



## June 2009 Update

- The Kansas Bioscience Authority has committed \$4 million in funding for fiscal year 2010 for the Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design. The Innovation Center is a public and private collaboration between Kansas Wheat, Kansas State University, the University of Kansas and many private investors. The Center will conduct research on wheat, sorghum and native plants related to specific market needs in the areas of human and animal health and nutrition and biofuels/biomaterials. The Center also will work to commercialize these discoveries. An additional \$16 million in funding is targeted to the Center for the next four years.
- The Power Up Kid's 4-H Club of Council Grove was tapped by the National 4-H Conference recently to share its expertise and train 60 other teen leaders. During the past four years, teen leaders in the club have provided afterschool programming for about 60 elementary school children during each school year and community activities for youth and their families. The club's work is part of the Kansas Teen Leadership for Physically Active Lifestyles, a program addressing the issue of overweight youth in three rural communities. The program promotes physical activity through technical assistance, community development, mobilization and teen-led programs.
- The Kansas Forest Service's Fire Management Staff conducted a class for the Pottawatomie and Kickapoo tribal fire departments in April. These departments wanted to prepare their staffs for local wildland firefighting and for national wildfire fighting assignments. The participants became eligible for a "red card," a nationally recognized incident qualification for wildfire fighting assignments. This is the first time that the Kansas Forest Service has trained tribal agencies in fire management and qualified tribal students for national fire emergencies.
- John Leslie, professor and department head of plant pathology, has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society, an exclusive status restricted to 0.25% of the membership of the Society. A prolific author and involved Society member, Leslie's research has concentrated on biochemical, molecular, and population genetics of model and plant pathogenic fungi.
- K-State Research and Extension is a member of the consortium Change Agent States for Diversity (CAS). Through this national Cooperative Extension Service initiative, K-State partners with 17 other land-grant universities. CAS is focused on building the capacity of the land-grant system so that it functions inclusively and effectively in a multicultural world. In addition, the initiative is implementing a vision to support thriving and culturally diverse communities. In 2008, K-State Research and Extension employees were surveyed to assess our cultural climate. Currently, a CAS Catalyst Team, representing all levels, subject matters and geographic regions of our system, is working to address diversity needs in our workforce and for Kansas audiences.