



# The Insider

The University of Kansas  
Life Span Institute at Parsons

[www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu](http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu)  
Patty Black Moore, Editor

It seems like it was just yesterday...

Every year the Life Span Institute at Parsons' staff gather to celebrate the accumulated years of service to the University of Kansas of our colleagues. Some would call it work, and sometimes we do as well, however, it's really a journey with friends as evidenced by the people in the photograph. Five years ago (2012 picture below, from left) Laura Hanigan, Tammy Schoenhofer, and Kim Page posed for the picture and on July 18, 2017, they did it again.



David Lindeman, Director, LSI/Parsons. (2017 picture above, back row, left, Laura, Kim; front row, Tammy.)

And like every other time we have celebrated years of service, Laura Hanigan served as our emcee (she knows us well), with stories and laughter. Pins and gifts were bestowed, ambience was created, and refreshments were served. We're planning to do it again next year. You can mark it on your calendar!

Kim Page, Research Project Specialist, received her 10-year pin, presented by Laura Hanigan; Tammy Schoenhofer, Accounting Specialist, received her 20-year pin and commemorative paperweight, presented by Laura; and Laura Hanigan, Business Coordinator, with 25 years of service, received her 25-year pin, KU pen, and Jayhawk pen box, presented by

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## PRESENTATIONS



Misty D. Goosen, Ed.S.  
Kansas Inservice Training System

Goosen, M., Jensen, W., Gargan, L., & Taylor, C. (2017, July). *The value of engaging stakeholders from data collection to reporting and use*. 2017 Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership Conference, Arlington VA.

This panel demonstrated the value that stakeholders can add to data collected by States. Data activities that stakeholders can support include data collection tool development, interpretation and use of local and State data, and development and dissemination of data products like infographics. Participants left the session with a better understanding of how involving stakeholders across data-related activities can improve the quality and usefulness of the data collected, and with knowledge of the tools available to support the engagement of stakeholders.

D'Agord, C., Cashan, J., Goosen, M., & Loose, F. (2017, July). *Uncovering beliefs and biases that impact state work*. 2017 Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership Conference, Arlington VA.

In every change effort, decision makers and stakeholders hold beliefs and biases based on their knowledge and experience. These beliefs and biases can contribute to assumptions about the issue and its potential solution. When faced with new challenges such as the SSIP and regulations on significant disproportionality, partners bring these assumptions into the new work, where they often remain unexpressed but play a role in shaping the outcome. This session introduced stakeholder-developed tools that help leadership teams differentiate stakeholder management from stakeholder engagement and help identify and address pre-existing beliefs and biases.

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

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## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

### Southeast Kansas Respite Services, Inc. (SEKRS)

David Lindeman, Director  
Diane Salyers,  
Program Manager

Mary Carr started with SEKRS in April 2016 working with the Respite program, assisting Diane Salyers, SEKRS program manager. She first carried out administrative activities that come with an established program involving customers and caregivers. Next, she was just the right fit for an active role entering data for the Payee Program, and now she has moved on to payroll data input. Formerly she was the administrative assistant to SKIL director, a local provider of services to persons with disabilities. When that job ended, she turned to the SER/Senior Community Services Employment Program. SER SCSEP provides paid training opportunities to update current job skills or to develop new skills. She interviewed, met with Diane, and couldn't be happier with her decision to join the SEKRS team. Mary said, "Once you start here, you are part of the family." She likes the people, the atmosphere, and the work.



Mary is a longtime Labette County resident, she has traveled the deep South and the Midwest, raised two children, and once again calls southeast Kansas home along with her dog, Duke.

Ken Smith recently joined the SEKRS team after ten years of managing convenience stores in the Kansas City area. With his staff having survived three robberies and with an ongoing health condition, he looked for something new, less stress, cool in the summer, something interesting to do that tapped into the detailed computer work he likes. He turned to the SER SCSEP program. He said, "SER really kind of saved my life. I had been applying for a job with no luck. Once I connected with SER, things changed and one week later I had my choice of two jobs." Ken does data entry for the SEKRS Payee Program and though he hadn't previously done this sort of work, he likes it, and he's really good at it.

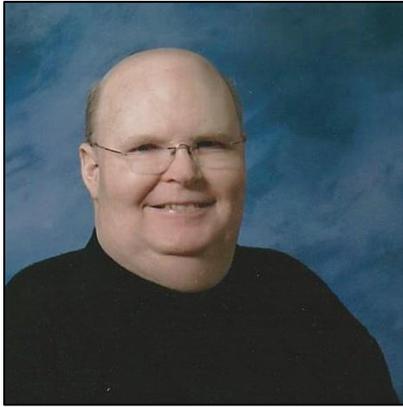
Ken grew up in the Parsons area, has so many hobbies and interests that he is never bored, interesting things like gardening, painting, pottery, computers, and cooking, and lives with his dog, Brandy.

Diane says, "This program is a win-win for SEKRS and the SER participants. We have worked with SER in the past, but I have to say the skills of the current workers are the very best yet. Our contribution to the program is to provide training to Mary and Ken, and because of their ability and experience, it has been effortless. Both Mary and Ken are a very important part of our team and we have grown to rely on them."

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*SER SCSEP is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and focuses on the needs of mature workers, the community and employers. SER SCSEP prepares eligible mature workers for unsubsidized jobs through training at community based organizations. The eligible worker will receive a stipend while he or she is in training with the goal of getting unsubsidized employment. If you have a job to fill, please consider the SER program. For more information contact, Aime Cope, State Coordinator/ Employment Training Specialist, SER Jobs for Progress National, Inc., by phone at 620-431-1280 or email [acope@ser-national.org](mailto:acope@ser-national.org). Online at <http://ser-national.org/senior-community-service-employment-program/>.*

## SPECIAL PROJECT UPDATE: The Jerry Vogel Fund



*Vogel Fund helps 5 buy the AT they need*

Jerry Vogel used assistive technology and understood how important access to technology was

for learning, living in the community he loved—Lawrence, participating in church activities, maintaining his independence at work and at home, and for enjoying nature. The Gerald “Jerry” Vogel Assistive Technology Fund, a trust managed by Central Bank of the Midwest and operated by Assistive Technology for Kansans, was established in 2012 to help persons with disabilities and health conditions who live in Jefferson, Douglas, or Franklin County acquire assistive technology devices. Each year on January 1<sup>st</sup>, a portion of the fund is made available. Recipients who reside in one of three counties may apply by filling out an application. Assistive technology devices are funded in the areas of hearing, vision, communication, mobility/stability/ physical access, environmental adaptations, recreation/sports/leisure. The Fund was established to help as many individuals as possible. Assistance may be provided for up to 50% of the cost of the technology but may not exceed \$500. Checks will be made to the vendor or supplier of the technology being acquired. Assistive Technology Specialists can help applicants explore both public and private funders to help with the purchase. In Fiscal Year 2016 five applications were funded.

- A man needed a bariatric wheelchair so that he could get out and interact with his neighbors and volunteer at the local library.

His local church and local Rotary club provided matching funds.

- A woman needed a heavy-duty lift chair and cushion to give her an additional positioning option during the day. Her history of skin breakdown required the specialized cushion. She continues to live in her own home. Matching funds were obtained with the Vogel commitment at \$500.
- A man with a lumbar spinal cord injury needed funds for a trapeze bar with stand. With the device available he is able to reposition himself when in bed and his transfer from bed to wheelchair is easier and safer. He obtained matching funds through United Cerebral Palsy Fund.
- A mother applied for funds for a Sleep Safer Bed for her son due to his history of accidentally throwing himself out of bed while turning over or attempting to pull himself up. With this bed, he sleeps safely and his parents stress has been reduced. Funding was obtained through the Vogel Fund and other funding sources, including personal funds.
- A man filled out an application because he needed a Joey Lift to mount on the back of his vehicle and transport his scooter. Matching funds were obtained along with his personal funds and he is able to get to doctors’ appointments and maintain his health while being more involved in his community.

The Vogel Fund continues to be valuable to the residents in the three-county area. Applications have already been received and approved pending fund availability in the new year. For more information about the Jerry Vogel Fund go to <http://atk.ku.edu/jerry-vogel-assistive-technology-fund>

## ATK is Co-Producer with Theatre Lawrence for Catch Me If You Can

**Can YOU help?** Do you have a wheelchair taking up space or a home care bed that is no longer needed?

**Did you know** that your lightly used durable medical equipment can help a Kansan with disabilities who needs Assistive Technology but can't afford it? Donated items can be refurbished to high quality standards and given to Kansans with disabilities and health conditions of all ages who need them.

*Since 2003, reusing donated equipment has saved Kansas taxpayers nearly \$9,330,000.*

If you or someone you know has equipment that is not being used, **please call 800-KAN DO IT** for more information.



**KU** Assistive Technology for Kansans Equipment Reuse  
800-526-3648 or 800-KAN DO IT ~ [www.atk.ku.edu](http://www.atk.ku.edu)

SAVE A DATE! Catch Me If You Can, a production by the Theatre Lawrence Company, is co-produced by Assistive Technology for Kansans.

Make your plans to join ATK at Theatre Lawrence for a high-flying musical about pursuing dreams and not getting caught. A precocious teenager successfully poses as a doctor, a pilot, and a lawyer before the FBI joins the cat and mouse game.

The ATK Information Table will be set up at the September 23 evening performance and at the matinee on September 24. Stuart Jones, TAP and KEE Reuse Coordinator, along with Sara Sack, ATK Director, will be available to talk about how donations of high cost, lightly used durable medical equipment can help Kansans who need AT to be more independent at work, play, and in their communities.

Performance dates: September 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30; and Oct. 1, 2017

Tickets available for sale at [www.theatrelawrence.com](http://www.theatrelawrence.com).

Address: 4660 Bauer Farm Dr., Lawrence, KS 66049.

Phone: 785-843-SHOW (7469).

Box Office Hours: 11:30 - 4:30 M-F.



### Professional Service

Sara Sack, Director, Assistive Technology for Kansans, accepted leadership roles with two national organizations, National Association for State Relay Administration (NASRA) and National AT3.

Dr. Sack is the Director of the Kansas Dual Party Relay and the Kansas Telecommunications Access Program. To read more about NASRA, visit their website <https://nasratrs.org/>.

The purpose of the new Assistive Technology Act Technical Assistance and Training (AT3) Center is to provide training and technical assistance for all AT Act Section 4 State and Territory Assistive Technology Programs and to support a national assistive internet site that makes general AT information available to the public and other stakeholders. <https://www.at3center.net/>.