



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KARL Big Event Celebrates New Graduates and Welcomes Newest Class**

***Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program Announces Class XV Fellows and Class XVI Associates***

MANHATTAN, Kan. -- Twenty-seven individuals of Class XV of the Kansas Agricultural and Rural Leadership (KARL) Program celebrated the completion of their advanced leadership development experience at the inaugural KARL Big Event June 4 in Manhattan. The newest KARL Class comprised of thirty Kansans was also announced by the program's president, Jill Zimmerman.

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

Since it was first delivered in 1989, more than 450 men and women have participated in KARL and are leaders and active volunteers in the agriculture industry and rural communities.

This is the first time KARL has had a combined event to celebrate the graduate fellows and announce the new class associates. Event speakers included "American Countryside" producer Andrew McCrea and Senator Jerry Moran.

"On behalf of the board and all alumni of KARL, we offer our sincere congratulations to the Class XV Fellows for their accomplishment and we welcome KARL Class XVI Associates into the program," said Doug Hofbauer, 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 also an international study tour. Spain was announced during the event as the Class XVI international study tour destination.

KARL Class XV Fellows (Graduates):

- Kim Baldwin, McPherson
- J.J. Bebb, Mound Valley
- Leland Brown, Lenexa
- Allison Burenheide, Kansas City

- Darci Cain, Ellis
- Stewart Cauble, Liberal
- Amy Doane, Downs
- Jessica Ebert, Tescott
- Karly Frederick, Sterling
- Roy Frey, Sabetha
- Sean Gatewood, Topeka
- Kayla Jarvis, Phillipsburg
- Justin Kastner, Manhattan
- Leigh Ann Maurath, Oakley
- Kyler Millershaski, Lakin
- Jesse Muller, Liberty
- Jackie Mundt, Preston
- Andrew Ochampaugh, Russell
- Garrett Reiss, Saint George
- Kendra Riley, Dexter
- JR Robl, Lenexa
- Clay Schemm, Sharon Springs
- Anthony Seiler, Wichita
- Bob Tempel, Garden City
- Debra Teufel, Hutchinson
- Shawn Thiele, Manhattan
- Beth Weibert, Abilene

KARL Class XVI Associates:

- Luke Amend, Whitewater
- Ashley Beying
- Jamie Boggs, Buhler
- Carl Clawson, Plains
- Andrea Dietel, Madison
- Greg Doering, Manhattan
- Ryan Engle, Madison
- Travis Graber, Haven
- Jacob Harshberger, Dodge City
- Sara Hayden, Great Bend
- Sarah Henry, Randolph
- Megan Hobbs, Newton
- Wendy Hughes, Ellinwood
- Jeremy Johnson, Pittsburg
- Andrea Krauss, Russell

- Danielle Kaminski, Hays
- Kevin Logan, Hesston
- Mary Marsh, Manhattan
- Iryna McDonald, Hays
- Derick McGhee, Lenexa
- Nathan Miller, Benton
- Christa Milton, St. John
- Lindsey Ott, Overland Park
- Mark Palen, Beloit
- Nicholas Peters, Goessel
- Regan Reif, Great Bend
- Jennifer Smith, Lecompton
- Eli Svaty, Liberal
- Kari West, Girard
- Adam York, Manhattan

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 40 states and multiple countries. For more information about KARL, call Jill Zimmerman at 785-532- 6300, email [karl@ksu.edu](mailto:karl@ksu.edu) or visit the KARL website at <http://karlprogram.com>.

-30-

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](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)

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