



KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY

GOOD NEWS

APRIL 2025

Professional Development Program Held by Farm Credit Mid-America



Seven students attended the Farm Credit Mid-America Success Program for MANRRS Leaders, impressing attendees with their professionalism and engagement. Held in Louisville, KY, the two-day event brought together students from KSU, University of Kentucky, Tennessee State University, and Purdue for workshops, networking, and insights. Participants included Alecia Daniels, Sienna Stewart, Jade McCargo, Eric Taylor, Jaiya McCargo, Jasin Burnam, and Javan Crute, supported by faculty Kristel Smith and Darius Adamson.

Historic Agreement Signed Between KSU and Injibara University

KSU welcomed Ethiopian university representatives to explore collaborative opportunities. Guests included Injibara University (INU) President Dr. Gardachew Worku Fekadu, INU Academic Vice President Dr. Aemiro Tadesse Tiku, and Dambi Dollo University's Dr. Delessa Bulcha Neger. KSU and INU signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to foster academic exchanges, research, and partnerships in fields like aquaculture, education, and business.

Inaugural HBCU National Indoor Track and Field Championship

At the inaugural HBCU National Indoor Track and Field Championship, Kentucky State's women's team won the small school title, and the men's team placed second. The Thoroughbreds earned multiple individual titles, relay victories, and recorded 11 personal bests throughout the competition.



KSU Team to Compete in the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge



KSU's Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) Team qualified for the National Championship Tournament in Torrance, California. The annual trivia competition highlights HBCU academic excellence. KSU will be represented by Ciara Robinson, senior political science/criminal justice major; Mylah Smith, senior nursing major; Debrianna Smith, sophomore nursing major; and De'Aira Watts, junior agriculture major.

KSU Welcomes Dr. Nyrée McDonald



KSU is excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Nyrée McDonald as the new Vice Provost of Academic Affairs. Dr. McDonald most recently served as the Associate Dean for Graduate Enrollment at the University of Notre Dame, where she played a pivotal

role in shaping the graduate admissions process and enhancing the experiences of the graduate student body. Dr. McDonald earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Tuskegee University and a Master of Science in Environmental Quality Engineering from the University of Alaska. Additionally, she pursued further studies and earned both her Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

We are excited to see the remarkable impact Dr. McDonald will undoubtedly have across the University and the Commonwealth.

Pawpaw Study Takes Second Place at SRASHS Annual Meeting



At the 2025 Southern Region American Society for Horticultural Science (SRASHS) meeting in Irving, Texas, KSU graduate students and faculty presented pawpaw research. Subas Thapa Magar earned second place in the “3 Minute Thesis” competition for his work on pawpaw pollinators. Kshitij Shahi presented on shelf-life extension, and Dr. Kirk Pomper discussed production advancements. Dr. Srijana Thapa Magar shared insights on ethnic vegetables in Kentucky. KSU’s participation reflects its commitment to sustainable agriculture and research excellence.

Grand Reopening of Bert T. Combs Hall

KSU completed its renovation of Bert T. Combs Hall, marking the first step in broader efforts to improve campus housing. The renovated residence hall features upgraded bathrooms, redesigned laundry rooms, new kitchen and reception areas, and ADA-compliant walkways. In partnership with Schmidt Associates, CMTA, KPFF, Element Design, and Devere Construction, the redesign prioritizes durability, sustainability, and student well-being.



Annual Legislative Fish Fry



Kentucky legislators, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members gathered for the annual Legislative Fish Fry, celebrating Kentucky’s elected officials and highlighting KSU’s programs and achievements. The event featured a southern-inspired menu crafted by James Beard Award semifinalist, Chef Isaiah Screetch, with locally sourced ingredients supporting Kentucky’s small aquaculture and agricultural producers.

“KSU is leading for impact both on and off campus. This event offered just a glimpse of the many innovative programs and advancements happening here every day,” said President Akakpo.