

THE VOLUNTEER STAR

a monthly newsletter from your friends at the



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
SERVE • ENGAGE • EMPOWER

WE



Service and Volunteerism



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
KANSERVE.ORG

2024 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Register today at:
www.kanserve.org

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

APRIL 10, 2024

Co-hosted by the Kansas Volunteer Commission and Emporia State University School of Humanities and Social Sciences



EMPORIA STATE
UNIVERSITY

The [Kansas Volunteer Commission](#) and [Emporia State University](#) School of Humanities + Social Sciences are excited to announce the 2024 Civic Engagement Conference. The conference will be held Wednesday, April 10, at Emporia State University Memorial Union in Emporia, KS. The theme of the conference is “Empowering Kansas through Civic Engagement”.

The [Call for Proposals](#) is open, and we are seeking proposals for 50-minute workshops as well as student poster presentations.

The \$25 registration includes continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack, and networking opportunities.

[Register Here](#)

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!



Black History Month

Black lives matter, Black mentors matter, and Black mentees matter.

During February, we join those nationwide in recognizing Black History Month by celebrating the historic contributions of Black Americans, centering Black youth voices, and amplifying opportunities for greater equality and inclusion within the mentoring field.

IMPORTANT DATES

- National Freedom Day - February 1
- National Girls & Women in Sports - February 2
- International Day of Women & Girls in Science - February 11
- World Day of Social Justice - February 20



GIVE BACK KANSAS CHALLENGE LAUNCHES



Corporate Volunteer Engagement
Challenge with Prizes:
<https://bit.ly/Givebackks>

Your company could win a \$1000 grant from
Volunteer Kansas to donate to a nonprofit of
your choice.



The Give Back Kansas Challenge is an eight-week challenge that engages Kansans in employer-supported volunteering, both during and outside the workday. The Kansas Volunteer Commission and Volunteer Kansas are excited to co-partner in this challenge because much research shows the connection between employer-supported volunteering and improved employee engagement, employee wellness, organizational commitment, job satisfaction, and retention. There is also research connecting employee engagement with increased profitability and productivity.

There is no cost to participate, and the challenge is open to ANY employer in Kansas (for-profit, non-profit, education system, and government).

[Employers Sign Up Here](#)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MINI-GRANT OPPORTUNITY

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

MINI-GRANT OPPORTUNITY

GUIDELINES AND
APPLICATION AT
KANSERVE.ORG

APPLICATIONS DUE:
3/11/2024



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
KANSERVE.ORG



Research shows that youth civic engagement is critical for a variety of reasons. Youth engagement can lead to increased academic performance and improved social-emotional well-being. It builds safe and inclusive school and community cultures and decreases dropout rates. When young people develop healthy civic habits, skills, and commitments, they become more active in community decision-making which leads to broader representation and community benefit.

To support this purpose, the Kansas Volunteer Commission announces the availability of grant funds to **support the civic engagement of youth in grades K-12**. For this grant, applicants must engage youth in the planning and implementation of grant activities. Priority will be given to applications that include youth-led and youth-initiated projects.

Download guidelines & application [here](#).

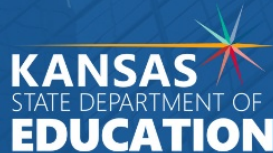
CIVIC ADVOCACY NETWORK AWARD



CIVIC ADVOCACY NETWORK AWARDS

2023

- Heatherstone Elementary School – USD 233
- Central Heights High School – USD 288
- Grinnell Middle School – USD 291
- Southeast of Saline Elementary School – USD 306
- Charles Stones Intermediate Center – USD 457
- Lincoln Elementary School – USD 475
- Spring Valley Elementary School – USD 475
- Fort Riley Elementary School – USD 475
- Junction City High School – USD 475
- Shawnee Mission North High School – USD 512



A BIG congratulations to the 10 schools who won the Civic Advocacy Network Award. This award recognizes schools that have exemplary civic engagement opportunities for students preK-12 grade.

Learn more at [KSDE - Civic Engagement](#)

STAFF & COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT



COMMISSION CHAIR AMY PINGER, CVA, SELECTED FOR LEADERSHIP GREATER TOPEKA CLASS OF 2024 AND ALIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leadership Greater Topeka (LGT), a program of the Greater Topeka Partnership, has announced that Amy Pinger is among those selected for its 2024 class. Class members attend a retreat and nine day-long sessions. During these classes, they will learn about the opportunities and challenges facing Topeka and Shawnee County and how they can work to influence important community issues.

Learn More: <https://topekapartnership.com/leadership-greater-topeka/leadership-greater-topeka/class-of-2024/>

Amy was also recently selected to serve on the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement Board of Directors, representing the Kansas-Midwest Region. She will serve for three years.

Learn More: https://www.volunteeralive.org/board_of_directors.php

**THE KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
WELCOMES KAT SEELEY AS ADMINISTRATIVE
SPECIALIST**



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
WELCOMES

KAT

SEELY

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

**THE KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION EARNS
SERVICE ENTERPRISE RE-ACCREDITATION**

Congratulations!

Kansas Volunteer Commission

TOPEKA, KANSAS

Demonstrating Organizational
Excellence in Strategic Volunteer
Engagement



The Kansas Volunteer Commission has maintained its Service Enterprise accreditation for another three years! Service Enterprise is a national change management program that helps organizations gain a greater return on volunteer investment to better achieve their mission.

Achieving SE accreditation is a very prestigious accomplishment for an organization. In fact, organizations that certify join the top 11 percent of nonprofits nationwide in volunteer management and organizational performance.

To learn more about Service Enterprise, go to kanserve.org or email volunteer@ksde.org



2024 MINI GRANT SERIES TIMELINE

2024 MINI GRANT SERIES

Guidelines and Application release dates

ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICE FOR MENTORING

Releases: 1/05/2024

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Releases: 2/09/2024

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Releases: 3/22/2024

SOCIAL JUSTICE & CAPACITY BUILDING

Releases: 4/26/2024

RURAL & INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Releases: 5/31/2024

9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Releases: 7/05/2024

MLK NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Releases: 10/04/2024



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mission of Managers of Volunteer Engagement (M.O.V.E.) is to build and engage a network of volunteer managers and cultivate a volunteerism culture.

M.O.V.E. Topeka

Meets the Third Wednesday of Each Month
9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please visit www.moveks.org.
Or reach out via [Facebook](#).

M.O.V.E. Kansas

Statewide-Virtual

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month
9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please email
mpearson@uwkawvalley.org

Volunteer Managers Network United Way of the Plains

2023 Dates T.B.D.
12:00 to 1:00 PM

To learn more, please email Abel Frederic
afrederic@unitedwayplains.org

NOTE: The above dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

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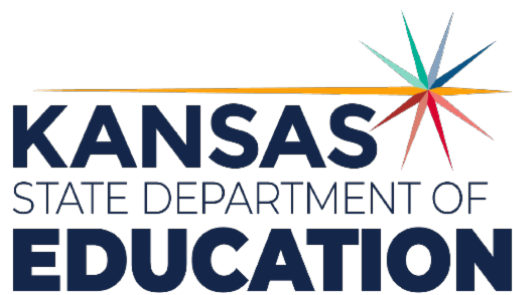
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