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Kansas PRIDE Communities Learn from Each Other

Day of PRIDE held June 4, 2011 in Larned was a true learning experience for both PRIDE staff and volunteers. The new format included a bus tour through four Kansas PRIDE communities along with a stop in Greensburg to learn about green energy efforts.

Participants expressed appreciation for the new venture and the opportunity to see successful projects and talk with the volunteers responsible.

Following are a few comments Day of PRIDE participants reported through their evaluations:

"I am looking forward to moving about the state next year in a similar format. A true Kansas Explorers/PRIDE Day Experience."

"Bus was excellent. PA on bus made it all useful time for presentations and discussions. Just right number of community stops. Great effort for first time out!"

"Getting outdoors on a road trip. Seeing the projects in person rather than in photos. Great networking tool and also great way to get to know more people. I never talk to as many people when sitting in workshops!!"

The tour concluded with a celebratory dinner and PRIDE awards program at the Larned Community Center.

Afterwards several PRIDE communities came forward with offers to host next year's tour. To see the complete article and photos, click here.

Excellence in PRIDE and Community Partner Awards Announced

This year PRIDE recognized community efforts for community improvement projects consistent with the community capitals framework.

Excellence in PRIDE Awards were awarded to communities for projects that best exemplified community improvements in these capital areas:

- Built Capital - Alton PRIDE and Potwin PRIDE
- Cultural Capital - Glasco PRIDE and Highland PRIDE
- Financial Capital - Lucas PRIDE
- Human Capital - Grinnell PRIDE
- Natural Capital - Stafford PRIDE
Recipients of the **Community Partner Awards**, which are given to individuals or organizations in recognition of exceptional collaboration, commitment and local leadership are:

- Fred Box, nominated by Basehor PRIDE
- Adeline Bechard, nominated by Grinnell PRIDE
- Angie Murray, nominated by Larned PRIDE
- Lenora FCE Organization, nominated by Lenora PRIDE
- Bayer Construction Company, nominated by Leonardville PRIDE
- Connie Dougherty, nominated by Lucas PRIDE
- John Leeker, nominated by Park City PRIDE

To learn more about the Excellence in PRIDE and Community Partner Awardees, click here.

**Building Sustainable Communities Conference**

PRIDE community members are invited to attend the 2011 Dialog on Sustainability: Building Sustainable Communities event on July 14 at Kansas State University. Travel scholarships are available for participants willing to take part in the "Climate and Rural Sustainability" focus group session and for communities considering the Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities program.

Communities are encouraged to bring their project ideas for sustainability to the conference. Break-out sessions will offer the opportunity for citizens and civic groups to work with K-State sustainability professionals, industry representatives and college level students on project ideas in the following topic areas:

- Sustainable food systems and practices, implementing community gardens and marketing local foods;
- Green building technologies;
- Urban water and public infrastructure improvements;
- Re-purposing public spaces;
- Community engagement and leadership;
- Developing walking and biking public transit systems; and
- Energy and water conservation technologies and practices.

For details on the event, click here. To register, please call Sheree Walsh, Center for Hazardous Substance Research, Kansas State University at (785) 532-6519.

**First Round Partners in PRIDE Grant Recipients Announced**

Kansas PRIDE Inc. is pleased to announce that Grinnell PRIDE and Stafford PRIDE have been selected to receive a Partners in PRIDE (PIP) grant. Both grant applications focus on improving health within their communities. Grinnell is in the first phase of developing an indoor fitness center for adults and Stafford will be adding fitness equipment to their park. For further details on their projects, contact Sandy Moore in Grinnell at smmoore@st-tel.net and Jeanette Hildebrand in Stafford at kssodbuster@gmail.com.

**August 12 Deadline for Partners in PRIDE (PIP) Grants**
Now is the time to start working on your grant application if you plan to apply for the second round of Partners in PRIDE grants. Jeanne Stinson with the Kansas Department of Commerce is available for technical assistance. She will gladly answer questions and review your grant application. The application deadline is August 12. Contact Jeanne with any questions at (785) 296-3485 or jstinson@kansascommerce.com.

**Nadine Says Goodbye**

It's really hard to believe the year has flown by so quickly. Thanks so much for the opportunity to work with you through the Kansas PRIDE Program. I have thoroughly enjoyed the work and learning about your communities. Some of the projects are similar, but each community has their own unique way of conducting projects and that is what makes the program so great.

During the month of July, Dan Kahl and Jeanne Stinson will be your primary contacts. Beginning in August, Trudy Rice will be back from her sabbatical and will be assuming her previous responsibilities. I will be returning to my position as an Extension Agent in the Post Rock Extension District the end of this month. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at nsigle@ksu.edu.

**Dates to Remember**

- July 14 - Building Sustainable Communities Conference
- July 15 - Second Quarter Reports Due
- August 12 - KPI Board Meeting, Highland
- August 12 - Partners in PRIDE Grant Applications due to Commerce