



GOOD NEWS

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KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY SELECTS FELTON HUGGINS AS ITS NEXT HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Kentucky State University announced February 20 that a search committee selected Felton Huggins as the University's next head football coach. Huggins comes to Kentucky State after spending the past year as the assistant coach of wide receivers at NCAA DI school McNeese State University.

"Several qualified candidates were interested in becoming the next head football coach at KSU. Still, none of them had the depth of experience, energy, knowledge and the ability to connect with our student-athletes like Huggins," said KSU athletic director Ramon Johnson. "I'm confident that his knowledge of our conference and the current football landscape will make our program highly competitive while helping our student-athletics lead with high character."

Prior to McNeese State, he served as the offensive coordinator and inside wide receivers coach at Charleston Southern University in 2019. He arrived at Charleston Southern after six years at LaGrange College in Georgia, where he was the associate head coach, offensive coordinator, quarterbacks coach and academic coordinator.

In his first season calling plays for Charleston Southern, Huggins put numerous student-athletes in the top 100 in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in multiple offensive categories, including pass efficiency, passing touchdowns, passing yards, points, receiving touchdowns, scoring and yards per attempt. In addition, wide receiver Kameron Brown set the Charleston Southern single-season receiving touchdown record (10), while the Bucs posted the second-most first downs per game in Charleston Southern history (20.1).

Charleston State posted a trio of All-Big South Second Team selections (Kameron Brown-WR, Zack Evans-OL, Stephen Haralambis-OL) as the Bucs recorded the third-most total offensive yards in a CSU single season (4,341). Additionally, a CSU record 21 different receivers caught passes in the 2019 season as well, with five different receivers hauling in at least 20 catches.

Huggins' offenses at LaGrange were often among the best in the USA South conference. In his six years with the team, the Panthers ranked top five in the conference in the total offense all but one year and finished as high as second in 2017 when they averaged 408.6 yards per game.

During the 2013 season, the Panthers' receivers broke or tied all of the team's receiving records. Sophomore Marsalis Jackson was named the USA South Offensive Rookie of the Year after setting school records of 902 receiving yards and 12 touchdown receptions. Freshman Ervens Oge (713) and junior Griffin Roelle (675) also broke the previous season's record for receiving yards in a season (450).

In 2014, Huggins saw senior receiver Griffin Roelle earn USA South All-Conference honors. Rolle broke his own single season record with 67 pass receptions and graduated as the Panthers' leading receiver with 126 receptions.

Huggins played collegiately at Southeastern Louisiana University. He started for three years and finished his collegiate career as the career leader in receptions (162) and receiving yards (2,350). He still holds school records for catches in a season (84) and receiving yards in a season (1,313). In addition, Huggins is tied for the most catches in a game (13) and has the single game receiving yards record of 266. He received third-team All-America, and All-Conference honors his junior and senior years.

Huggins made his collegiate debut at Grambling State University, where numerous family members attended.

Huggins played six seasons of professional football between the Jacksonville Jaguars, Frankfurt Galaxy, Buffalo Bills and Montreal Alouettes.

"First and foremost, I want to thank my lord and savior, Jesus Christ, because none of this would be possible without him. Words can't describe how excited I am for this opportunity to lead KSU football into this next phase. My journey to this point has not always been easy, but my journey molded me for this moment. I'm ready to pour my all into our players, school and community and bring a championship back to KSU," said Huggins.

"What I am looking to bring to this program is to foster a culture of developing high-character individuals and leaders in the community, in the classroom, and on the playing field through our core values. The foundation of our core values will be based on faith, family, football and fun."

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY AWARDED GRANT FOR FUTUREBRED FORUMS

Kentucky State University announced Feb. 22 that it received a grant from the national non-profit VentureWell to develop a discussion series to introduce first-year students to mentors, innovators, and successful entrepreneurs in their intended fields of study.

The \$14,000 Course and Program Grant from VentureWell will be matched with additional funds from KSU to enhance the development of the university's proposal, titled "KSU FutureBred Forums: Stimulating Freshman Entrepreneurship," from February 2023 through August 2024.

Kentucky State, along with 27 other institutions from across the country, was selected for the grant and is one of only three institutions chosen from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including the University of Kentucky and Northern Kentucky University.

"We are encouraged by VentureWell's recognition of our commitment to empower students with the experiences that will help propel their career, personal, and community success," said Dr. Ronald A. Johnson, Kentucky State interim president. "Dr. Chinonso Etumnu, Dr. Kirk Pomper, and their team at KSU are to be commended for stepping forward with their grant-winning proposal."

The grant allows for further development of KSU 186: Navigating the Technological World, a course already required for all Kentucky

State first-year students. An essential part of the revised course will be FutureBred Forums, a series of discussions aimed at stimulating the interests of the freshman class in science and technology in support of an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem on campus and in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

"KSU 186 impacts the career trajectory of the 400 students who take the course each year. The FutureBred Forums will expose students to the technological world and the importance of human-centered design from leaders and experts in different fields and will help create a more robust ecosystem for inclusive innovation, entrepreneurship, and social impact in support of Kentucky's burgeoning innovation economy," said Dr. Kirk Pomper, dean of the College of Agriculture, Community, and the Sciences and director of the Land Grant Program.

FutureBred Forum leaders will also share with students their insights on the new trends and opportunities that are shaping the future of their respective fields. Each Forum in the series will be presented by the KSU College of Agriculture, Community, and Sciences, in collaboration with the KSU Office of the President.

"The FutureBred Forums represent the first step in a broader effort to energize innovation and entrepreneurial activities across the university by connecting with public and private partners for the benefit of our students and our community," said Dr. Johnson. "The Forums are an essential part of our overall strategy to restore, realign, and reignite an intended future for KSU."



PHYSICS PROFESSOR AND SENIOR BIOLOGY MAJOR PUBLISH JOINT RESEARCH

Dr. Dharma Khatiwada, assistant professor of physics at Kentucky State University, and Miana Wallace, Miss Kentucky State 2022-2023, recently published a joint research article titled, "Testing Doses and Treatment Timelines of Anti-Angiogenic Drug Bevacizumab Numerically as a Single-Agent for the Treatment of Ovarian Cancer" in the peer-reviewed journal Land, Jan. 10, 2023. The research was performed as part of the National Science Foundation-HBCU-Undergraduate Program grant Kentucky State received in 2020.

Wallace, a senior biology major and STEM research assistant, started working on the project in January 2022. She chose ovarian cancer for her research because of her interest in the health field.

"Ovarian cancer is the most dominant gynecological cancer disease that remains mostly undetected for a long progression period," Wallace shared. "This research was important to me because it could help a lot of women and provide insight on an alternative treatment option for ovarian cancer that isn't as detrimental as chemotherapy."

Wallace collected most of the background information related to ovarian cancer, mainly in the vicinity of causes, diagnosis, and treatment options. She also made a worthy contribution in writing the introduction and methodology sections.

"I feel very excited and proud to be published because it was one of the goals I set for myself as a freshman."

The Kansas City, Missouri native says she is looking forward to working on other research projects.

in the U.S. and Jamaica" and "Use of Geospatial Analyses and Visualization Technologies to Aid Community Intelligence in Post-Disaster Resource Assessment and Planning: A project engaging U.S. and Caribbean faculty and students." The projects are funded by the 1890 Center of Excellence for Global Food Security and Defense.

The major goal of the projects is to create opportunities for Kentucky State students for experiential learning and research in the field of post-disaster management and study of impacts of climate change on local communities and coastal agricultural food systems using geospatial technologies.

For the first trip as part of the projects, five students and four faculty and research staff traveled to Port Antonio, Jamaica, from January 27 to February 2. The five students were paired with seven CASE students for ongoing collaborative research projects involving geospatial information system (GIS) research and disaster relief and recovery.

"I was interested in going on this trip to help further my research, understand how disasters affect other places and experience different cultures," said student Gerail Pickett.

Students collected coastal land change and agricultural production data using UAV-drones. They also used Survey 123 app to collect location information and created maps. These locational data will be integrated with other geospatial data such as land cover change, temperature and precipitation, slope, farmland, and hurricane path and flood maps.

"I felt that this was a great learning experience as I not only learned and experienced the culture of Jamaica, but I even had an opportunity to network with like-minded aspiring scientists and professionals alike," said student Malik Thompson. "It is a blessing to say that research got me to Jamaica."

Students were able to do sightseeing as well as research, visiting the Folly Ruins, riding a boat into the Caribbean Sea, and exploring the Portland parish.

"The most rewarding part was interacting with the locals and gaining a better understanding of the significance the land has to them," said student Jada Jones, whose project includes mapping the road networks of a particular parish to determine the distances between cities or town and their farms.

Research assistant Tara Maynard said bonding with the students and experiencing Jamaican culture with them was an important part of the trip.

"As we travel to another culture it is always important to be respectful, courteous, and kind, and that is exactly what I saw from our students," Maynard said. "Almost every time we went out, we were talking with locals, heard their stories, learned, and grew from the experience."

In the future, the projects will take Kentucky State personnel to Dominica and Costa Rica, as well as a return trip to Jamaica.



KENTUCKY STATE PERSONNEL TRAVEL TO JAMAICA FOR RESEARCH, COLLABORATION

Kentucky State University faculty, research staff and students went to Jamaica to collect data and work with College of Agriculture, Science, and Education (CASE) personnel on research and learning projects.

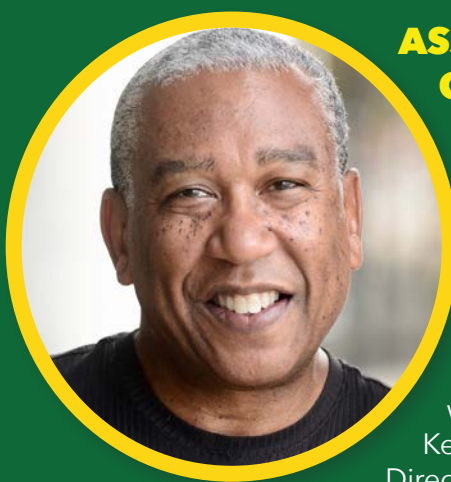
The trip was part of two international collaborative projects led by Dr. Buddhi Gyawali, titled "Integrating Geospatial Tools in Food Security Education and Research Involving Faculty and Students

PROMISING YOUTH CENTER AWARDED \$881,000 GRANT FOR AFTERSCHOOL MENTORING PROGRAM

The Kentucky State University Promising Youth Center for Excellence received a \$881,000 grant to provide afterschool mentoring for 100 African-American, Hispanic, and Biracial middle school males and females in grades 6-8th. The program will include one-to-one and group mentoring, a six-week summer institute, and activities to promote positive youth development and family engagement.

Applications are currently being accepted from parents who are interested in enrolling their child in the program. Schools will transport children after school to the Center. The program is offered at no cost to parents.

Contact Dr. Herman E. Walston, program lead, at 502.597.5906 for more information, or pick up an application at the Promising Youth Center for Excellence.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC JOINS KENTUCKY HUMANITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Associate Professor of music Dr. Keith McCutchen was elected to serve on the Kentucky Humanities Board of Directors.

According to a press release by the non-profit Kentucky corporation, McCutchen will help set policies, award project grants to community organizations, and participate in fundraising to help meet the growing demand for Kentucky Humanities' programs during his term on the 23-person volunteer board.