



Jocelyn Clemons

Two Worlds – Beauty Queen to Computer Tech

Jocelyn Clemons doesn't like to wear heels or makeup, but she does enjoy a challenge. Clemons entered her first scholarship pageant and was crowned K-State's Miss Black and Gold on Dec. 2, 2012. The pageant is sponsored by the Kappa Tau chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

"I declined to enter the pageant several years ago but decided to step out of my comfort zone and give it a try," Clemons said. "The experience has helped me be more confident. I would encourage other students to learn to be comfortable not being comfortable."

She came to K-State from Austin, Texas, as a 2009 Multicultural Academic Program Success (MAPS) participant and has been involved with Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), serving a year as president; a Cargill Project Impact Scholar; an American Royal Scholar; and was the first minority to serve on the national Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Student Advisory Board.

"My personal goal is to encourage more minorities to attend AFA

Allison Diederich, freshman in animal science, Jocelyn Clemons, senior in agricultural technology management, and Egypt Edwards, sophomore in agronomy, at the K-State Miss Black and Gold pageant.

conferences and to apply for scholarships," Clemons stated.

Her choice of major shows that Clemons is not afraid of expanding her horizons.

Clemons, a senior in agricultural technology management, came to K-State with no knowledge of agriculture.

She praised her adviser John Slocombe, professor of biological and agricultural engineering.

"Dr. Slocombe encouraged me to be the treasurer for the K-State Robotics Team and to take computer classes that interested me," Clemons said. "He's a great instructor and very helpful."

Zelia Wiley, College of Agriculture assistant dean for diversity and MANRRS adviser, also has been a positive influence.

Clemons has worked in the college's Diversity Programs Office, and she is helping Wiley teach an online class this semester. She will graduate in May and has accepted a job as an IT associate with Cargill Meat Solutions.

Cargill recently made a gift of \$1.2 million to renew its support of the Cargill Project Impact Diversity partnership at K-State. Through this program, K-State works to recruit and retain qualified multicultural students in the colleges of Agriculture, Business Administration, and Engineering. The program was introduced in 2008 through a \$1 million Cargill contribution.

Since its introduction, K-State has experienced a 68 percent increase in multicultural student enrollment in the target disciplines, and an 87 percent overall first-to-second year retention rate for Cargill Project Impact scholars compared to 70 percent for all multicultural students.

"Cargill is proud to continue supporting K-State's Project Impact," said Rick Calhoun, president of Cargill's cargo carriers business. "We recognize how important this program is in building and strengthening the diversity at K-State. This is vital for the future of the students, the university and for businesses, like Cargill that value diversity."



Photo courtesy of the Diversity Programs Office