



STRATEGIC VISION

How K-State Libraries is integrating AI literacy into its strategic plan

After the launch of Kansas State University's Next-Gen Strategic Plan in 2023, the university's colleges and academic units set about developing their own strategic plans that would be individual to their needs and strengths while aligning with the university's vision.

K-State Libraries' strategic plan was released in fall 2024, and a key priority of that plan is expanding artificial intelligence (AI) literacy on campus, in the community and across the state. This work is not new to the Libraries — it began in 2022, as several librarians identified a need that would only continue to grow as AI became more sophisticated and was incorporated into more and more tools.

The librarians have hosted several events for university faculty to learn

more about AI literacy and provide an opportunity for questions and discussion. A new faculty breakfast series kicked off during the spring semester, with sessions focused either on a specific college or open across disciplines. The informal atmosphere and focus on faculty allow instructors to share relevant issues they've encountered related to AI.

Several other events were available for community members, including an AI Petting Zoo during K-State's Open House. The "petting zoo" allowed participants to explore different AI tools and experience them in action.

This October, the second annual AI and the Future Symposium was held in Hale Library. The symposium is a free, three-day event in which participants learn about recent advances in AI, how AI can

be used for educational purposes, its applications in various disciplines and some of the ethical issues surrounding AI.

There were 697 registrations for the symposium, and participants included students, faculty, staff and members of the community. The event kicked off with a keynote by Janna Hastings, an assistant professor of medical knowledge and decision support from the University of St. Gallen in Zurich.

The AI and the Future Symposium is a partnership between the modern languages, computer science and philosophy departments, the Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science, the College of Arts and Sciences, K-State Libraries and the Manhattan Public Library.



ABOVE & BEYOND

K-State Libraries honored several employees at its annual recognition ceremony in 2024.

THE AWARDS ARE FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE K-STATE LIBRARIES.



BRICE G. HOBROCK DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Carol Sevin, academic services librarian, received the Hobrock Distinguished Faculty Award. The award recognizes outstanding librarianship and superior accomplishments among K-State Libraries faculty. Sevin received the award for her creativity and ability to connect people to each other and to the information and skills they need to meet their goals.



LORI GOETSCH PROFESSIONAL STAFF AWARD

Alice Anderson, instructional designer II, received the Lori Goetsch Professional Staff Award. The award recognizes a nontenure-track professional's contributions to K-State Libraries. Anderson received the award for her work not only as an instructional designer, but in providing AI literacy education to campus and throughout the state.



SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARD

Cindy Von Elling, library assistant III, was chosen as the Support Staff of the Year. The award recognizes a support staff employee's special contribution, dedication to daily tasks and ability to work successfully across the organization. Von Elling received this award for her kindness, attention to detail and assistance finding library resources and documents.

THE MORSE SCHOLARSHIP

The \$5,000 Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Family and Community Public Policy Scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate project that encourages the development of public policy for improving the quality of family and community life. The 2024 winner was Adelaide Easter, junior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership. She used her award to work with the Kansas Local Food Fellows to develop and execute food recovery efforts for campus and the surrounding community.

THE KIRMSER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

The Kirmser Awards are made possible through a gift from the Phillip and Jeune Kirmser estate. They recognize and promote outstanding undergraduate scholarship and use of library resources. Individual grand prize winners receive \$1,500 each and group grand prize winners share a \$6,000 award. Their work is uploaded to the K-State Research Exchange. Group research category: Zachary Molitor, graduate in biological systems engineering, Caden Searcy, senior in biological systems engineering, Sydney Tumberger, senior in biological

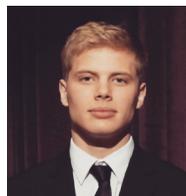
systems engineering, and Emma Worthington, senior in biological systems engineering, won for their project "EcoBrew Design Group: Collection and Implementation of Trüb into Animal Food Products." Individual nonfreshman category: Mandy Henshaw, junior in interior architecture, won for her project, "Indigenous Film: The Effect of Production Design." Caleb Stelk, junior in industrial engineering, won for his project, "Optimization Models for Flash Flooding in Developing Countries."



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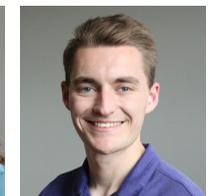
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