



### SAVE Farm program coming to Geary County campus

The Service Member Agricultural Vocation Education (SAVE) Farm, is a proud recipient of nearly \$1 million from the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to expand its programs headquartered just north of Manhattan, Kansas.

“We’re thrilled to be a partner of the USDA and for this critical work we are doing with veterans and service members to be recognized nationwide,” says Col. (ret.), Gary LaGrange, SAVE Farm co-founder and president. “With this grant, and one previously awarded, we hired our first veteran staff members and will begin

our first courses in January at Cloud County Community College, Manhattan Area Technical College, and Kansas State University. NIFA provided grants totaling nearly \$7 million this year for veteran programs enhancing American agriculture and building the economic viability of agriculture and production nationwide.

At the SAVE Farm, veterans are training to become the next generation of American farmers through its diverse, one-year accredited program. From livestock and row crop management to woodworking and diverse sustainable farming practices, participants will experience classroom and immersive, hands-on training.

“We are passionate about preserving, protecting and promoting the agriculture industry and we very much believe in the SAVE Farm’s mission,” says Nancy Zenger-Beneda, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Cloud County Community College in Concordia. “We welcome this great opportunity for our students to get more hands-on work while learning to value and respect what the military does for our country.”

The first SAVE Farm cohort begins Jan. 23. Applications are being accepted now through mid-January, but space is limited so early applications are encouraged.

### Cloud students help for holidays



After a month-long toy drive, Cloud County Community College softball players and coaches dropped off sports-themed toys for children in the care of Saint Francis Ministries. The softball team lead the local efforts for the 2018 Christmas for Kids Toy Drive.

Several students organizations rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Walmart during the holiday season. Students from Phi Theta Kappa, the Thunderbolt Dance Team, Lady T-Bird Softball team, KVCO Radio, and the Ag Department all helped raise funds. Pictured are PTK members, left to right, Jace Armstrong, Tanner Brown and Janessa Zenger.



The Cloud County Community College Foundation honored board members who are retiring at its annual meeting on December 13. Pictured, left to right, are: Tim Gottschalk, Shelly Farha, CCCC President Dr. Adrian Douglas, Beth Whisler, and Rick Larson. Gottschalk served on the board since 1988 in multiple leadership positions, and most recently as president. Farha has been on the board since 1990, serving as secretary/treasurer for 10 years. Whisler served on the board since 1992, and was president for three years. Larson has been a board member since 2010.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

TO THOSE WHO CELEBRATED DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!



- Janet Eubanks, Dec. 4
- Jennie Thrash, Dec. 12
- Gwen Carnes, Dec. 15
- Jim Harbert, Dec. 17
- Chris Preston, Dec. 19

- Heather Gennette, Dec. 4
- Carleen Nordell, Dec. 13
- Amanda Wolf, Dec. 16
- Haley Reedy, Dec. 18
- Eric Gilliland, Dec. 23

## December Department of the Month

**Keela Andrews –**

*Director, Concordia & Geary County campuses*

**Tara Shrake –**

*Assistant Director, Concordia campus*

**Jennie Thrash –**

*Academic Specialist, Concordia campus*

**Taryn Cipra –**

*Academic Specialist, Geary County campus*

TRiO is a federally-funded grant program that exists to help traditionally under-represented students graduate from Cloud and transfer to a university. Students who are first-generation (neither parent/guardian has a four-year degree), qualify for a Pell grant, or have a disability services file open with the college can qualify for TRiO. Program participants must also be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents to be eligible.

TRiO is a comprehensive support network for students. We assist with both personal and academic endeavors in order to help students be successful both at Cloud and later in life. Students are offered assistance in many ways, including academic and career coaching, personal counseling, in-depth pre-advising, non-cognitive skills assessment, and workshops via a TRiO Canvas page. Some of the areas we work in with students to help them succeed in all areas of life include budgeting and financial literacy, time management, stress management, and study skills. We also work with students to develop a growth mindset and resiliency to handle whatever comes their way. Referrals to community resources are often needed, as our students face many challenges and obstacles in furthering their education.

We work closely with students regarding the transfer process, teaching them how to advocate for themselves and navigate the systems. We



TRiO staff, left to right, are: Tara Shrake, Jennie Thrash, Keela Andrews, and Taryn Cipra

assist with applications and scholarships as part of the process, as well as take them on campus visits to universities in Kansas. Students are eligible for application fee waivers just for being TRiO members.

We encourage learning both in and out of the classroom. Each semester, we offer students interesting and diverse cultural activities. These activities range from dinner theaters to museums and various places of interest in Kansas that relate to a student's possible career path.

Next year marks the end of the five-year grant cycle, and as such, the TRiO staff will be working hard on writing the new grant and submitting it in 2020; this affects the college as a whole because Cloud receives eight percent of our yearly grant monies (ex. 2018-2019 amount was ~\$19,000). Another project that TRiO will be working on is its first-generation college

project. This will include a panel with first-generation Cloud employees during college skills classes (both campuses). Within a year, we hope to start a mentoring program for first-generation students.

Each year, we have performance reports and within our grant there are certain standard objectives that we must reach regarding retention: 65 percent of our students must persist from semester-to-semester and remain in good academic standing. We were able to report that our percentages were 20-30 percent higher than our objectives. We also had 55 graduates in the 2017-2018 academic year out of our 160 participant cohort, with an average GPA of 3.20 and 18 of the 55 of those graduated with honors.

If you have questions regarding eligibility or what we do in our program, please feel free to contact any TRiO staff member.



The Multi-Culture Student Association at Geary County was host to its annual Taste of Culture potluck meal last month. Many participants brought dishes symbolizing an importance to their cultures. Pictured above are several students who participated, left to right: Liza Fuller, Linda D., Gabrielle Clayton, Esmerelda Ruiz, Kristen Still, Maram Soden, and Marissa Thomas.



Amy Kern's Art Appreciation students created sculptures out of recycled materials. The sculptures were on display outside the art room for viewing, and for people to vote for their favorite. The sculptures explored a variety of subject matter, and each student learned how to translate and transform an idea into physical form.

### Upcoming Events

**December 22-January 1**  
College Closed - Christmas break

**Monday, January 21**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
College closed

**Thursday, January 10**  
Adjunct Faculty In-Service @  
Geary Co.  
6 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 22**  
Student Services Day @  
Concordia  
1:30 p.m.

**Thursday, January 17**  
Student Services Day @  
Geary Co.  
9:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 22**  
New student orientation @  
Geary Co. • 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 23**  
Spring 2019 classes begin