



** This news release from K-State Research and Extension is available online at <https://ksre-learn.com/karl-names-newest-class>

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Released: June 7, 2024

Popular Kansas ag leadership program announces newest class

KARL celebrates graduates, then eyes next two-year cohort

K-State Research and Extension news service

MANHATTAN, Kan. – A program that develops leaders for agriculture, business and rural communities recently celebrated its newest graduates at the same time it announced the next class of participants.

Jill Zimmerman, president of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program, said 30 individuals of Class XVI celebrated the class's success and KARL completion. She said the ceremony represents a transition from Associates to Fellows, joining nearly 480 Fellows, or program alumni.

"These Kansas change-makers are connected for life to KARL and the extended network," Zimmerman said.

Class XVII, announced the same day, includes 30 Kansans who will start the two-year shared leadership experience later this year.

"This is an exciting time for the KARL program," Zimmerman said. "KARL identifies, prepares, and connects aspiring leaders to positively impact Kansas agriculture and rural communities, and is part of the International Association of Programs for Agriculture Leadership. KARL grows leaders who make a difference and go on to lead in agriculture, their businesses, communities and families."

Zimmerman said the early June graduation was the capstone for the current class and the kickoff event for the next cohort. This event introduces Associates, offers networking, and begins the two-year experience.

Keynote speaker Doug Griffiths, author of *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*, shared how he has dedicated his life to helping communities succeed.

“On behalf of the board, Fellows, and supporters of KARL, we offer our sincere congratulations to the Class XVI Fellows for their accomplishment and we welcome KARL Class XVII Associates into the program,” said Bill Brown, board chairman of the KARL program. “We look forward to their future work as leaders who make a difference on behalf of agriculture and rural Kansas.”

Each class experiences a two-year curriculum of 52 seminar days across the state of Kansas; a national study tour to Washington, D.C. and to the Gettysburg Leadership Experience at the historic battleground; a domestic study tour; and an international study tour.

Zimmerman said that members of Class XVII will travel to Brazil for their international study tour.

The list of KARL Class XVI Fellows (graduates), in alphabetical order by hometown, includes:

- Buhler – Jamie Boggs
- Beloit – Mark Palen
- Benton – Nathan Miller
- Dodge City – Jacob Harshberger
- Ellinwood – Wendy Hughes
- Eudora – Derick McGhee
- Girard – Kari West
- Goessel – Nicholas Peters
- Great Bend – Sara Arnberger and Regan Reif
- Hays – Danielle Kaminski and Iryna McDonald
- Hesston – Kevin Logan
- Lecompton – Jennifer Smith
- Liberal – Eli Svaty
- Longford – Mary Marsh
- Madison – Andrea Dietel and Ryan Engle
- Manhattan – Greg Doering and Adam York
- Newton – Megan Hobbs
- Pittsburg – Jeremy Johnson
- Plains – Carl Clawson
- Pretty Prairie – Travis Graber
- Randolph – Sarah Henry
- Russell – Andrea Krauss
- St. John – Christa Milton
- Waverly – Ashley Beying
- Whitewater – Luke Amend
- Wichita – Lindsey Ott

The list of KARL Class XVII Associates includes:

- Anthony - Juliana Whisman
- Baldwin City – Kaleb Horne
- Buhler – Ryan Boggs
- Cawker City – Colleen Eberle
- Cheney – Tyler Cramer
- Claflin - Courtney Schamberger
- Colby – Jenny Niblock
- Dodge City – John Starnes and Mollea Wainscott
- Goessel – Maddy Meier

- Hanover – Aubrie Schaefer
- Hiawatha - Trevor Pederson
- Inman - Nichole Gouldie
- Liberal – Jose Lara
- Manhattan – Marsha Boswell, Dena Bunnell, Edie Doane, Adam Jimison, Janae McKinney and Lauren Terry
- Minneapolis – Justine Henderson
- Oketo – Jerrod Prebyl
- Overland Park – Lucas Simmer
- Phillipsburg – Bailey Miller
- Russell – Mike Parsons
- Salina – Clinton Glaser and Paige Harding
- Sharon Springs – Lisa Schemm
- Topeka – Megan Anguiano and Ryan Gilliland.

For more information about KARL, call Zimmerman at 785-532-6300, email karl@ksu.edu or visit the KARL website at <https://karlprogram.com/>.

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The KARL program is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to developing leaders for agriculture, business and rural communities, and is a member of the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leaders (IAPAL), represented in 42 states and multiple countries.

K-State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well-being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county extension offices, experiment fields, area extension offices and regional research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus in Manhattan. For more information, visit www.ksre.ksu.edu

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