

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

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Professor and Dean

The College of Architecture, Planning and Design entered the 2008–09 academic year with a nearly completed strategic plan. The foundation of that plan reestablishes basic historical strengths as cornerstones of our programs. The plan also recognizes the challenges of new ways of thinking in a rapidly changing academic environment to insure the college meets future challenges.

Our strategic plan centers on the historic, practice-centered pedagogies so highly valued by our graduates and their employers. Additionally, interdisciplinary opportunities afforded our students within the comprehensive college are emphasized. We join other universities around the globe in placing greater emphasis on creating what promises to be a more sustainable urban setting with “green” technologies as fossil fuels become increasingly scarce.

To this end, our faculty are working beyond traditional boundaries and forming teaching teams that cross disciplines and reinforce interdisciplinary values in our studios and classrooms. An inaugural interdisciplinary studio has been made possible through the five-year sponsorship of a major professional office. In addition to its financial commitment, professionals from the sponsoring firm will be participating

in the teaching of that studio, working with the instructor during the introduction of the problem, participating in mid-project critiques and jurying final presentations by student teams. In view of declining state revenues and to remain competitive in the future, we must find corporate sponsorships to address our funding needs and strengthen the relationship between the academy and our profession.

We are now in the second year of the Kansas City Design Center. Seven of our students, representing the professions taught within the college, work in interdisciplinary teams with each other and with students from the University of Kansas in this Kansas City based studio. The studio addresses real Kansas City urban problems, providing insight to the community through a set of academic exercises. We hope our funding organizations will renew their financial commitment to this activity.

Our students and faculty have received national recognition for their “gifts” to Greensburg, the small, southwest Kansas community destroyed by a tornado in May of 2007. Additional information may be found on pages 6–9.

It is with extremely mixed emotions that, after serving for 14 years as dean of the College of Architecture, Planning and Design, I announce I

have decided to step aside at the end of the 2008–09 academic year (August, 2009). I will rejoin the landscape architecture faculty for a few years before my eventual full retirement.

I will especially miss the almost constant contact I have had with our alumni during this time. As your dean, I have had the honor of building our endowment to over five times that of 1995. Most of these endowments have funded critically needed scholarships, but we have also raised monies directed toward the badly needed renovation of Seaton Hall and Seaton Court. We have established an endowed chair for each of our departments. Our rankings have steadily risen.

These accomplishments were made possible because of a great faculty, dedicated staff and loyal alumni. We have partnered to make K-State the top program nationally, and to everyone I extend a big THANK YOU!

