





## **Competitive Research Programs**

**(Internal) Graduate Assistantship Program:** The Graduate School and the Regional Institute on Aging announced the availability of three graduate research assistantships (GRAs), funded at \$10,000 each, for 20 hours per week, for 12 months. Many tools are required to support and expand a research program. Assistance of well-trained graduate students is one important tool. This program aimed to provide (1) support for faculty research programs and (2) research experience for graduate students. The format of the application was a poster. At a minimum, the poster included (1) the scientific problem and its relevance to human aging research, (2) the design and methods to be employed, and (3) the tasks of the GRA, including the plan for supervision and the benefits from the research experience. The posters were displayed in major academic buildings so



Wichita, and the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging.

## **Collaborations with University of Kansas Medical School- Wichita.**

### **Western Kansas Listening Tour:** KSUM-

-15, 2011. Those on the tour were: H. David Wilson, M.D., Dean, KUSM-W, M. Michele Mariscalco, M.D., Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Pediatrics, KUSM-W, Zulma Toro-Ramos, Ph.D., Dean, College of Engineering, WSU, and Teresa S. Radebaugh, Sc.D., Cassat Professor in Aging and Director, Regional Institute on Aging, WSU.

The tour had two major goals: (1) understand the challenges that physicians in rural and frontier Kansas confront when providing care to their patients, and (2) hear what physicians see as the roles of our respective universities in addressing those challenges and how our universities may engage and assist them.

our universities, over the long term, to develop more focused and relevant group met with physicians and toured facilities in Anthony/Hardtner, the Dodge City Medical Center, Kinsley and the new Kiowa County Memorial Hospital, Greensburg.

Although, much was learned about the situations and circumstances of small town medicine and health care and older adults, the important message for WSU was of a very different sort. The major message received was the university has inadequate marketing and recruiting in Western Kansas. Simply, our presence is almost non-existent. One of the physicians commented that when his son was working with the high school counselor regarding college choices and opportunities Wichita State was never mentioned. With the changing population and influx of Hispanic families and students who do not have a historical family allegiance to K State or KU, WSU has an opportunity to recruit.

### **Wichita Women in Science:**

The purpose of the Wichita Women in Science (WWiS) is to provide a neutral forum for women scientists, clinical investigators and senior science administrators to meet and establish relationships which then serve as the foundation for building new research collaborations. Wichita Women in Science is focused on a city and region and crosses scientific, technical and professional boundaries. The long range goal is to establish a strong core group of scientists, clinical investigators and senior science administrators to help construct and solidify the research relationships between the two universities as well as linking with businesses, foundations, medical centers, community organizations and other colleges in the south central Kansas region.

WWiS is an informal organization. The group meets monthly. The mailing list currently contains approximately 60 names and adds new names monthly. Each gathering is typically attended by 15-25 people. While not focused exclusively on aging, WWiS has proved a very effective, inexpensive networking tool for the region.

WWiS was created