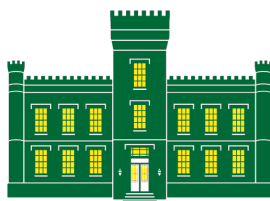




GOOD NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024

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**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**

KSU Announces \$7 Million National Science Foundation Grant

KSU has received a historic \$7 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for its "Driving AgTech Research and Education in Kentucky (DARE-KY)" project. This is the largest stand-alone federal award in the University's history.

The DARE-KY project will create a research incubator focused on advancing soilless agriculture through collaborations with Bluegrass Community and Technical College, University of Pikeville, Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation, and FoodChain Inc. The project will address nutrient management, food safety, and sustainability in soilless systems.

Launching of KYSU Online

We're excited to announce the official launch of KYSU Online, where high-quality education meets flexibility. KYSU Online's expert faculty, trained through programs like ACUE, are dedicated to providing engaging and relevant content.

The new online platform features an asynchronous learning model, allowing students to balance both their studies and busy lives.



KSU partnered with STEM Summer Program

A big thank you to CHI Saint Joseph Health, the More in Common Alliance, and Morehouse School of Medicine to launch the More in Common

STEM and Health Careers Summer Academy. KSU was thrilled to host this incredible program and encourage high school and middle school students to explore STEM and health careers. Congratulations to all the students for their hard work. Here's to a future full of possibilities.

KSU Student Named a 2024 HBCU Scholar with the White House Initiative on HBCUs



Joshua Claybrooks, a junior majoring in mathematics, has been named a 2024 HBCU Scholar by the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This honor recognizes his academic excellence, leadership, and community commitment. As an HBCU Scholar, Claybrooks represents KSU and HBCU students, engaging in professional

development and networking opportunities. Throughout the year, HBCU Scholars will participate in monthly master classes, workshops, leadership programs, and networking events to boost their professional development and post-graduation opportunities. They will connect with industry leaders, policymakers, and alumni to enrich their collegiate experience. As a math education major, Claybrooks is particularly excited about engaging with U.S. Department of Education officials and NASA to help shape the future of education.



Appointment of Dean of the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources

KSU announced the appointment of Dr. Marcus Bernard as the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Health Sciences, and Natural Resources and Director of Land Grant Programs at KSU. Dr. Bernard earned his BS and MS in Agricultural Economics from North Carolina A&T State University and Ph.D. in Rural and Medical Sociology from the University of Kentucky. He embodies KSU's mission to be a student-ready and student-first institution. Dr. Bernard brings a wealth of experience, a deep passion for agriculture, and a commitment to advancing the field in all 120 Kentucky counties by supporting rural, small, and minority farmers through vital assistance and training.

Inspiring Student Engagement and Community Impact



If you ask Aury Rios-Alcantara, a senior majoring in agriculture with a focus on business, why she decided to remain on KSU's campus this summer, she would tell you about her commitment to

the Promising Youth Center for Excellence on KSU's campus. This camp provides, school-aged children with amazing opportunities, such as field trips to the Cincinnati Zoo. Rios-Alcantara's dedication to service has strengthened her connections with faculty and staff and shaped her vision for a more supportive and inclusive campus environment.



KSU and the Appalachian Renewal Project (ARP) Renew Partnership

On August 21st, Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo, President of KSU, and Clifford Smith, CEO of the Appalachian Renewal Project (ARP), signed a renewed memorandum of understanding (MOU) to continue their collaboration on research and education related to mining and ecosystem restoration. Since their initial MOU in 2021, KSU and ARP have partnered on studying reclaimed mine lands in Appalachia, with KSU students and staff collecting data on vegetation, soil, and water quality. This research informs long-term studies on environmental stewardship and climate change.

Dr. Buddhi Gyawali noted the MOU's benefits for both graduate and local high school students, with ARP property serving as a key research and learning lab. The expanded MOU includes plans for a new laboratory in Martin County with real-time weather monitoring and research on soil and vegetation. It also aims to boost recruitment and outreach in Eastern Kentucky.



2024 Summer Apprenticeship Program (SAP) Concludes Successfully

KSU hosted its annual, three-week residential camp, the Summer Apprenticeship Program (SAP). This camp prepared rising junior and senior high school students for college, STEM research, and STEM career pathways and concluded with student project presentations that exhibited their gained knowledge from their apprenticeships. SAP provided students with college-level instruction through experiences with faculty, scientists, researchers, and technical professionals along with fun-filled activities. Each student was also assigned a mentor who guided them through their project of interest.

