

2017 Marjorie J. and Richard L. D. Morse Family and Community Public Policy Scholarship

Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference Report

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2017 Summer Scholarship Recipient

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## INTRODUCTION

Kansas is a state in need of more water conservation and education efforts. A team of several state agencies developed the Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas, addressing the issue of water depletion in our state. The vision includes a mission, goals, and action items, with one of them being the need for education and outreach. The Education and Public Outreach Supplement of the Vision specifically states, “Increase awareness and knowledge of Kansas youth on water-related issues through K-12 education and beyond-the-classroom opportunities” and “Develop partnerships between industry, community, and educational institutions that will promote and train for water-related careers.” Action items directly stated in the supplement include, “Collaborate with youth-related organization leadership on water-related educational opportunities and establish sessions and experiences focused on water” and “Develop workshops and professional developments based on information found in KDA Agriculture Workforce Needs Assessment and state meetings.” Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference worked to meet the need addressed in the Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas.

The Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas (Vision) validated the need of a youth water education conference. This conference sought to train a group of highly motivated high school agricultural education students to disseminate key information about water use and conservation efforts to communities across the State. Students who attended the conference became experts on water issues affecting the state and will help educate their communities about how they can help conserve and protect our water resources. I partnered with Dr. Gaea Hock of Kansas State University and Susan Metzger of the Kansas Department of Agriculture to coordinate this conference this summer and will continue to serve as the undergraduate mentor for the high

school students over the entire year. My duties included assisting with writing conference curriculum, conference planning, activities, logistics, coordinating with the program manager to secure expert speakers, and recruiting program participants.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, surrounding states, and high school agricultural education teachers are all tracking the implementation and success of this training. Investing in young adults who will become the next generation of experts on water issues affecting the state is crucial because water and the Kansas economy are directly linked. According to the KDA, the Ogallala aquifer adds \$7 billion to the western Kansas economy. The ability to maintain irrigated agriculture and livestock production in western Kansas is directly linked to a community's ability to maintain its schools, hospital, and other critical quality of life elements. These youth will help educate their communities about how they can help conserve and protect our water resources so that the livelihood of Kansas families does not deteriorate.

## KANSAS YOUTH WATER ADVOCATES CONFERENCE

### *BEFORE CONFERENCE*

During the planning portion of the first-ever Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference it was important to create a vision for what we wanted the conference to accomplish, but also how my involvement in this project would impact my own personal and professional development. The following items were goals that were brainstormed before the conference took place:

#### **Program (Short Term)**

- Educate high school students about water issues in Kansas.
- Promote the need for a water education team.
- Write and present content on water issues.
- Program participants will gain knowledge on water issues.
- Students will also gain skills in speaking to a variety of audiences.

#### **Program (Medium Term)**

- Increased opportunities to encourage collaboration between community organizations currently involved in water education for youth.
- Increased undergraduate enrollment with an interest in studies and research in water-related fields.
- First year conference success will increase interest in future conferences.

#### **Program (Long Term)**

- Partnerships developed between industry, community, and educational institutions that will promote and train for water-related careers.
- Kansas has leaders in water-related careers improving the reliability of a long-term water supply to Kansas communities.

### **Personal (Short Term)**

- Gain curriculum writing experience to use in my future career of agricultural education.
- Network with industry professionals for future career opportunities.
- Serve as a mentor to the high school advocates. They can use me as a resource for help in writing workshops and developing speeches.

### **Personal (Medium Term)**

- Serve as a mentor to the students throughout the entire first year of their service.
- Increased knowledge in curriculum development for college agricultural education classes.
- Continue to plan and assist with the conference every summer, developing new high school water advocates every year.
- High school advocates will continue to use me as a resource after the first year. I will serve as a liaison between the K-State College of Agriculture and the student, developing their interest in the agriculture industry.

### **Personal (Long Term)**

- My future classroom will experience water education through my work with this project.
- My students will hear directly from the industry professionals I networked with.
- I will serve as water advocate in my own community, as well as across the state by attending water conferences, speaking to local farmers, and writing workshop curriculum for use in classrooms.

Through the 2017 Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference, every short-term goal in both the program and personal sections was accomplished. As the year continues, I will be working to accomplish each goal that I had set. This year, the conference was so successful that the demand to hold this conference annually is high. My plan is to continue my involvement in this program. I see the value in educating our youth on our water resources. The following is the timeline that has been established for the program in its entirety:

*\*more deadlines are added as need arises*

April 2017 –

- Contact high school agricultural educators and recruit prospective students to attend the summer conference.

April 15<sup>th</sup> –

- IRB Training Complete and Application submitted for approval

May 15<sup>th</sup> –

- Student applications due.

May 30<sup>th</sup> –

- Students notified of acceptance.

June 2017 –

- Secure expert speakers for conference
- Reserve rooms in the K-State residence halls for students attending conference
- Finalize workshop curriculum
- Develop ‘Roles and Responsibilities’ for the youth selected to serve as Kansas Water Advocates

July 12 -14, 2017–

- Youth Water Conference held in Manhattan, KS.

October 2017, January 2018, March 2018-

- Post-conference survey sent through Qualtrics to students to gauge effectiveness of conference and additional training needs.

August through March –

- Travel to trainings put on by the advocates to assess curriculum revisions for future trainings.

April 2018–

- Survey sent to students to analyze the number of presentations given.

April 2018–

- Begin recruiting students for the next conference and year of service.

May 2018–

- Set up meetings (phone or in person) with each student to assess their year of service as a Kansas Water Advocate.

Once the vision and timeline for the Kansas Youth Water Advocates Program was solidified, it was time to start the planning of the actual conference. My main tasks were to coordinate with professionals to ask for their involvement in the conference, create the schedule of the conference, create the application process for students, coordinate with student participants, securing housing on K-State campus, create social media pages, and workshop conference curriculum. The following is the final schedule from the 2017 Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference, which ties together each of my tasks and how it all came together.

<b>2017 Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference</b> <i>Training the Next Generation of Kansas Water Advocates</i>		
Day 1 July 12th	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Check-in (Moore Hall Lobby)
	4:00 – 4:45 p.m.	Move into Residence Hall Room
	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Dinner (Residence Hall)
	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Conference Overview and Goal Setting (Umberger Hall) - Katelyn Bohnenblust, Gaea Hock, KSU
	7:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Showing "When the Well Runs Dry" (Umberger Hall)
	7:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Recreation Time
Day 2 July 13th	7:30 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast (Residence Hall)
	8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Travel and Check-In (KDA)
	8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Kansas Water Vision - Susan Metzger, KWO
	9:40 – 10:30 a.m.	Water Talking Points Part 1- Angela Anderson, NRCS
	10:30 – 10:45	Break
	10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Consider Your Audience - Gaea Hock, KSU
	11:15 – 12:00 p.m.	Development of Elevator Speeches - Kory Loden, KDA
	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (KDA)
	1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Kansas Water Careers – Jordan Pieschl
	2:05 – 3:00 p.m.	Water Talking Points Part 2 – Moore, Minson, Rogers
	3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	BREAK
	3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	Research...Where to start? - Carol Sevin & Livia Olsen, KSU Libraries
	4:05 – 4:50p.m.	Extemporaneous Speeches - Anthony Meals, Blue Valley FFA
	4:50 – 5:00 p.m.	Wrap-up - Gaea Hock, KSU



	5:15 – 5:30 p.m.	Return to Residence Hall
	5:45 – 6:30 p.m.	Dinner (Residence Hall)
	6:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Group bonding time
Day 3 July 14th	7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	Check out of Residence Hall
	7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast (Residence Hall)
	8:15 – 8:30 a.m.	Travel to KDA
	8:30 – 9:15 a.m.	KSU College of Agriculture - Dr. Washburn, KSU
	9:20 – 10:15 a.m.	Integrate your work into the FFA Agriscience Fair - Gaea Hock, KSU
	10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	BREAK
	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Practice Writing Presentations - Katelyn Bohnenblust
	11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Stand and Deliver Presentations - Katelyn Bohnenblust
	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Celebration Lunch (KDA)
	1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and Review Goals – Katelyn Bohnenblust, Gaea Hock, KSU

### *DURING CONFERENCE*

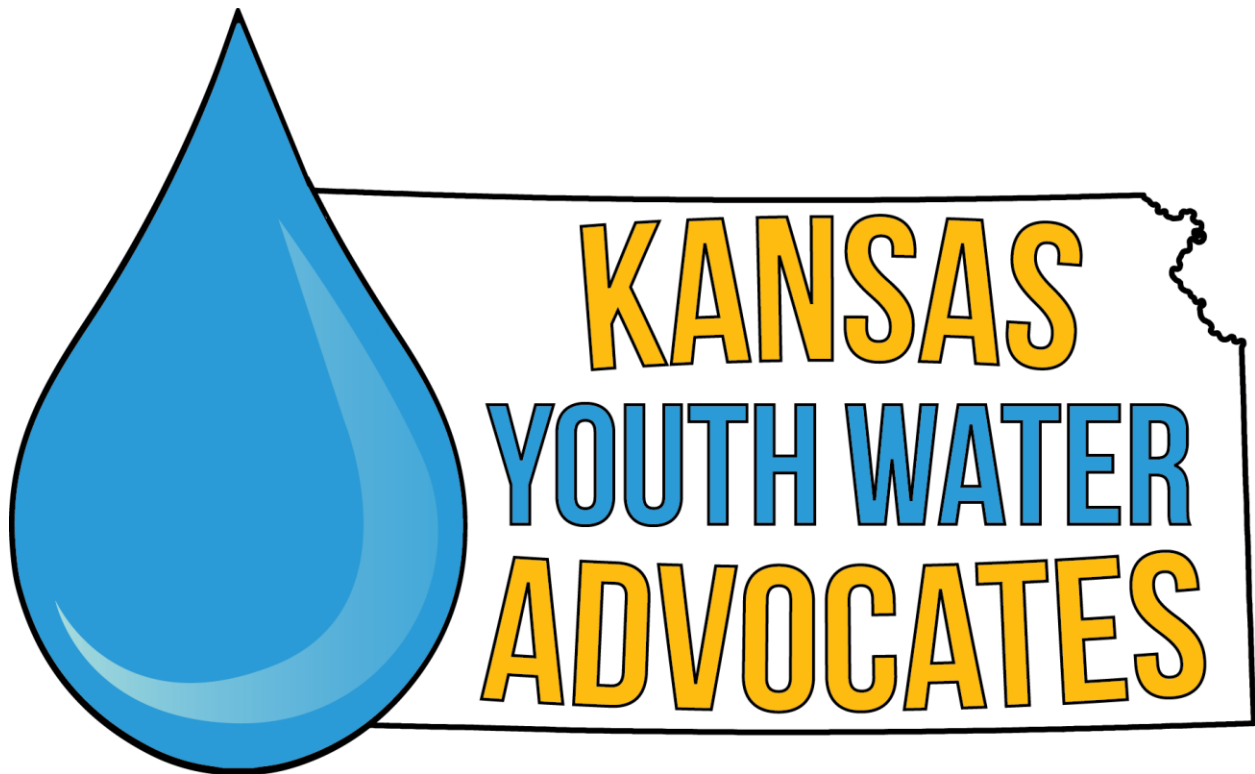
I worked with the students on the first and third day of the conference. On the first day, I helped to establish expectations of the conference and goals for the students. The following are the goals that the students created at the beginning of the conference:

1. Learn the names of each person in attendance by the end of the conference.
2. Ask each guest speaker at least one question by the end of their time with us.
3. By the end of this conference we will learn how we can educate at least five of our community members.
4. By the end of this conference we will learn two specific ways on how to advocate to both farmers and the general public.
5. By the end of this conference we will each individually ask at least five questions.
6. By the end of this conference we will learn two specific ways to save water.
7. By the end of this conference we will learn one specific way we can advocate those saving water techniques.

After evaluating each of these goals at the end of the conference, the group of students concluded that they had reached each goal. They then decided to create a new set of goals for their year serving as a Kansas Youth Water Advocate. The following are the goals that the students created for their year of service:

1. By the end of the school year in May of 2018, we will have presented to three different organizations/groups/agencies.
2. By the time the applications are closed for the 2018 Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference we will have recruited at least two new possible participants to fill out an application.
3. By the end of the school year in May of 2018, we will have implemented at least one water saving practice in our own homes.
4. Over the next year, we will each explore the opportunities to use the items we learned at the Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference for speeches, career development events, and participating in the Agriscience Fair.
5. In May of 2018 we will partner with the Kansas Department of Agriculture to have a booth at the State FFA Convention Career Show to showcase the Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference.

In addition to working with the students on expectations, goals, writing and presenting presentation, each day I assisted the presenters that came and worked with the students. In the evenings I stayed in the dorms with the students and I coordinated all evening activities. The following are several pictures of the event:





The 2017 Class of Kansas Youth Water Advocates, Dr. Gaea Hock, and myself, Katelyn Bohnenblust.



Dr. Shannon Washburn of Kansas State University College of Agriculture shares with the students all of the opportunities available to them at K-State and in the water field.



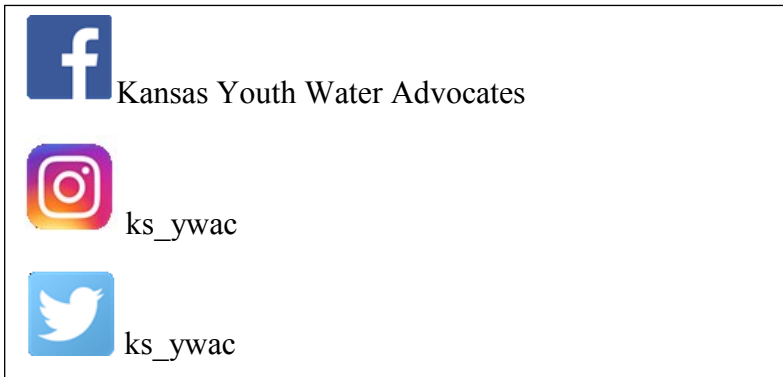


Each evening the students experienced a part of Manhattan. We ventured to the Tuttle Creek Reservoir, Pillsbury Crossing, and the Kansas Hill.



Facilitating the students through the importance of goal setting and developing a vision for their year of serving as a Kansas Youth Water Advocate.

To view more photos and videos from the conference follow the social media:



#### *AFTER CONFERENCE*

The eleven high school students who became the first class of Kansas Youth Water Advocates are being asked to do presentations across our state. Some of the opportunities include presenting in the Wick Building at the Kansas State Fair, attending the Governor's Water Conference, and facilitating a workshop for the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum and Kansas FFA Greenhand Conferences. As the year continues, we hope that more opportunities are sought out or present for the 2017 Kansas Youth Water Advocates to take hold of.

## RESEARCH AND RESEARCH ANALYSIS

*PRE-CONFERENCE*

### Kansas Water Advocates Self-Efficacy Pre-Assessment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Circle the response you believe best describes you. You do not have to respond to each question and there is no penalty for incorrect responses. Please rate the following by using the following scale: 1=*not at all true*, 2=*not true*, 3=*slightly not true*, 4=*slightly true*, 5=*true* and 6=*very true*

	Not at all true	Not true	Slightly not true	Slightly true	True	Very true
When I am preparing to give a speech, I feel capable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
When I am preparing a speech I feel unskilled.	1	2	3	4	5	6
When I am preparing to give a speech, I feel I can achieve.	1	2	3	4	5	6
When I am preparing to give a speech I feel competent.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I will rarely give a speech in the future.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I won't use any skills related to public speaking.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Public speaking will be an important part of my career.	1	2	3	4	5	6
In terms of the upcoming speeches, I expect to do well.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Learning public speaking skills is valuable.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Learning public speaking skills is really pointless – a big waste of time.	1	2	3	4	5	6
It is very clear to me how useful public speaking skills will be.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I participate a lot (get involved) in classroom activities.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I put forth high effort in school - related activities.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I generally feel motivated to become educated.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I dread schoolwork in general.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am interested in schoolwork in general.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am excited about schoolwork in general.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I feel that I already am a good enough public speaker.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I feel that I could learn more about public speaking to become better.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am excited to attend the Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference to help improve my public speaking skills.	1	2	3	4	5	6



## Kansas Water Advocates Assessment of Knowledge Pre-Test

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Circle the response you believe is correct for each question. You do not have to respond to each question and there is no penalty for incorrect responses.

1. The Ogallala Aquifer spans across parts of nine states. Which of the following is not one of the nine states?
  - a. Wyoming
  - b. North Dakota
  - c. Oklahoma
  - d. Colorado
2. The Ogallala Aquifer is part of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. High Plains Aquifer
  - b. Edwards-Trinity Aquifer System
  - c. Central Oklahoma Aquifer
  - d. Denver River Basin
3. Water in the Ogallala Aquifer has declined \_\_\_\_\_ feet in the past ten years in several southwest Kansas wells.
  - a. 5-25 feet
  - b. 25-45 feet
  - c. 50-150 feet
  - d. 160-200 feet
4. The definition of recharge is:
  - a. emptying water from a lake
  - b. the processes by which ground water is absorbed into the zone of saturation.
  - c. a lowering of the water table
  - d. pumping water into a pond
5. The definition of drawdown is:
  - a. Evaporation of water from a pond
  - b. Filling in of a lake by deposition
  - c. a lowering of the water table
  - d. Removal of water from a pond by animals
6. The definition of irrigation is:
  - a. the artificial application of water to land to assist in the production of crops
  - b. moisture condensed from the atmosphere that falls visibly in separate drops
  - c. water flowing from one spot to another
  - d. rain, snow, hail, sleet, dew, and frost

7. The definition of deposition is:
  - a. the addition of money to a bank
  - b. the placement of rock along river beds
  - c. the geological process in which sediments, soil and rocks are added to a landform or land mass.
  - d. the removal of rock and soil from a pond
8. Kansas Water Law states that when there is insufficient water to meet all water rights, the date of the water right determines who has the right to use the water.
  - a. True
  - b. False
9. All the area of land that drains into a body of water is called what?
  - a. A reservoir
  - b. A watershed
  - c. A settling pond
  - d. A drainage basin
10. Pollution comes in three major types.
  - a. True
  - b. False
11. The four major pollutants in Kansas are nitrogen, phosphorus, E.coli bacteria, and total suspended solids.
  - a. True
  - b. False
12. How much water does the average American use per day?
  - a. 20-40 gallons
  - b. 40-60 gallons
  - c. 60-80 gallons
  - d. 80-100 gallons
13. Point source pollution can easily be traced back to one location.
  - a. True
  - b. False
14. In the United States what sector uses the most water?
  - a. Thermoelectric Power
  - b. Public Supply
  - c. Irrigation
  - d. Livestock
15. About how much of the water on Earth is freshwater available for human consumption?
  - a. 1%
  - b. 12%
  - c. 21%
  - d. 36%

## POST CONFERENCE

## Kansas Water Advocates Self-Efficacy Post - Assessment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Circle the response you believe best describes you. You do not have to respond to each question and there is no penalty for incorrect responses. Please rate the following by using the following scale: 1=*not at all true*, 2=*not true*, 3=*slightly not true*, 4=*slightly true*, 5=*true* and 6=*very true*

	Not at all true	Not true	Slightly not true	Slightly true	True	Very true
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I feel that I already am a good enough public speaker.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I feel that I could learn more about public speaking to become better.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I feel that the Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference was helpful and worthwhile to improve my public speaking skills.	1	2	3	4	5	6

Kansas Water Advocates  
Assessment of Knowledge Post-Test

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Circle the response you believe is correct for each question. You do not have to respond to each question and there is no penalty for incorrect responses.

1. The Ogallala Aquifer spans across parts of nine states. Which of the following is not one of the nine states?
  - a. Wyoming
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3. Water in the Ogallala Aquifer has declined \_\_\_\_\_ feet in the past ten years in several southwest Kansas wells.
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  - b. moisture condensed from the atmosphere that falls visibly in separate drops
  - c. water flowing from one spot to another
  - d. rain, snow, hail, sleet, dew, and frost

Post-test

7. The definition of deposition is:
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  - c. the geological process in which sediments, soil and rocks are added to a landform or land mass.
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14. In the United States what sector uses the most water?
  - a. Thermoelectric Power
  - b. Public Supply
  - c. Irrigation
  - d. Livestock
15. About how much of the water on Earth is freshwater available for human consumption?
  - a. 1%
  - b. 12%
  - c. 21%
  - d. 36%

Post-test

16. What types of water do urban areas typically manage?
  - a. Drinking Water
  - b. Wastewater
  - c. ~~Stormwater~~
  - d. All of the Above
17. What are some of the challenges faced by urban areas in managing these types of water?
  - a. Not enough water for drinking supply, or poor quality drinking water
  - b. Infrastructure is too expensive
  - c. Pollution of streams and lake
  - d. All of the Above
18. The crop most commonly irrigated in the U.S. is:
  - a. Corn
  - b. Turf grass
  - c. Fruits and vegetables
  - d. Grain Sorghum
19. The crop most commonly irrigated in Kansas is:
  - a. Corn
  - b. Turf grass
  - c. Soybeans
  - d. Grain Sorghum
20. Approximately how much of Kansas cropland is irrigated:
  - a. 5 to 20 %
  - b. 21 to 40%
  - c. 41 to 60 %
  - d. Over 60%
21. The Ogallala Aquifer is most like:
  - a. A large underground lake
  - b. Buried river channels
  - c. A large water filled sponge made of sand
  - d. A series of small water filled caverns formed in the limestone bedrock
22. Most of the water used by plants is:
  - a. Used by the plant during photosynthesis as part of the growth process
  - b. Recycled to the ground in the form of morning dew
  - c. Transpired (used) by the plant to cool the plant
  - d. Evaporated directly from the soil, therefore essentially by-passing plant use

## *Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference*

### **Conference Satisfaction Survey Information Sheet**

Conference Participant,

As we are nearing the end of the Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference, I would like to examine your feelings and reactions to your experience in order to help determine whether this program will be held in the future and how it will be structured. Your responses are important to my undergraduate research, since you, as a participant, only truly know if this experience was helpful in developing skills to better communicate about water issues and topics.

Your identity will remain confidential and your participation is completely voluntary. You have the right to stop at any time without consequence. There is no compensation or other direct benefit to you for participation.

This instrument should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain confidential and all results will be presented in summary format; your name is not associated to your response. Only those working on this project will have access to your responses. Once all the data are recorded and entered into a computer, the paper copies will be destroyed.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Gaea Hock (ghock@ksu.edu) by phone at 532-1166. Thank you for your feedback. It is much appreciated and will contribute significantly to this research project and the future improvement of this conference.

For questions about your rights as a subject or about injuries caused by this research, contact the Kansas State University Research Compliance Office, [comply@k-state.edu](mailto:comply@k-state.edu), 785-532-3224.

Thank you!

## *Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference*

### **Satisfaction Survey**

We are conducting research through a questionnaire to gather your opinions regarding the "Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference" you have just completed. This survey will take less than 20 minutes to complete. Your identity will remain confidential to the extent provided by law. Your participation is completely voluntary; you have the right to withdraw consent at any time without consequence. There are no known risks associated with this study and there is no compensation or other direct benefit to you for participation.

**How confident were/are you in your ability to accomplish each of the following items?**

*Please circle the number that best describes your response for both before this conference and after.*

BEFORE this conference						AFTER this conference				
Not at all Confident	Slightly Confident	Somewhat Confident	Moderately Confident	Extremely Confident		Not at all Confident	Slightly Confident	Somewhat Confident	Moderately Confident	Extremely Confident
1	2	3	4	5	Find research on water issues/topics	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Prepare presentations about water issues/topics	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Speak in front of others about water issues/topics	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	Answer questions related to water issues/topics	1	2	3	4	5

**Do you feel this conference has improved your confidence to speak about water topics/issues?**

No

Yes



**Conference Satisfaction**

*Please circle the number that best describes your opinion about each statement below.*

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
I benefitted more from this conference than it cost me to participate.	1	2	3	4	5
I feel satisfied about the way this conference was conducted.	1	2	3	4	5
The things I learned in this conference warranted my effort.	1	2	3	4	5
I am satisfied with what I have learned from this conference.	1	2	3	4	5
I was satisfied with the way the conference was formatted.	1	2	3	4	5
I feel good about the way the conference was structured.	1	2	3	4	5
I am satisfied with the topics covered in the conference.	1	2	3	4	5
Attending this conference was valuable.	1	2	3	4	5

**What was the most useful aspect of the conference? What was the least helpful aspect of the conference?**

What was your favorite part of the conference?

Were there any topics you wish had been covered that were not addressed?

How to you foresee you using/applying the information you gained from this conference? (Specific activities, events, etc)?

Do you have any other comments or suggestions to help improve the Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference?

## *RESEARCH ANALYSIS*

*Note: Instruments were given to the eleven high school participants. All data was collected from the same eleven students.*

### Self-Efficacy Test

Results are not available at this time as they are still being compiled.

### Knowledge Test

Pre-Test:

Score Average: **8.6 out of 15**

Percent Average: **58%**

Post Test:

Score Average with Original Questions: **12.2 out of 15**

Percent Average with Original Questions: **81%**

Score Average with All Questions: **17.3 out of 22**

Percent Average with All Questions: **79%**

### *Observations on Knowledge Test*

- When comparing the first 15 questions we saw a 23% increase and the average score rose 3.6 points.
- When the seven extra questions were added, the percent still rose 21%.
- The most missed question was question 20.

### Post Conference Satisfaction Survey

The average satisfaction score from the conference was a **4.6 out of 5**.

The following are direct comments from the students who attended:

The most useful aspect of the conference was *“the inclusion of both water issues but also leadership development”*.

The favorite part of the conference was *“learning the water differences in western and eastern Kansas, while also bonding with many students who share the same passion”*.

The topic that they wished would have been covered is *“how other states are helping with the aquifer depletion”*.

### *CONCLUSION*

The first-ever Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference provided an opportunity for eleven high school students to learn about their state's water resources and develop their own speaking and presenting skills. I am so glad that I was able to take part in the developing, planning, and facilitation of the conference in its entirety, while also conducting a research project. The amount of growth that I experienced through my involvement in this project is irreplaceable. There are already many individuals, organizations, and companies that have expressed their support of continuing this conference and experience for future years. After evaluating the data that was collected, I am reaffirmed that the efforts put behind this conference were well worth it. Each student gained knowledge, an experience, and a better understanding of the importance of water for future generations. The Kansas Youth Water Advocates Conference will play a vital role in educating on all present and future water challenges that the citizens of Kansas and surrounding states will face.