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UDP Focus: Serving Those Who Serve

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More than marketing

The College of Education expresses a breadth and depth of information through the documentaries that conventional marketing brochures can’t convey.

Burenheld said community members have approached him about the “Dawn of Day” documentary, which aired on a Topeka public television station. “They say, ‘What else do you do in the college? It’s creative, unique and lasting,’” he said.

“History is important,” said Debbie Mercer, dean of the College of Education, which is the largest teacher preparation program in Kansas. “We don’t want part of our history to be forgotten or assume that children are going to automatically know or pick up on what we think is important. We need to be very purposeful in what we share and what we teach them.”

Along with more “Walk in My Shoes” films, plans are in the works for another ambitious documentary that follows several first-year teachers in schools across Kansas. The new teachers will keep video diaries that capture their daily challenges and successes.

“A response to our documentaries has been overwhelmingly positive, and I believe that is because we are adding a new layer of importance and we are doing it thoughtfully and respectfully,” Mercer said. “Rarely is a unique talent in that within him the art and science of videography and the art and science of teaching converge.”

“The value brings big to the great community work our faculty do,” Ebel said. “They also show that we care more about our students and their personal stories than trying to pull people in. And the end result is, we pull people in because we show that we care about our people.”

NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising
calls the K-State College of Education home. The organization supports advising professionals at K-State and around the world. It also seeks to foster collaborative research between faculty and primary advisors, Charlie Nutt, NACADA executive director, said research in the field is thriving.

NACADA has made the College of Education’s “A Walk in My Shoes: First-Generation College Students” documentary available as a resource to its 14,000 members worldwide,

“Many are using the first-generation documentary, and the materials are available online,” Nutt said.

“Workshops have been presented all over the country based on the information in the documentary and its companion e-book.”

He also is excited about engaging educators and students to explore their own areas, and Pits hopes that more people will start looking in their own backyards or find among heroes in their towns.

“History not only shows us our past, but it inspires us and shows us our potential. People have done extraordinary things with limited resources,” Pits said. “History helps us realize whose shoulders we’re standing on. We all contributed to this America that we hold so dear.”

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College of Human Ecology motto

By Taylor Manges

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“I am personally excited to serve at the Crisis Center, where I once volunteered, because I feel like I got my start,” Stith said. “I was making domestic violence in an office with data, but going out to work with victims and helping support groups for victims of violence gave me so much insight and credibility.”

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Serve the community.

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The project’s second phase is examining if different treatment programs help lower an individual’s risk of a subsequent incident. The researchers have determined what kind of treatment or what length of treatment is most beneficial in reducing risk.

“Historically, some have designed their own treatment programs,” Stith said. “We might have some data to help decide if providers should be using a more standardized approach.”

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