

PRIDE Review 2000

Three Decades of PRIDE ★ 1970 – 2000



Building Better Communities

Message from the Chairman

December 31, 2000



**Midwest
Energy, Inc.**

Dear PRIDE Friends:

Thank you for your efforts in making the 30th year of the PRIDE program so successful. Looking back over my eight years of close affiliation with the state PRIDE program, I have been constantly amazed at the impact of organized volunteer efforts. Your actions and initiatives through goal setting, cooperation, and hard work have produced stronger communities. As the PRIDE program ends the year 2000 and begins 2001, it is important to continue the new program's focus, which is building capacity and utilizing resources. By maintaining this focus, PRIDE communities are certainly building a foundation for success.

Fifty-two communities from across the state participated in the program during 2000, of which 26 received an on-site evaluation from a professional community development team. PRIDE officials presented 40 awards and cash totaling \$9,800 to Kansas communities during the annual PRIDE Day Conference and Awards Banquet held Saturday, September 23 in Salina. Awards were presented in the areas of Youth Leadership, Star Project, and Communities of Excellence.

As a PRIDE sponsor, I would like to thank the co-administering entities, the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing and K-State Research & Extension, for providing the staff support that makes the PRIDE program effective. I would also like to thank and recognize the hundreds of local volunteers that donate their time and talent to make their communities the best they can be. Your PRIDE efforts demonstrated very effectively what can be done with high quality leadership and many dedicated volunteers.

On behalf of my company, Midwest Energy, Inc., thank you again for all your hard work and have a successful 2001!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Reese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Charles Reese, Chairman
2000 Board of Directors
Kansas PRIDE, Inc.

What is PRIDE?

The PRIDE program is a volunteer grassroots effort to improve the quality of life in local communities. Each Kansas community is unique and shares a common bond: a rich heritage based on self-reliance and community pride. Since 1970, the Kansas PRIDE program has assisted and encouraged communities to prepare for the future by building on their heritage and forming a vision for the future. The goal of PRIDE is to help maximize community and economic development efforts by encouraging all groups to coordinate and work cooperatively for community betterment.

Over the past 30 years, the PRIDE program has grown and evolved to help meet communities ever changing needs. The constant challenge to remain viable and provide a high quality of life can be achieved through the comprehensive PRIDE approach. PRIDE projects cover a wide range of efforts directed to meet commonly identified community needs.

Fifty-two Kansas communities participated in the community development planning process in 2000. Some of the past year's PRIDE projects included: implementing main street revitalization, creating a community exercise center, starting a cooperative grocery store, beautifying a park, and developing youth involvement.

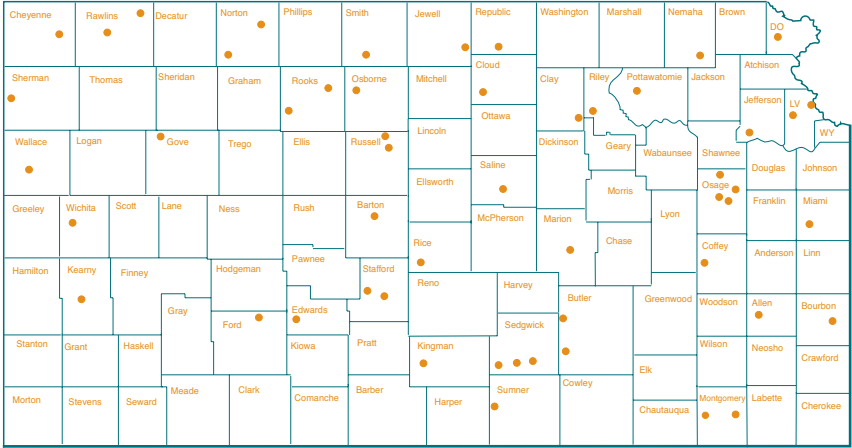
The Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, K-State Research and Extension, and private-sector companies and associations partner together to make the PRIDE program successful.

What are the Benefits of Participating in PRIDE?

- Structure to organize and implement community development efforts
- Technical assistance and training
- Self-assessment for better understanding of existing conditions and resources
- A vision for the community's future
- A plan to initiate goals and promote PRIDE to the public
- Address community needs through an action plan
- Identification of local, regional, state, and national resources
- Quantifiable measurements of successes
- On-site evaluations by community development professionals
- Recognition of achievements
- Sustainability of community improvement efforts

2000 PRIDE Communities

(Populations shown in parenthesis)



Alden (173)RC

Almena (418)NT

Alton (110)OB

Argonia (523)SU

Assaria (388)SA

Atwood (1,346)RA

Basehor (2,132)LV

Bird City (464)CN

Burns (216)MN

Clearwater (1,996)SG

Coffeyville (12,242)MG

Courtland (322)RP

Cunningham (530)KM

Elk City (326)MG

Formoso (121)JW

Ft. Scott (8,324)BB

Garden Plain (769)SG

Gaylord (160)SM

Glasco (512)CD

Goff (153)NM

Grinnell (341)GO

Herndon (161)RA

Highland (873)DP

Hoisington (2,992)BT

Iola (6,241)AL

Kanorado (270)SH

Kinsley (1,634)ED

Lakin (2,172)KE

Lansing (7,996)LV

Lebo (911)CF

Lenora (297)NT

Leonardville (338)RL

Leoti (1,731)WH

Lucas (458)RS

Luray (246)RS

Lyndon (1,033)OS

Melvorn (440)OS

Meriden (676)JF

Osage City (2,940)OS

Osawatimie (4,514)MI

Overbrook (999)OS

Palco (280)RO

Park City (5,426)SG

Potwin (472)BU

Spearville (753)FO

St. John (1,244)SF

Stafford (1,224)SF

Towanda (1,409)BU

Wakefield (941)CY

Wallace Co. (1,812)

Westmoreland (612)PT

Woodston (118)RO

PRIDE Impacts Communities

The outstanding achievements, as noted by the 2000 PRIDE judges in the Community of Excellence Award, the Star Project Award, and the Youth Leadership Award categories, are indicative of the high quality of local PRIDE programs throughout the state this year.

2000 Community of Excellence Award Winners

Sixteen PRIDE communities received the “Community of Excellence” designation and were recognized at the 29th PRIDE Day awards ceremony in Salina on September 23. Each community received an award trophy and \$500. The communities were selected based upon an on-site evaluation by a three-member professional community development team. Some of the areas examined in this noncompetitive evaluation process included organization, citizen involvement, goal setting, and progress toward reaching goals.

The award-winning communities and some evaluators’ comments are listed below:

ALDEN – “A wonderful sense of community exists in Alden,” states one of their evaluators. “They are the very definition of PRIDE. Their character and warmth shines in everything they do. Their focus on participation and support for people of all ages is fantastic.” A few of their noteworthy activities included a miniature golf course and basketball court, a commitment to the humanities and legislative issues, a new welcome sign, and several successful holiday events.

ALMENA – “Almena has something very important – a positive can-do attitude that will help them achieve anything they set their minds to,” said one of the PRIDE evaluators. By utilizing their community assessment, new projects were identified and successfully implemented. Two of their outstanding projects noted by the evaluators included a downtown “Bantam Park” complete with rest rooms and a restored historic jail, and their own newspaper, “The Prairie Dog Press,” completely staffed with dedicated volunteers.

ALTON – “Alton’s follow through and execution of their many projects is impressive,” stated one of their evaluators. “The vision they have is an important aspect of the longevity of their outstanding program.” Their guiding force was their completed community assessment and visioning session, along with the ability to sustain their enthusiasm for community development. The Alton program has been very successful in recruiting newcomers and young families to become involved.

ARGONIA – One of the Argonia evaluators stated, “It is an excellent program, and an outstanding model of how to identify needs, plan, and then implement. All of the pieces are in place and enhanced by the partnership with city government.” The tremendous involvement of the youth, schools, and community at large

represents their “can-do” philosophy of community betterment. Two of their most noted projects included the Argonia River Park that includes a walking path from the community to the park and a beautiful new swimming pool that opened on Memorial Day.

BASEHOR – As stated by one of the evaluators, “Basehor is one of the most outstanding PRIDE organizations I’ve seen! They are so good and do so much; I’m overwhelmed!” They have an active youth PRIDE organization and an active Gold PRIDE (senior) group. Their positive relationship with city government is outstanding. This community truly follows the community development process and their success is far beyond the requirements and expectations of the state program. A few of their major projects included an annual visioning session, recycling, leadership development, cleanup, and volunteer recognition.

CUNNINGHAM – “The PRIDE Committee in Cunningham is willing to step up to the plate and tackle big issues in creative ways,” says one of its evaluators. “No project is too big. The group was noted to have excellent idea development and follow-through.” The evaluators were most impressed with Cunningham’s new cooperative grocery store, their new playground equipment, and the many beautification projects that happened throughout the year.

FORT SCOTT – According to a PRIDE evaluator, “PRIDE in Fort Scott can be viewed as the hub of the wheel – it keeps the community going and moving forward.” The entire community has the opportunity to be involved, and as one PRIDE leader commented, “PRIDE works when we work ... and we do just that!” PRIDE youth involvement with the full support of the school system is fantastic. Noteworthy projects included the Home Show, the Farmer’s Market, Meals on Wheels, the Soup Kitchen, the Candlelight Tour, tourism promotion, and Gunn Park.

GLASCO – The Glasco Chamber/PRIDE is a strong, well-managed organization that emphasizes working together through expanding partnerships and networks. There is full support of city government, and youth work well with adults on projects. The development of a community foundation has been a tremendous benefit to the entire area, as is evident by their main street preservation work. Major goals included the opening of a renovated grocery store, a computer service and stronger existing businesses.

HIGHLAND – A few of the community’s strengths in Highland include creative people, community spirit, and a close partnership with the college, according to the evaluators. They go on to say that Highland has an excellent PRIDE organization, and it is evident that they have a strong planning and implementation process in place. A few of their outstanding PRIDE projects included their food pantry, crisis hot line, and park beautification.

KANORADO – “The enthusiasm of the Kanorado PRIDE Committee for their organization and community is phenomenal!” commented one evaluator. The inclusive approach of involving the whole community and reaching out to everyone has resulted in diversity in both volunteers and ideas for projects. “PRIDE is the heart and mind of the community and it’s fun,” stated another evaluator. Other outstanding projects included the utilization of their Needs and Opportunities Assessment, their newspaper – the “Kanorado Kaper,” the Parents & Youth United organization, the “Twice Loved Toy Store,” the Farmer’s Market, and citywide cleanup.

KINSLEY – “The community cooperation in Kinsley is outstanding and clearly guides the projects,” according to one of their evaluators. She goes on to say, “The PRIDE Committee undertakes smart and focused projects. You should be applauded for your support of economic development and the tackling of watershed issues.” Other important projects included the “Twice As Nice Store,” partnership grants, the tree program, support for the theater and the arts, and promoting youth involvement.

LAKIN – The PRIDE evaluators were very impressed with Lakin. One said, “Bottle it and sell it – Lakin PRIDE has it all! The enthusiasm is amazing. The cooperation with other groups is quite effective, and there has been a great effort to involve all aspects of the community with emphasis on the youth.” The PRIDE group makes excellent use of resources and has a good partnership with the City. Major efforts for the year included McVey Park, Windmill Corner, Tree Row, and youth involvement.

LANSING – “PRIDE in Lansing is not an organization; it is the way we feel about our community,” stated a community volunteer. By being a catalyst for community projects, PRIDE serves as the focal point for whatever needs to be accomplished. This is obvious with the diverse volunteer base, the creative solutions, and their ability to enhance the quality of life in Lansing. The PRIDE committee is a coordinating council that works closely with and is fully supported by the City of Lansing. Significant projects included the development of long-range goals, the transformation of the train depot into a museum, a craft show and sale, and the Lansing Daze Celebration.

LENORA – “The ability to assess community needs is obvious in Lenora. The community is not afraid to tackle ambitious projects as evidenced by the Lake Lenora project and the plan to build a combined community center and library. The citizens of Lenora believe in themselves and have the confidence that they can achieve many things through their many local and outside resources. The PRIDE organization functions well as a coordinating group for the community, with a well-balanced range of long-term and short-term projects,” stated a PRIDE evaluator.

LUCAS – The evaluators commented on the strength of the Lucas PRIDE efforts, the excellent relationship with the city governing body, the local newspaper, and overall community support for major community improvement projects. The evidence is in the lack of vacant storefronts on the main street, a new medical center, a folk art museum, and the current renovation of a movie theater. There is the feeling that no project is too large for them. The Mayor enthusiastically told the evaluators, “We’re not just surviving, we’re succeeding,” and everyone agreed. Lucas has proved that small towns can succeed.

POTWIN – “Fantastic youth involvement,” says one of the PRIDE evaluators in response to Potwin’s “Plant a Row for the Hungry” project. Another evaluator called the project, “a heart-warming experience with several positive long-term benefits.” Compliments offered by the evaluators on Potwin’s overall program included: good attitude, good community input into PRIDE goals, and good group diversity. Other noteworthy projects identified were the work completed on the new fire truck and the community house.

2000 Star Award Winners

A “Star” Award trophy and \$300 was presented to six PRIDE communities during the September 23 PRIDE Day celebration in Salina. The award recognizes communities for accomplishing a project that showed a high degree of community support, citizen involvement, and major impact and/or benefit to local residents. Star Project entries were evaluated by a three-member team composed of PRIDE program sponsor representatives and supporters. The communities receiving the Star Project award follow:

Alton – “Beautify & Revitalize Main Street”

As a result of Alton’s beautification and revitalization of the main street, the downtown now adds a much more attractive appearance to their historic town. As a member of the PRIDE committee stated, “What do you do with an old fire bell, a vacant, weedy lot, a misplaced library, broken sidewalks, and a building in need of a face-lift? When a community is handed several lemons – make lemonade!” Indeed, this town has done just that. The PRIDE committee accepted the donation of a historic bell from the City, secured grants and private funding to bring it back to its original condition, and permanently displayed the artifact in a prominent location downtown. PRIDE and Senior PRIDE transformed a downtown weedy lot into a beautiful and inviting Memorial Park complete with an uncovered forgotten sidewalk. Alton’s town library was relocated downtown, and a board has been established to help support and promote this new downtown asset. Finally, a major room face-lift within their well-utilized downtown community building was completed. All in all, Alton has revitalized their downtown into some tasty lemonade for all to experience.

Cunningham – “Cooperative Grocery Store”

Jack Meyers, Cunningham PRIDE Chair, called a town meeting to discuss the possibility of a co-op grocery store. The town had been without a store for two years, but the store building and equipment were still in place. The first meeting was attended by 122 people, followed by a series of meetings with increasing interest. It was decided to form a corporation with memberships offered at \$250. To date, the corporation has 153 members with operating capital of \$62,000. PRIDE members helped with collection of funds and coordinated work-nights in getting the building ready. The store opened for business as the “Country Food Market” with an open house hosted by PRIDE and the full support of the community. Cunningham PRIDE is proud that a little town of less than 600 people can still have a good school system, bank, medical clinic, hometown newspaper, and a grocery store, not to mention all of the other businesses.

Glasco – “Main Street Revitalization”

In response to the community’s desire to preserve its historic main street buildings and stimulate economic activity, the Glasco PRIDE program chose Main Street Revitalization as its target project. A concerted effort was made to establish the Glasco Community Foundation in order to collect funds to rescue significant downtown historic buildings, such as the 1900 two-story building housing the recently closed grocery store. The building was purchased at an auction, spared demolition, and renovated for a fresh start as a new grocery store. After 1,000 volunteer hours and thousands of donated dollars, the new store is a tribute to what can be done by dedicated community volunteers set on accomplishing their goal. The refurbished store had its grand opening May 15. This project stimulated other improvements on Main Street, including the UMB Bank facade renovation and the addition of a new computer business downtown. This is an exciting victory for Glasco, benefitting the entire community.

Goff – “Community Exercise Center”

The top PRIDE priority in Goff was the development of a community center. This past year, Goff volunteers successfully completed Phase I of their vision with the completion of a “Community Exercise Center.” Being new in the PRIDE program, the community wanted a project that would benefit the entire town. With the new exercise center, everyone benefits, especially the elderly population and those in need of physical therapy. The PRIDE group explored fund-raising options, determined how to secure the needed equipment, and organized the volunteers to “make it happen.” An interested citizen donated an unused building, the Methodist Church and the Lions Club donated money, and the City waived the water deposit. Many local residents donated labor, tools, and supplies to help make the dream come true. The facility created one new job for the community. The citizens are eagerly anticipating Phase II of their project, which will be either a community meeting room or a branch library.

Highland – “A Walk In The Park”

Several lots from the Bertha Degginger family were bequeathed to the City of Highland in the mid-1980s. With assistance from a K-State Summer Work Team, a plan was prepared for the lots, and a park was developed and dedicated in the summer of 1989. However, little thought was put into the continued maintenance of the park. Through a community-wide effort, these once flat, weed covered lots are now covered by tall shade trees, a lush green lawn and assorted shrubs, flowers, vines, bushes, and seasonal bulbs. A wide brick pathway leads visitors around a large fountain past park benches and picnic tables. This lush retreat is located in the center of downtown Highland and is made possible by many volunteers representing local clubs, church groups, service and fraternal organizations, and students from the grade school, high school, and college. In addition, the City of Highland is an active participant. The park is organized into “pods” that the different groups adopt and maintain. The park is an excellent place for events such as picnics, band concerts, weddings, photo settings, family gatherings, and caroling parties.

Lakin – “PRIDE Youth Involvement”

Although Lakin PRIDE has always had some youth participation in projects, the committee set a goal to increase youth participation. After one meeting with the high school student council, youth participation has exploded! Presently, no activity undertaken by Lakin PRIDE is done without youth involvement. Youth assist with cleanup days, parades, concession stands, tree plantings, city census, plans for developing a city park, hamburger feeds, and any other project that comes up. They attend monthly meetings and participate in discussions and planning sessions. Youth members have also initiated projects on their own. The PRIDE committee now has leaders of various youth organizations contacting PRIDE to see how their members might participate. Youth from grade school to high school now work together with adults to plan and complete various projects. Everyone has an equal voice and carries their share of the work load.

Star Project Merit Award:

The following communities and projects received the Star Project Merit Award.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ★ Almena – Bantam Park Additions | ★ Lucas – New Medical Center |
| ★ Burns – Street Signs | ★ Melvern – Informational Signs |
| ★ Courtland – Children’s Molar Sealant Program | ★ Overbrook – Santa Fe Trail Silhouettes |
| ★ Elk City – Elk City Web Page | ★ Palco – City Park Improvements |
| ★ Fort Scott – Gunn Park Map | ★ Potwin – Garden Project – Plant A Row For The Hungry. |
| ★ Herndon – Community Youth Enrichment | |

2000 Youth Leadership Award Winners

For the first time, the Kansas PRIDE program recognized the outstanding youth leadership that has contributed to the overall community improvement efforts within participating PRIDE communities in 2000. A leadership award plaque was presented to the following outstanding youth:

Jamie Beal (Basehor) For the past three years, Jamie has been an extremely active member in Youth PRIDE, serving as vice-president and president. She has provided an excellent example for younger members with her remarkable dedication and leadership abilities. In the past year, some of the community service projects she has planned include bell ringers for the Salvation Army, a bingo party for the senior citizens home, several cleanup activities (citywide, highway, cemetery), a 4th of July celebration, recycling projects, upkeep on the community gardens, and she has assisted whenever possible with adult PRIDE projects. In addition to Jamie's community projects, she is a huge help to her mother who suffers from multiple sclerosis. She is a good student and active in school activities. These combined efforts and outstanding leadership have made a tremendous impact. Jamie is a true asset to the City of Basehor.

Tina Lipe (Coffeyville) Tina is a volunteer with the American Red Cross, serving as a swimming instructor and blood drive organizer. She has been active in Girl Scouts and has directed the citywide annual Girl Scout cookie sale for several years. Tina's volunteer efforts have been diverse. She has contributed to a beautification project, raised funds for the replacement of signage at a historic site, delivered Meals on Wheels, and participated in the Coffeyville Municipal Band and state Lions Club Band. Tina is involved in the Native American Club, school functions, and is an honor roll student. She is busy with her church youth group and other church activities, and is always willing to make an active contribution. Her leadership skills were demonstrated recently at the Sixth Annual Intertribal Pow-Wow held in Coffeyville where she was the youngest ever master of ceremonies for this major event. This was a very great honor and tribute to Tina and Coffeyville.

Amanda Mooren (Courtland) Now at age 17, Amanda is a seasoned volunteer. She has been involved in community service projects since she was 12 years old. Amanda has worked as an unpaid helper in two nursing homes, and created numerous projects which benefitted communities in at least four counties. She has directed the Summer Youth Recreation Program for the City of Courtland and the Can-Care-a-Van food drive for two years. During the past year, her efforts have focused on the Ashby House Family Homeless Shelter of Salina. Her contributions to the Ashby mission have resulted in funds, supplies, and clothing. It is Amanda's hope that these efforts will serve as an inspiration to other teenagers

to become involved in similar projects. Amanda is also active in service activities in her school and church. She is a talented vocalist, entertainer, and motivational speaker who shares these skills in promoting youth volunteerism. Her love of people and her determination to make a positive difference are clearly evident.

Lacey DeMott (Fort Scott) Lacey was involved in 23 of the 37 projects selected this year by the Fort Scott PRIDE Youth. Many of the projects will have a lifelong impact on future generations. Lacey is skilled at both leadership and being a team player to lead or bring a project to completion. She is willing to tackle the “dirty jobs” as well as the fun ones. For example, the cookie project supplied 140 dozen cookies to the Tourist Center and an additional 80 baked items for the Holiday Homes Tour for the Historic Preservation Association. The cleaning of over 700 luminaries for the candlelight tour of the Fort Scott Historic Site was a “dirty” task that Lacey and other youth enthusiastically completed. Lacey, an 8th grader, maintains a 3.9 GPA, and is involved in several community clubs and organizations that work in all aspects of the community’s betterment. She continually sets high standards for herself and any project she undertakes. The PRIDE Youth sponsor commented, “In the 20 years I have been involved in the welfare of our community, I have never had a student complete over 20 projects, but this shows Lacey is a true pacesetter in making Fort Scott a quality community. She is an outstanding young lady – talented and willing to give of herself to make life better for others.”

Amanda Hirsch (Glasco) As a result of Amanda’s involvement with the Chamber/PRIDE needs and opportunities assessment of the community, the need for a meaningful after-school youth experience was identified. A proposal was submitted to the Learning Service Program that matches student skills to the community’s need. Amanda was selected to represent Glasco High School at the National Leader School of Learning Service in 1999 due to her leadership role in implementing the program. The school was one of 70 high schools in the United States to be named a National Leader School. Amanda took a leadership role in the Kids Community Club, meeting with Kindergarten - 2nd grade youngsters every Wednesday afternoon during the 1999-2000 school year. She expanded this role by teaching Vacation Bible School in May and June 2000. In addition, Amanda is active in many of her church activities. She is an outstanding student and always willing to participate whenever she is needed at school. Using her gift of giving and musical talent, Amanda has made important contributions to the community. She has given over 100 hours in various service roles, meeting critical needs of younger children and filling essential positions in the community. She has made a significant difference in Glasco and serves as an example to other young people.

Craig Wanklyn (Lakin) As president of the Student Council, Craig was able to demonstrate his philosophy of volunteering by increasing the participation of high school students in PRIDE activities. For the past few years, he has attended monthly PRIDE meetings, kept the students informed, and motivated them to assist with community projects. In his neighborhood, he assists neighbors with yard work, watches their homes while they are away, and pitches in on routine household maintenance without being asked. While all of this would keep the average person very busy, Craig is far from being average. At school he is a 4.0 student, involved in band, basketball, golf, and many student organizations. A Governor's Scholar, he has received many awards and has been recognized for his leadership, math, and science skills. His perfect 13-year attendance record in school demonstrates Craig's love of learning. His impact on the community is far reaching. He has served as a role model for younger children as a student, musician, athlete, and citizen. He has raised the expectations of the school and the community for high school students becoming involved by volunteering. His actions and activities have touched the lives of all residents in Lakin. Everyone who knows Craig and of his good work have very high praise for this outstanding young man.

Russell Yarnell (Lucas) This extraordinary young man actively volunteers for the benefit of the entire community. His versatility and cooperative, giving nature is evident. He unloads, packs, and distributes Heartland Shares food boxes, volunteers at a local day care center, offers technical computer help at the medical clinic, and assists a disabled member of the community daily. Russell serves as president of the Lucas Church Youth Group, which sponsors many volunteer activities, including recycling efforts, seasonal events, and working with children. Russell is involved in many school functions, is an outstanding student, a delegate to Boys State, a member of the Quiz Bowl team, involved with Science Olympiad, and the recipient of several other awards and honors. All of these contributions definitely make a difference in the community. Russell's commitment to his hometown has been a positive example for other youth in the community.

Board of Directors

Members of the 2000 Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Board of Directors include representatives of sponsoring corporations and organizations, PRIDE community representatives, and the directors of the two administering organizations of PRIDE – K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing.

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