



Kansas PRIDE Newsletter

Winter 2005

2004 PRIDE Day Conference



Opening session of PRIDE Day.

PRIDE Day, the annual conference and recognition event for the Kansas PRIDE program, was November 6, 2004 in Salina. Representatives from more than 40 communities participated in the day-long event. Participants enjoyed the opening session with Associate Director for K-State Intercollegiate Athletics, Phil Hughes. They also learned about community development from Marci Penner of the Kansas Sampler Foundation. Community Web site function and design ideas were shared by Laura Munsch of CivicPLUS. In addition, a panel of state and government research providers shared about rural resources.

Communities displayed their hard work at the evening awards banquet.

PRIDE Day Awards

Community of Excellence



Argonia PRIDE members, Elizabeth Hemberger, Edana Barkley, and Emily Walters display their Community of Excellence sign.

Community improvement takes creative visioning, planning, dedication, and a great deal of hard work. The greatest payoff comes to communities that do their homework, invest in themselves, share leadership and commitment, and develop the systems and partnerships needed to carry them into the future. The following communities made outstanding progress in meeting the needs of the community, and were recognized in 2004 for following a successful process of community improvement through Kansas PRIDE.



John Cash, Sandra and Larry Williams, MaryAnne McMullen, and Dan Kahl hold Eskridge's Community of Excellence Award

Almena	Eskridge	Lakin
Alton	Goff	Lenora
Argonia	Greeley	Lucas
Basehor	Grinnell	Melvorn
Burns	Highland	Mount Hope
Cunningham	Kinsley	Potwin
		Rossville

Don't forget to check out our Web site
www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu

Award Winners

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STAR Award



Lt. Governor John Moore awards Margaret Pelzel of Clearwater a STAR Project Award

The STAR Award goes to communities that successfully planned and completed outstanding community projects. Projects are evaluated on quality planning, level of community involvement, and overall impact the project has on the quality of life in the community. The following community projects received a STAR Award.

Almena	Christmas Lights
Alton	Community Youth Activities
Axtell	ACE's Restaurant
Burns	Park Project
Clearwater	Welcome Sign
Courtland	Computer Training Program
Cunningham	Park Lighting
Glasco	Historical Mural of Glasco
Goff	Community Center
Greeley	Park Project
Grinnell	New Community Signs
Highland	Care Packages to Troops
Mount Hope	Park Project
Norwich	City Beautification
Overbrook	Welcome Sign
Spearville	Downtown Shopping Night
Towanda	Community Center

Rossville Wins Extreme Web Site Makeover

Congratulations Rossville for winning the Extreme Web Site Makeover! The drawing was held for Kansas PRIDE communities through the generous support of CivicPLUS, a Manhattan-based Web site design and management company. The high-tech prize package was valued at \$20,000 and will include guidance on design, administration training, and support. CivicPLUS works with communities to help them develop their community Web site.

Youth Leadership Award

PRIDE communities value youth involvement. These youth have demonstrated leadership skills through taking the initiative to step forward and invest themselves in their community. The following Youth Leadership Award recipients have provided inspiration and leadership to others.

Crystal Buck, Lansing
Nicholas McKenzie, Rossville

Also recognized for their leadership:

Robert Ostmeyer, Grinnell
Brandy Arbogast, Fort Scott

Youth Community Service Award

The Youth Community Service Award gives an opportunity for young people to be recognized for volunteer service in their PRIDE community. The award is presented to youth who have significantly contributed to the efforts of the local community. The following individuals were presented awards for their outstanding investment in their local community.

Lindsay Turner, Norwich
Tiffany Zimmerman, Lansing

Also recognized for their service:

Brett Eakin, Rossville
Erin McHenry, Argonia
Andrew Mense, Grinnell
Zac Miller, Almena
Eric Simmons, Highland

News from PRIDE Communities

The following are edited news stories shared by PRIDE Communities

Chocolate Festival

Alton PRIDE sponsored the fourth annual Chocolate Festival on December 4, 2004. Alton was the birthplace of Russell Stover. The first "Chocolate Festival" was in December 2001 and it has grown each year. A feature is the Cookie Baking contest; open to all ages. The only criteria is: the cookie must contain at least one chocolate ingredient. The entrants bring 13 cookies with the recipe, 12 are for the bake sale and one is judged. The adult first prize award is \$25 and the youth is \$10. New this year was a Brownie contest, and the winner received \$25.

Chocolate baked goods of all kinds were on sale throughout the event, with complimentary hot chocolate and coffee. Alton PRIDE members decided they would not be eligible this year; entries came from far and near. The adult winner was from Shawnee County and the second place winner was a gentleman.

Alton invites everyone the first Saturday in December for the annual Chocolate Festival.

Christmas with Haven PRIDE

The Haven Chamber of Commerce and PRIDE Committee hosted a special "Christmas on the Prairie" program December 11, 2004. The event began with a Christmas season program at the city Christ-

mas tree including singing, special music, and the Christmas Story. Santa even made an appearance and gave out candy. Refreshments were served in the Haven Senior Center followed by a screening of the movie, "Elf." Winners of the annual home Christmas lights and decorations contest were announced at the end of the evening.

The PRIDE Committee sponsored a mitten and hat tree. All donated items were given to the USD 312 grammar schools. The PRIDE Committee encouraged the festive atmosphere by asking downtown businesses to decorate their storefront windows.

Park City Poker Round Up

Park City PRIDE and Park City Tourism and Convention Bureau are organizing the biggest live no limit Texas Hold'em Tournament ever. The Park City Poker Round Up will be from February 12 to April 17, 2005 at the Kansas Coliseum in Valley Center. They will be collecting a suggested donation of \$25 at the door. The Texas Hold'em Tournament winners will advance to the 2005 World Series of Poker Championship in Las Vegas on July 7, 2005.

Park City PRIDE will use the proceeds of the tournament to finish the Park City Youth Skate Park.

For more information go to www.amateurpoker-league.com/parkcity.html

Youth Program Assistance through AmeriCorps

Kansas PRIDE supports the proposal by the Kansas Campus Compact to the Kansas Office for Community Service that will provide support to community youth programs. The proposal will establish a program that identifies and trains college students from Kansas Campus Compact colleges and universities to work with local community youth programs. Member Institutions with Kansas Campus Compact include:

- Allen County Community College
- Baker University
- Butler Country Community College
- Cloud County Community College
- Fort Hays State University
- Fort Scott Community College
- Garden City Community College
- Highland Community College
- Independence Community College
- Johnson County Community College

- Kansas State University
- Kansas Wesleyan University
- Labette Community College
- Seward County Community College
- Southwestern College
- University of Kansas
- University of Saint Mary

Any of the above institutions can participate in this project, though only five or six will be eligible through this project grant. The college students enrolled in the AmeriCorps Program will provide service through leadership and program support to local community youth groups, such as 4-H, PRIDE Youth, and church groups. Through regular visits, the college student will conduct leadership and team building lessons. They also will help the youth to

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Americorps Assistance

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identify, plan, and carry out a community improvement project. If this sounds like a great fit for your youth PRIDE program, please contact the Kansas PRIDE Office. Having the local community PRIDE contact the College will help college leadership understand the desire to support this type of partnership!

PRIDE Board of Directors

The 2005 PRIDE board met in January to set annual goals for Kansas PRIDE Inc. The retreat was at the community center in Burns, Kansas. It was also a first meeting for many of the board members. The 2005 Kansas PRIDE Board members are:

Larissa Long, Chairperson
Aquila, Inc.

Kim Gulley
League of Kansas Municipalities

Jerry Lindberg, Treasurer
Kansas Economic Development Alliance

James Bartling
Atmos Energy Corporation

Sandy Williams
Eskridge PRIDE

Rex Woods
Kinsley PRIDE

Dean Schmidt
Potwin PRIDE

Charles Wilderson
Basehor PRIDE

Dorothy Lickteig
Greeley PRIDE

Shelly Buhler
Rossville PRIDE

Bob Helm
Midwest Energy, Inc.

Patty Clark
Kansas Dept. of Commerce

Dr. Daryl Buchholz
K-State Research and Extension

The Kansas PRIDE Board's next meeting will be at 10 a.m. March 4, 2005 at the C&W Ranch in Smolan, Kan.

The Kansas Department of Commerce, K-State Research and Extension, and private-sector companies and associations partner together to make the PRIDE program successful. For assistance contact the PRIDE staff: Ruth Smerchek at (785) 296-3485; Dan Kahl at (785) 532-5840

Recycling, Composting and Household Hazardous Waste

Sponsored by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, WORKS! will be on the Bethel College Campus in North Newton, Kan. on March 29 through 31, 2005.

This conference will address those interested in recycling, composting and household hazardous waste management.

The theme of the 2005 conference will be "Looking Toward the Future: Taking Recycling, Composting and Household Hazardous Waste Management to the Next Level." The Keynote Speaker will be environment advocate Chad Pregracke.

For more information on WORKS! 2005, contact Jim Rudeen at (785) 296-1603 or e-mail jrudeen@kdhe.state.ks.us.

Thank You PRIDE Sponsors!

It's only through the generous sponsorship of program supporters that the Kansas PRIDE Program can host PRIDE Day and recognize communities. The following companies and organizations continue to support building better communities through the PRIDE program.

Acme Investors

Aquila, Inc.

Atmos Energy Corporation

The Boeing Company

Casey's General Stores, Inc.

FEIST Publications, Inc.

Frontier Oil

Kerschen Brothers

Neville Built Trailers

Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company

Pioneer Communication

Southern Kansas Telephone Company, Inc.

The First National Bank, Cunningham

Kansas Bankers Association

Kansas City Power & Light Company

Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.

Kansas Gas Service Company

Kansas Economic Development Alliance

Kansas Medical Society

Kansas Rural Water Association

Westar Energy

Berberich, Trahan & Company, P.A.

Kansas Association of Counties

League of Kansas Municipalities