

**Report on Areas of
Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities, and Discovery (RSCAD) Strength**

Date 5/20/2014

A. Area of Strength:	Aging – Lifespan Development
B. Scope and Context:	The College of Human Ecology studies humans from cells to culture and from conception to death. Accordingly, lifespan development is a major focus of the college in the areas of research, education, and creative activities.
C. Current or Emerging Strength:	<input type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both
D. Criteria of Strength (1, 3, 5, etc.):	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19
E. Narrative:	Aging and/or lifespan development is a major college research, scholarly, and creative activity strength as multiple interdisciplinary research teams and teaching/educational programs work in concert with scientists/educators/administrators and scientific/educational funding agencies nationally and/or locally (NIH-Aging Institute, USDA, State of Kansas Agencies) to examine human development from the stages of early childhood to the newest and fastest growing group in our nation that includes individuals over 90 years of age. Special focus areas for aging research include; quality of life for frail elders, person-centered care delivery and design in long-term care, and nursing home advocacy and policy. Health and well-being are a major concern during lifespan development and our faculty maintains a multifactorial approach both within and across the college in attempting to identify problems and solutions in these areas.
F. Keywords/Tag words:	Aging, early childhood development, nutrition, dietetics, healthy relationships, lifespan development, evidence-based practices, long-term care

A. Area of Strength:	Consumer Behavior
B. Scope and Context:	The production and consumption of goods is extremely important components of our economy. Consumer behavior is an important consideration in product development and production and provides the consumer healthy, sustainable choices in today's market.
C. Current or Emerging Strength:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> Both
D. Criteria of Strength (1, 3, 5, etc.):	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
E. Narrative:	The College of Human Ecology has maintained strong expertise in the areas of food, textile, apparel, lifestyle choices, and interior design resulting in collaborations with both industrial, scientific venues and governmental agencies. Scientific contributions from our faculty have sustained research and development of more healthy and safe behaviors and environments and have had considerable influence on consumer choices while taking into account the ecological framework that drives the faculty at KSU toward a shared concern for sustainability.

F. Keywords/Tag words:	Textiles, apparel, food, interior design, healthy consumer choices, sustainability, product design & production, sensory analysis
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A. Area of Strength:	Healthy Relationships
B. Scope and Context:	The College of Human Ecology provides a variety of educational programs, training and services that improve the lives and well-being of individuals, families and communities. The college operates centers, institutes and services that increase knowledge through multidisciplinary applied research and collaborations on the development and maintenance of healthy relationships.
C. Current or Emerging Strength:	<input type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both
D. Criteria of Strength (1, 3, 5, etc.):	1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19
E. Narrative:	Healthy relationships within the family, places of employment and residences are a necessary part of our society and they enable and enhance the well-being and functionality of individuals, families and communities in these environments. The College of Human Ecology has maintained strong research interests in the areas such as conflict analysis and resolution, marriage and family therapy, formal and informal caregiving for frail older individuals, mental health, partner violence, parenting behavior and has maintained a long history of extramural funding associated within these areas of expertise. Through strong collaborative efforts the college provides leadership in research, scholarly and creative activities, and discovery dedicated to the development and maintenance of healthy relationships.
F. Keywords/Tag words:	Healthy relationships, healthy environments, conflict resolution, marriage and family therapy, evidence based practices

A. Area of Strength:	Food Safety
B. Scope and Context:	Food safety and security is a high priority in our nation today as we live in a world where food contamination, unsafe food handling practices and/or bioterrorism can inflict significant health problems upon the citizens of our country. Our nation's ability to development of strong and scientifically based guidelines for food preparation and handling practices are important to public health and retail foodservice.
C. Current or Emerging Strength:	<input type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both
D. Criteria of Strength (1, 3, 5, etc.):	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19
E. Narrative:	The College of Human Ecology has a long history in the area of food preparation and handling. Food preparation and handling is extremely important to public health and food safety and security is needed in our institutions (i.e. schools and consumer arenas). . Through strong scientific efforts and collaborations with scientists/educators/administrators and scientific/educational funding agencies nationally and/or locally (NIH, USDA, State of Kansas Agencies) our college has been a

	leader in developing food handling practices that have translated into public health policies at both the state and national levels.
F. Keywords/Tag words:	Public health, food safety, food service policies, safety training practices

A. Area of Strength:	Food, Global Health, and Security
B. Scope and Context:	Food safety and security (or insecurity) is a high priority in our nation today as we live in a world where our food supply comes from many different nations. Our country's ability to analyze food for their nutrient content and value based on strong scientific techniques and principles is important to food security (insecurity) and overall global health.
C. Current or Emerging Strength:	<input type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both
D. Criteria of Strength (1, 3, 5, etc.):	1, 2, 4, 5, 14, 15, 17
E. Narrative:	The College of Human Ecology has a long history of being able to determine foods' nutritional and/or medicinal value and how it may be related to human health. In addition, the college has been able to determine what biochemical and/or molecular components are important in these food stuffs that make them desirable and acceptable. Through strong scientific efforts and collaborations and scientific/corporate funding agencies our college has been a leader in food security (insecurity) at both the state, national, and international levels.
F. Keywords/Tag words:	Public health, food security, ingredients, nutrition, sensory analysis

A. Area of Strength:	Obesity
B. Scope and Context:	Obesity is one of the largest health problems found in our country and becoming a greater problem around the world. Nearly one in three children and adults can be classified as overweight and/or obese. Obesity and its association with mortality and morbidity is one of the fastest growing areas of research as scientists are trying to put together the relationships between physical activity/inactivity and nutrition with the development of the Metabolic Syndrome and/or Type 2 Diabetes in both today's children and adults.
C. Current or Emerging Strength:	<input type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both
D. Criteria of Strength (1, 3, 5, etc.):	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19
E. Narrative:	The cause of obesity in our nation is both complex and multifactorial problem that includes nutritional, behavioral, and metabolic (hormonal, biochemical, genetic) components. In addition, the relationships between physical activity/inactivity, healthy lifestyles, nutrition and obesity remain challenging and the focus of many research granting agencies including the NIH, NSF, American Diabetes Association,

	American Cancer Society, USDA, and the State of Kansas. The College of Human Ecology engages in obesity research from a number of different directions utilizing expertise in the scientific disciplines of Kinesiology, Dietetics, and Human Nutrition in attempting to identify and solve the problems associated with development of obesity and its associated health related problems.
F. Keywords/Tag words:	Obesity, overweight, Type 2 Diabetes, Metabolic Syndrome, physical activity/inactivity, physical fitness, metabolic fitness, public health