

May 18, 2010

tax base, etc. Why is this happening? How?

they can be replicated?

There are many organizations and groups in Kansas addressing the continuation, development, re-development and vibrancy of small towns and rural and frontier communities. The emphasis is often on the economic vitality of the towns, retaining the younger people and growing community leaders. What is missing is a clear emphasis and recognition of older adults as community members, current and developing leaders. The conference (1) linked groups with similar interests and (2) highlighted the contributions and leadership of older adults as a cross cutting issue. It is hard to imagine a successful small community where people want to live absent the engagement and wisdom of older community residents.

The conference opened on Thursday evening, March 25, with registration, refreshments and a lecture by Dr. Wes Jackson, President of the Land Institute, Salina, Kansas. Dr. Jackson, one of the most prominent agricultural

lection on the

The Friday sessions were: Rebuilding the Town Square; Tools Required Technology and Telecommunications; Follow the Money!; Thriving Small Towns What is their secret?; Thriving in your Community.

The conference was attended by more than 80 people and the evaluations were

Discussions have begun on the possibility of developing a third conference in fall of 2011.

history should be recognized and the future planned through the establishment of a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations.

The signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding was held on April 7, 2010, at Larksfield Place and was attended by more than 125 people including reporters and camera crews from the three local television stations. The ceremony was also reported in the Wichita Eagle.

find methods to support and assist the direct care work force to stay on the job and do it as well as possible. Everyone will benefit: the direct care worker (and her family), the facility and, most importantly, the residents.

The aims of the project are:

1. Investigate the relationships of interpersonal issues/life management issues (e.g. financial management, child rearing, single parenting) and employment.
2. Gain an understanding of how individual interpersonal/life management factors influence job retention.
3. Develop an online training program (using the WSU Training and Technology Team, or T3, platform) addressing the areas of most concern to the direct care work force.
4. Assess the usability and acceptability of the online training program.
5. Provide research experience and skills to undergraduate public health students.

The research team submitted an Academic Research and Enhancement Award (AREA or R15) to the National Institutes of Health on February 25, 2010. During the summer of 2010, other sources of support for this study will be investigated.

Bioengineering Research Forecast Work Group

The goal is to delineate the strategic direction of research work to be developed under the new bioengineering program at WSU. The members of the Work Group are: Drs. Zulma Toro-Ramos, Jan Twomey, Michael Jorgensen, Teresa Radebaugh and Ms. Rosemary Wright. The plan is to prepare a draft paper for review by the faculty in the fall of 2010, with the final document completed by the end of 2010.

The Work Group first addressed the definition of bioengineering research to be used to guide this effort. Definitions from major research support organizations and professional societies are included and discussed (#1).

The current conceptual structure of the undergraduate bioengineering program is presented and explained. (#2) Then, using published materials, the state of the science is examined in each of the three focal areas of the bioengineering program: lifespan engineering, bioenergy, and medical devices and instrumentation. (#3) The purpose is to assess the state of the science: Where are the gaps? What are the important looming questions?

Next, a catalogue of funded or submitted projects that are bioengineering in emphasis (according to our definition) or are related or supportive of bioengineering research will be assembled. (#4) This catalogue serves as the backdrop of expertise from which new bioengineering research efforts may draw and is based on data from ORA.

Finally, based upon an examination of the state of the science information (#3) and the university capabilities and interests as catalogued in #4, recommendations will be made on the research areas to be pursued. Therefore, #5 is a statement of the intersection of what needs to be done and what we, at WSU, can do.

Falling Less in Kansas (Falling LinKS)

From the Academic Research Enhancement Award, R15, application submitted September 2009 (and not funded):

Falling Less in Kansas (Falling LinKS) addresses an important gap in our

Ashley Archiopoli, Melissa Granville, Bobby Rozzell, Chigozirim Utah, and Katie Sue Williams.

The project is now entering the final stages of toolkit construction. A draft toolkit was developed and submitted for comment to focus groups in Harvey County. Revisions are now underway based on those focus groups.

The project was initially slated to end on May 15, 2010, but has been extended to October 1, 2010. During the no-cost extension, additional design work will be