



[PRIDE@ksu.edu](mailto:PRIDE@ksu.edu)

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## *Vibrant communities with a positive future*

### NEW SIGN IN BUSHTON!

A new sign is catching the eye of passing motorists on Highway 4 north of Bushton. It replaced the City of Bushton's old welcome sign that was deteriorating. On the new welcome sign, you will see that Bushton is the Geographic Center of Kansas. According to a recent report by the Kansas Geologic Survey at Kansas University, the center of Kansas is approximately a mile and a half southeast of Bushton.



Bushton Pride Chairperson, Nancy Swain said the sign was a group effort of many individuals working together. "Two years ago, the city celebrated its 125th year anniversary. Some of the profit from that event was used to purchase materials to build new Christmas decorations. However, the remaining funds were set back for a new welcome sign. A committee was formed and ideas were passed around. With those ideas and additional input from the Art Class at Central Plains High School, a design was created."

The old sign featured a Thunderbird, the old mascot for the school in Bushton before the Central Plains School District consolidation took place. The outline of the new sign is shaped like the state of Kansas and the star is located on the center

to further represent the fact that Bushton is the geographic center of Kansas. The background is a wheat field giving tribute to the farming community. You will also find an oil pumping unit acknowledging the importance of the oil industry to Bushton, as well as symbolizing "The Oilers" which is the new mascot for Central Plain Schools.

Swain said city employee Jerry Huff was instrumental in rebuilding the sign. The old sign's middle post had moved and had to be reset. Then a new sub-structure had to be built to hold the new signboards. Finally, Bushton Pride volunteers painted the wood portion of the sign prior to installing the new metal facade.

Currently, Bushton Pride and the City of Bushton are working together to obtain permission to drill under the highway for electric lines to reach the sign. The old sign had solar lights that did not always stay lit. New lighting will be installed when power is available.

"Overall this has been a great cooperation between members of the community, school kids, and the City of Bushton. When we work together, great things happen." said Swain. At the bottom on the sign, you will see the words "A Community with Pride!"



### Community of Excellence Applications Due October 15, 2014

If your community has enrolled as a STAR community, or your community has recently engaged in a strategic planning process, we encourage you to apply for Community of Excellence status. Communities of Excellence are eligible to apply for Partners in PRIDE grants. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) or visit our website at: [kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=36](http://kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=36)

### Events Calendar

October 15, 2014—Community of Excellence Essays are Due (contact [PRIDE@ksu.edu](mailto:PRIDE@ksu.edu) for more information) Check out our [Community Events Calendar Link](#) to see what's going on in your area!

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