Greetings, Kansas PRIDE Communities!
I do hope that your summer is going well! I have some really big news to share!

As many of you know, for the past 5 years I have been serving Kansas PRIDE Communities through K-State Research and Extension throughout the state, and I have been the beneficiary of much support through my fellow K-State Research and Extension colleagues and our Kansas Department of Commerce Regional Project Managers. And now, comes a change.

Even if change is scary, there are many positives to change. Change means progress in one way or another. Progress in this case means that we have a new Kansas PRIDE Program Coordinator. Co-Coordinator that is!

Mr. Jan Steen, formerly of Reno County Extension, has joined the Kansas PRIDE support team! Jan and I will be working together to coordinate Kansas PRIDE. I have worked with Jan for many years, and I am elated that Kansas PRIDE Communities will be the new beneficiary of his talents. Welcome to Kansas PRIDE Jan! – Jaime Menon

Hello everyone! My name is Jan Steen, and I’m excited to be joining the K-State Research & Extension Community Vitality/Kansas PRIDE team as a program co-coordinator. For the past five years I’ve been the community development and technology Extension agent and director in Reno County. While there, I had the pleasure of working with communities, schools, and entrepreneurs, as well as teaching individuals how to use all types of technology. Prior to working in Extension, my careers have all involved education and technology to some degree – technology director for the Conway Springs school district, Braille transcriber, and managed services supervisor for a multi-state technology company.

I’m a Kansas native, and graduate of Cowley College and Southwestern College, currently living on a small farm just outside of Arlington, KS with my wife and our three children: Maddy, 17, Harris, 15, and Lucy, 9. Between community events and school activities, there’s always something to keep us involved. Most of my time has...
been spent living and working in the South Central part of the state – Wichita, Viola, Conway Springs, Hutchinson - and I love exploring the rest of Kansas, checking out the restaurants, shops, parks, and celebrations. There’s so much to do here! One of my goals is to visit every town in the state at least once.

Aside from road trips, I have other hobbies when there’s free time to be had: cooking – I’m usually outside smoking a brisket or some ribs, or indoors trying to recreate a Czech dish from my childhood; genealogy – my family is not large, so I wanted to learn more about those before me and what prompted them to settle in Wilson, Holyrood, Alden, and Hutchinson.

I’m very much looking forward to visiting even more communities across the state, meeting many of you, and providing any assistance and information that I can. Feel free to contact me at any time at jmsteen@ksu.edu. See you soon! – Jan Steen, Kansas PRIDE Program Co-Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension

Week of PRIDE in Glasco

Figure 2: Glasco hosts a Stained Glass Tour that I highly recommend, and features two churches with WCTU windows, like the one featured here - Jaime

Quick forward note: In case your community has done a Week of PRIDE project and has yet to report, please CLICK HERE to report your impact. THANK YOU!

The Week of PRIDE designated by the Governor’s Office is May 21-27, 2017. PRIDE communities throughout the state harness volunteer power to make an impact locally during this time. Special projects are targeted and reported to Kansas PRIDE.

Glasco Chamber Pride is taking Week of PRIDE to report on current positive work in the community and to review on-going projects.

The private investment by businesses on Main Street can be seen right now in the re-pointing of the brick façade at Martin Electric and in the re-configuration of the former Bonham Auto Repair building. These investments follow years of Glasco Pride support for preserving Main Street buildings, with volunteer work and PRIDE funding.

The Glasco Pub is celebrating one year as a non-profit volunteer collaboration to provide a community café. A year ago this effort was recognized as a Glasco Week of PRIDE community project. The Glasco Pub is working to succeed as an economic success.

There are other on-going efforts to acknowledge. The Fun Day Committee works year round to create a fresh October festival each year. They have developed fund raising activities that have become new events in themselves.

Preparing for alumni over Memorial Weekend engages the Senior Citizens Center, the Glasco Historical Society and Museum, and the Glasco Community Foundation. All share in welcoming alumni home.

The Third Saturday Coffeehouse is a new tradition built around the Fisher Creek String Band and their desire to stir action on Main Street, in particular to restore the Dream Theatre. The monthly Saturday afternoon coffeehouse is a forum for naming new goals, while enjoying a variety of music.

The weekly Farmers Market reflects 14 years of year-round access to baked goods, jellies, eggs and produce in season. Many vendors have made an effort to bring food to Glasco. This volunteer effort is a good addition.
to the groceries now available at Hodge Podge and meat at the Glasco Locker Plant. They are valuable and unique businesses in Glasco.

Throughout this Week of PRIDE reflection, you see volunteer involvement and businesses working toward the same goal: a viable, sustainable community.- Joan Nothern, Glasco PRIDE

Grant and Recognition Opportunities

The Growth and Action Grants are available for a second round for Communities of Growth and Communities of Action. These are limited to 5 awards (due August 15) and are extremely competitive so apply as soon as you can. The awards are for $200 each. The link will be live soon!

Suggestions to apply:

How about beautification? Park City PRIDE purchased flowers and tubing for a Butterfly Garden. Beauty and function!

Or Community Signs! One award will pay for one sign! Just a thought.

August 15 is also the deadline for eligible Communities of Excellence to apply for Partners in PRIDE Grant Funding.

Also, just a reminder, if your community is currently designated a Community of Action and your community is in good standing with Kansas PRIDE, your community should consider applying to become a Community of Excellence! The application can be found on our website (CLICK HERE to go to the site), and will be emailed out later this month. Applications are due October 15, 2017.

Also, if your community is designated a 2015-2017 Community of Excellence it is time to resubmit an application to keep your status as Community of Excellence.

Community of Excellence are eligible to apply for Partners in PRIDE grants.

Questions? Contact us at PRIDE@ksu.edu.

Communities must be in good standing (enrolled, resolution submitted, reporting up to date) to be eligible for awards. Have questions, don’t hesitate to contact us at PRIDE@ksu.edu or at 785.532.5840 --Jaime Menon, Kansas PRIDE Co-Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension jmenon@ksu.edu

Events Calendar

Quarterly Report Dates:

April 15th

July 15th

October 15th

January 15

Award Dates:

Like us of Facebook
August 15 (for Growth and Action and PIP)

October 15 – Community of Excellence Applications Due