

Vibrant communities with a positive future.

April 27, 2013 : Day of PRIDE Conference



Carved Post Rock

This year we will be “Celebrating Cultural Capital in the Post Rock PRIDE communities of Wilson and Lucas”. Registration will be \$25 per person, with a limit of 100 registrations. If you are an Community Capital Awards recipient from the 2012 PRIDE Year you will be given one free registration for your community to attend and highlight your accomplishments!

Registration will kick at 9am off with coffee, tea and pastries provided. Community recognition of the 2012 Community Capitals STAR Projects, Community of Excellence, and Partners in PRIDE award winners follow, although the actual awards will be presented in the local communities. The recognition presentation will feature the project highlights for all participants to learn from.

The day will then progress into featuring Wilson PRIDE “Highlights and Lowlights!”

We will relocate to Lucas, Kansas. We will travel to Lucas, Kansas for lunch and round table sharing at the Bakery on Main Street. We will feature Lucas PRIDE “Highlights and Lowlights!” at Lucas theater. This will include “The Story of Poop”, popcorn and soda!

After we adjourn, everyone is encouraged to plan time to stay in Lucas and explore the local arts culture including a visit to “Bowl Plaza”.

Registration for Day of PRIDE will open soon at:

www.kansascommerce.com/prideregistration

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Want others to be informed? Contact PRIDE@ksu.edu and supply their email, and we will add them to our newsletter list!

Thank You For Your Input!

In 2012 a “satisfaction survey” was sent to volunteers in all current Kansas PRIDE communities. First, thank you for taking the time to provide your input! In return, the PRIDE staff and Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors would like to share with you updates to the program that will be made as a result of your input::

- ◆ Roundtable sharing among PRIDE communities will be incorporated into Day of PRIDE and the date has been moved from June to April 27, 2012 in Wilson and Lucas, close to the center of Kansas. And, registration is only \$25.00!
- ◆ PRIDE awards will be presented in your community at a local gathering of your choosing. All award winners will also be featured at Day of PRIDE however, the actual award will be presented by a PRIDE staff member at a local event.
- ◆ The awards will be a plaque, trophy, or monetary will all Community of Excellence again receiving a bar for their community sign.

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Rural Program Manager Highlight: Renee Lippencott—South Central Region

Renee is a South Central Regional Project Manager for the Business and Community Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, headquartered at Sterling College. Renee has become the “go to” Commerce staff person from her experience assisting the Reading and Harveyville communities with their recovery efforts from recent tornados. Renee’s focus is twofold, servicing businesses and communities:

- assists business to access incentives available through the Kansas Department of Commerce and serves as a resource to businesses and economic development professionals to make connections to information, people and services that can help with startup businesses, business expansions and to move projects forward
- offers listening ears and experience to rural communities that are seeking assistance in building their own capacity to attract businesses, improve their communities and solve local problems while also identifying local, state, federal and private resources that match their needs

Renee previously served as the Executive Director of Main Street Sterling, where she managed more than 50 volunteers, assisted committees in the development of annual work plans and helped the organization respond to challenges, as well as opportunities, for downtown. She was presented the Outstanding Community Spirit Award from Kansas Main Street in 2006. Renee and her husband have owned and operated their own small business since 1979. They also share a love for music and play hammered dulcimers and the mountain dulcimer together.

Board Leadership Series: You are serving on a board-now what?

The Board Leadership Series will be presented again from 6-8 p.m. on March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2013. Last year’s participants indicated that as a result of participating in this series they were now more comfortable with their role as a board member and were willing to question the process. Others indicated that they have observed their board meetings becoming more effective and efficient since the training. Many said it was money and time well spent!

This “high tech-high touch” 4 session series is intended for anyone serving on a local board or commission such as PRIDE, City Council, extension council, water district, township, board of zoning appeals, church, and producer organization just to name a few. The sessions will include: Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members/Effective Meetings; Understanding Fellow Board Members/Conflict Resolution; Fundraising and Fiscal Responsibility/Legal and Ethical Issues; and Strategic Planning.

The face to face training sessions will be hosted by the local Extension Unit in the following communities: Beloit, El Dorado, Garden City, Hoxie, Hutchinson, Iola, Lakin, Leavenworth, Liberal, Manhattan, Topeka, and Sabetha. The content will be delivered through Adobe Connect by KSRE Extension Professionals with Community Development responsibilities. Cost is \$40.00 per person, with a discount for multiple board members from the same board. This includes a light snack and all handout materials.

For more information and to enroll go to www.ksre.ksu.edu/boardseries. This site should be available no later than January 11, 2013. For more information contact Trudy Rice at trice@ksu.edu.

Thank You Article Continued...

- ♦ Education and information will be delivered using a combination of a monthly electronic newsletter, an annual statewide event and regional training opportunities.
- ♦ An electronic data base will be developed to make the paperwork tasks a little easier but, more importantly, to provide volunteers at the local level the opportunity to search for information from other PRIDE communities who are dealing with or have dealt with similar situations. This should increase the opportunity to network!

We were glad to note that over 65% of the respondents had been involved in PRIDE for less than 10 years. This demonstrates that local PRIDE communities are sharing the leadership responsibilities and developing new leaders for tomorrow! Also, it was very encouraging to see the comments about what PRIDE has meant to the local community. These are valuable in securing future operating dollars. The following comment is a great summary of what was shared: "PRIDE has done a great job of bring people together around common issues and helped them work together to improve our community."

It is important to honor the traditions of the PRIDE program that have been successful for over 40 years while keeping it current for today's environment. Your input is a valuable piece in making this happen. Remember, your opinion is always welcome. Send us your comments to PRIDE@ksu.edu.

Board Members in PRIDE Communities: Wilson, KS

On December 7, 2012, a board meeting was held in the Historic Midland Hotel in Wilson, KS. Here is what some sponsor board members had to say about the accommodations:

Susanne Lane of Westar Energy:

"It was a pleasure and treat to spend time in the town of Wilson. Wilson is a lovely, quaint community that is filled with history, beauty, and genuine folks. It's definitely a crown jewel of central Kansas, not only for what the town has to offer, but also because of its amazing proximity to the most beautiful lake in the state!"

"It was a joy to also get to spend time at the gorgeous, historic Midland Railroad Hotel. It's obvious in every way that the owners and town take great pride in this fine establishment, and that they roll out the red carpet to every guest. The history alone is amazing...if the walls could talk, think of the things we would all learn!"

Jada Ackerman of BlueValley Telecommunications:

"My visit to Wilson permitted me to witness firsthand a community comprised of people committed to the growth and betterment of their town. Time and resources are not spent focusing on what Wilson doesn't have but rather on what they can do to promote and enhance the assets they do have. This community's spirit and pride should be an inspiration to rural communities everywhere!"

"From the second I arrived at the Midland Railroad Hotel to the moment I pulled away I was in awe. Rarely can you say you were greeted by a courteous, friendly staff, served a delicious, affordable meal, and made to feel genuinely welcome during your entire stay, but that is exactly what I experienced at the Midland. This historic, beautiful facility is truly a gem!"

Register for Day of PRIDE, April 27, 2012, so that you can see this wonderful facility!

Events Calendar

February 1, 2013—2013 Downtown Commercial Rehab Program Applications Due

February 1, 2013—Community Capital STAR Project and Community Partner Nominations Due

February 15, 2013—Partners in PRIDE Grant Application Due

April 25-26, 2013 - Rural Opportunities Conference

April 27, 2013 - SAVE THE DATE—Day of PRIDE

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