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A Spot Well Loved: Donations to K-State Libraries support student success

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A spot well



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY | Libraries

What is the one thing at Kansas State University that all students have in common? Using the K-State Libraries! K-State Libraries began when the property of Bluemont Central College, including a library of 2,700 volumes, became Kansas State Agricultural College in 1863. Today, the collection has grown to more than three million print and digital items.

BY: MARISA LARSON

"I am grateful for the abundant technology and general support they offer," said Katherine Knox, graduate student in accounting. "The library provides students with research tools, technology and technology assistance, and a safe place for studying and collaboration. It really helps us succeed in our education by providing useful tools that impact every single student in one way or another."

K-State Libraries wouldn't be able to help students to the level that it does without philanthropic support. Ninety percent of the Libraries' budget goes to personnel and acquisitions of print and electronic resources. Due to declining state support, the budget is getting squeezed tighter each year. This year the Libraries made the difficult decisions to close earlier at night and to cancel some journal subscriptions to save on costs — decisions that impact students' ability to succeed. But private gifts make the difference in the Libraries' ability to serve students well.

"We've used private dollars to upgrade wireless access, replace 20-year-old computer furniture and purchase collections that are beyond our budgetary resources," said Lori Goetsch, dean of K-State Libraries. "These are all important projects to support student learning and success and meet the teaching and research mission of the university."

The next big project on Goetsch's list is to renovate the first floor of Hale Library to create a state-of-the-art learning environment adjacent to library resources and expertise. The renovation will provide technology-enabled group study and presentation rooms for students and expanded teaching space to accommodate the increasing number of classes that come to the library for instruction

"KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY HAS ALWAYS HELD A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS AND LITERACY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PASSION OF OUR FAMILY. SO WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK PRESENTED ITSELF, HALE LIBRARY SEEMED LIKE AN OBVIOUS CHOICE. WE WANTED OUR GIFT TO ALLOW STUDENTS AND ATHLETES THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER IN A WARM, SAFE AND INVITING SPACE ON CAMPUS."

— KEVIN LOCKETT, K-STATE ALUMNUS, whose gift from his family's Lock-ett Up Foundation helped create classroom space on Hale Library's fourth floor. The room is used by athletes from the Academic Learning Center and for classes taught by K-State Libraries faculty.

on research skills and using library resources. Partner space will give student services such as tutoring, advising and the writing center, a place to meet students where they spend much of their time.

"We provide an essential virtual and physical place for discovery where students can learn, develop critical thinking skills, collaborate together or study in solitude," Goetsch said. "To be a top 50 public research university, we need to be a top 50 library. With your support, we can make that happen."

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