J. (2016, February). *Indirect Cost: [Teleconference]*. Arlington, VA: RESNA Catalyst Project.
- Sack, S., & Simmons, S. (2016, March). *Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) services [Teleconference]*. Topeka, KS: Ombudsman Lunch & Learn Series, KanCare.
- Walters, S., & Kemp, P. (2016, February). *Unleashing the new DEC recommended practices*. Paper presented at the 34th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference: Building Real Relationships with Professionals and Families Using Evidenced Based Practices, Wichita, KS.

HR News

Staff Recognition for Years of Service



The annual Staff Recognition for Years of Service to the University of Kansas event will be held May 4, 2016 on the Lawrence campus. This year congratulations go to Diane Salyers (pictured above right) and Patti Blake.



Diane will receive her 25-year pin and gift and Patti will receive her five-year pin. They will be honored at the

annual Recognition Ceremony and Reception at Parsons, date and time to be announced.

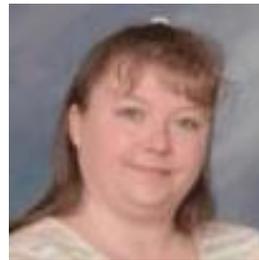
Information for Current KU Employees



Have you been wondering what the Holiday Schedule looks like this year? Want to make a change to your

allowances or exemptions for federal and/or state taxes through HR/Pay? Need to check in with the HealthQuest Rewards Program offered by the State of Kansas that provides the opportunity to earn credits for a \$20 per month discount to the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP) premiums? Get all this and more information at KU's Human Resource Management website at <https://humanresources.ku.edu/current-employee-homepage>

Staff Training



April 6, 2016 staff training opportunities included Tammy Schoenhofer's presentation, *2016 Travel Changes*. Tammy, accounting specialist, explained the impact of

the University's adoption of the Federal CONUS/OCONUS rates for meals, incidentals, and lodging based on location for all staff travel. For example, to determine M&IE (Meals & Incidentals Expense), location will be where the traveler spends the night, use of quarter days will be used to calculate daily reimbursement, and travelers are entitled to the quarter they depart as well as the quarter they return.



Continuing the Brown Bag Lunch & Learn tradition, staff were treated to lunch and participated in a discussion, *An Overview of GIS* (geographic information system), prepared by Patty Black Moore, communications coordinator.

Highlights included an explanation of geo apps, story maps, web apps, open data availability and the GIS opportunities offered by KU. Discussion explored the opportunities the technology may offer to support current and future work.

The University of Kansas prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity, gender expression and genetic information in the University's programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access, IOA@ku.edu, 1246 W. Campus Road, Room 153A, Lawrence, KS, 66045, (785) 864-6414, 711 TTY

Project News

Trends & Issues in Assistive Technology Leadership, a workshop with Dave Edyburn, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will be held at the Overland Park Marriot, Thursday, May 5, 2016 from 9 am – 3 pm.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide AT leaders with an overview of recent trends, issues, research, and new products affecting the delivery of AT devices and services. Topics include National Educational Policy, Legal Issues Impacting Assistive Technology, The Effect of Universal Design for Learning on Assistive Technology Devices and Services, Identifying the Active Ingredients of Technology-based Interventions, Evidence-based Practice and the Outcomes of Assistive Technology, and What We Need to Know About Assistive Technology.

The workshop will be conducted in a participatory demonstration, exploration, and discussion format. Short periods of leader-guided large-group presentation will be followed by individual hands-on work sessions and small group discussion. A specially created workshop web page will be available to the participants to maximize their interaction with digital resources.

Dave L. Edyburn, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Exceptional Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Edyburn's teaching and research interests focus on the use of technology to enhance teaching, learning, and performance.

This workshop is sponsored by Assistive Technology for Kansans (www.atk.ku.edu) and KU Life Span Institute at Parsons (www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu).

Community Service

Sara Sack, co-founder of the Parsons Community Garden and director of the original federally funded grant, thanked the Wesley Church Youth Group for their support of the Garden. In a letter of thanks, Sara wrote, "On behalf of the Community Garden, I would like

to thank the youth and the congregation for supporting the garden with the March Pelican Offering. That is SO cool! Your support will help kids and adults grow delicious, healthy food. Plus they'll be outside digging in the dirt and making new friends! What could be better? Thank you so much and please come garden—there are still some plots that could be adopted."

Visit the KU Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons website at
<http://parsons.lsi.ku.edu/>

Additionally, The Insider is archived online at
<http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu/newsletters>