



Contact us at:  
[PRIDE@ksu.edu](mailto:PRIDE@ksu.edu)

## Vibrant communities with a positive future.

### Enrollment, Awards and Week of PRIDE



- This is also the deadline for eligible Communities of Excellence to apply for [Partners in PRIDE Grant Funding](#).

Don't forget to mark your calendars for May 22-28, 2016 for Week of PRIDE. We are going to be getting information out at the first of the year, so keep your eye out and keep potential projects in mind!

Thank you for all that you do, and have a safe and happy Holiday Season! –*Jaime Menon, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Program Manager* [jmenon@ksu.edu](mailto:jmenon@ksu.edu)

2015 has just flown by! It is that time again, to be thinking about enrollment. The following green wording with underlining contain links to the pages and forms for your convenience.

As it was at the beginning of 2015, [enrollment](#) will take place after January 1. You will be asked to change your password. If there has been transition in leadership, please make sure that the previous information is given to those newly responsible for reporting.

February 15 is a big day on the calendar.

- This is the deadline for all communities that wish to nominate their projects for [STAR Capital Awards](#).
- The NEW [Growth and Action](#) are available for Communities of Growth and Communities of Action. These are limited to 5 awards per round (February 15 and August 15) and are extremely competitive so apply as soon as you can. The awards are for \$200 each.

### New Sponsor!



Kansas PRIDE, Inc. recently received a new sponsor! A big thank you to TCT for their commitment to community improvement and their support of Kansas PRIDE Communities! Angie Schwerdtfeger of TCT has provided some background, so that we can get to know them:

*Located in the heart of the Kansas Flint Hills since 1963, TCT provides the latest voice, video and data communication services to residential and business customers. TCT is a technology leader in their industry and*

*in their local communities. In September of 2015 they won the Smart Rural Community designation recognizing them for their efforts in enhancing the quality of life and economic well-being in their service area through their broadband network and local partnerships.*

*TCT is committed to helping make the communities they serve better places to live and that is why TCT has been a supporter of Council Grove PRIDE for many years. TCT has awarded the group grants for beautification projects and special events. TCT's recent decision to support the Kanas PRIDE program was made in recognition of the important work that the program is doing, and for the support the program gives to local communities.* - **Angie Schwerdtfeger of TCT** – [Aschwerdtfeger@tctainc.net](mailto:Aschwerdtfeger@tctainc.net)

Feel free to email Angie at TCT to send a Kansas PRIDE Community Thank you to TCT for their support!

## A Fond Farewell – Billie Chesney



To the wonderful communities of Kansas PRIDE,

I will be graduating from K-State this month, and am beyond excited to begin a new adventure.

Unfortunately, this means that I will be leaving the Kansas PRIDE office. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you, and serving each of your communities. What began as an internship that was outside of my comfort zone became a mission to better myself by helping others do the same. I have become part of the family at Kansas PRIDE, and am beyond thankful for

every struggle and success. Nancy Daniels, who also works in our office, inspired me with an article she wrote, and has graciously allowed me to borrow her words since I am struggling to find mine. Our KC Royals were quite successful this year, and we have much to learn from their triumph. When I read Nancy's article, it reminded me of my journey with Kansas PRIDE, and the many things I have learned while being guided by Jaime, Trudy, Nancy and Nadine.

1. We share a common vision. This is not just a job to us. We believe in our state, our communities, and our community members. When we come together and put in the effort, we can only go UP!

2. It takes a team. You all made me feel as though I was a part of your teams, and our team at the office pushed each other to be better, stronger, and confident.

3. "It takes determination over the long haul." Some days I battled struggles, personal and work related. It sometimes seems as though things will never progress or get better, but if we persevere and believe that we are making a difference, victory will be ours.

4. "Hours of practice, and "blown plays" help you know how to work together." I believe my team would agree that we have spent hours on projects that didn't work, only to learn what WILL work, and what we all can contribute to continue to improve.

5. "Everyone wants to hit a homerun, but really, what we need to do is just "keep the line moving."" I believe this reiterates the past points, and is self-explanatory.

This is a difficult letter to write. Kansas PRIDE has been a large part of my life for the past year and a half, and I have received encouragement and support from all angles. For that I will always be grateful. I have had the greatest mentors that have not only guided me along my path, but have made me laugh so hard I've cried, and even made sure I was fed! I have been beyond blessed, and will miss you all tremendously. Please feel free to follow me on Facebook, or even send an email. Thank you all for your friendship, and an experience I will never forget. If I may, I would like to end with a Bible verse my

dad shares with me when something comes to an end, and when a new journey is about to begin.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." –Jeremiah 29:11.*

Sincerely Thankful,

Billie Chesney, Kansas PRIDE

## A Visit with Elk City PRIDE - Barbara Anderson SE KS Regional Project Manager Kansas Department of Commerce



Had a fantastic visit with the PRIDE group in Elk City, and I was blown away with what this little town is doing! They have a recycling project that has been very popular, but has recently hit a few "bumps". They need help with finding a new driver (to take their recycling items to Fredonia once a month) and a trailer to use (so Kansas PRIDE communities – if you have ideas on how to help/resources available, let us know at [PRIDE@ksu.edu](mailto:PRIDE@ksu.edu))

They also put out a newsletter every month. Every month!!! They gave me a copy of their last newsletter. It was great – full of good information. They send out to 500 area citizens! They also maintain the [www.elkcityks.com](http://www.elkcityks.com)

Elk City is now gearing up for their holiday season. They have a community-wide dinner and ask all who come to bring either a toy, a hat/gloves/scarf or money to a group (many of who are in PRIDE) and they then use a list the group and community help build that lists all the children under 13 years of age in the area. It started when one of

the volunteer firemen came across a little one crying on his front porch, and the fire fighter asked him why he was crying on Christmas Day. The child told him Santa didn't bring him anything (this was a few years ago when the economy was really bad and folks had lost their jobs, etc...).

On December 17th the old fire engine will pull a sleigh with Santa in it and it travels up and down the streets in Elk City and Santa delivers a wrapped gift (age appropriate toy) and a hat/gloves/scarf set to all the children in town (under 13). For those outside of town in the countryside they are asked to bring their kids to a certain location and Santa meets them there and presents them all with the same gifts.

This event happens along WITH a whole different event held in December – which is when they have a Christmas parade and Santa is at that parade, too, handing out a sack of candy. They do the holidays up right in Elk City!!!

What an undertaking!!! This is done all with donations!!!! This town is such a caring close-knit community, it just warmed my heart! What joy for those kids! What a town!!! What a PRIDE Program! – **Barbara Anderson, Regional Project Manager for the Kansas Department of Commerce**  
[banderson@kansascommerce.com](mailto:banderson@kansascommerce.com)

If your community is interested in a visit, do not hesitate to contact us at [PRIDE@ksu.edu](mailto:PRIDE@ksu.edu) and we can get one arranged in whatever capacity you might be interested, ranging from a social visit to a strategic planning session, we are happy to help! –**Jaime Menon, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE Program Manager** [jmenon@ksu.edu](mailto:jmenon@ksu.edu)

## Opportunities

**The Kansas Humanities Council** has some grant opportunities available! Projects eligible for humanities grant support include a series of public programs specific to a humanities theme, museum exhibitions, film and book discussions, the creation of short documentary films, full-length film documentaries, media projects, and other creative activities

[kansashumanities.org/kansas-grants/humanities-grants](http://kansashumanities.org/kansas-grants/humanities-grants)

**Kansas Recreation and Park Association** will be hosting education workshops such as these in 2016! Visit their website to learn more about KRPA and the opportunities they have to offer!

<https://krpa.wildapricot.org/>

The **Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission (CAIC)** is focused on the creative industries sector of the Kansas economy. The Commission is dedicated to measuring, promoting, supporting and expanding the creative industries to grow the state's economy and create creative industry-related jobs. Keep your eyes out for the upcoming 2016 application dates!

<http://www.kansascommerce.com/caic>

**Kansas Correctional Industries** offers many different services that could benefit your 501(c)(3) community! They offer permanent grill surfaces for your city parks, plastic ADA signs, name plates, and much, much more!

<http://kancorind.com/shop/>

## Thanks for Sharing – Fall Festivals

Kansas PRIDE communities put in many hours of hard work and planning throughout the year. It only seems fitting that they celebrate all of their accomplishments. We had the pleasure of helping eight communities promote Halloween and Fall Festivals between September and November, and we also received photos after the celebrations were held.

- Nelson's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch outside of Olsburg provided autumn activities to families on the weekends from September 26 to November 1, and Lenora PRIDE held a town-wide scarecrow-building contest.
- Riley PRIDE held their Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3rd. They hosted a 5K, Car Show, Poker Walk and Parade.
- Dover PRIDE also held a festival on October 24 that included a 5K, barbeque, silent auction, a "Sweetest Baker Contest," kid's games and a hayrack ride.

- Perry and Lecompton both held "Spook-tacular" events! Lecompton hosted "Asylum", a haunted house experience, at the Lecompton High School for two weekends, and Perry held their Haunted Maze in the Perry American Legion on Halloween night.
- Glasco PRIDE held their annual community celebration, Glasco Fun Day, on October 3. Activities at the city park featured, among other things, a pedal tractor pull for children and a horseshoe tournament for adults, as well a lovely parade!
- Rooks County Economic Development shared information regarding the Fall Fest held by the Plainville Recreation Commission on October 25 at the City Park in Plainville. They had fun activities for the kids, and chili supper.

What better way to celebrate all of the hard work done, than with community celebrations, and great family fun? We enjoyed seeing the photos, and are proud of all of your accomplishments! We look forward to more photos, as well as information regarding the winter celebrations! – *Billie Chesney, Student Office Professional, KSRE Community Vitality*

## Events Calendar

**December 4** – Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Annual Meeting, Kansas Gas Service, Overland Park, KS

**January 1** – Enrollment Begins

**January 15** – Quarterly Reports Due

**February 15** – Capital Award, Community Partner Nomination Applications Due

**February 15** – Growth and Action, Partner in PRIDE Applications Due

**May 22-28** – Save the Date - Week of PRIDE