The University of Kansas' Confucius Institute was honored this week in Beijing as a 2007 Confucius Institute of the Year, one of only four institutes in the United States and 20 worldwide to receive the designation.

William M. Tsutsui, executive director of the Confucius Institute, was one of five officials from the 210 institutes around the world and the only U.S. citizen invited to address the opening ceremony of the second Confucius Institute Conference in the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The award was given by State Councilor Chen Zhili, Minister of Education Zhou Ji and Hanban Director General Xu Lin, who oversees the development of Confucius Institutes worldwide.

"All of us at the Confucius Institute are very proud that our programs in Chinese language and culture have been recognized as truly world class," Tsutsui said. "As interest in China continues to increase in Kansas and greater Kansas City, we look forward in the months ahead to further growth and expanded opportunities to serve schools, businesses and communities."

Other addresses were delivered by speakers from Great Britain, Cameroon, Japan and Australia. "This is an extraordinary and deserved honor for our institute and Bill. He and his staff have done impressive work," said Robert Hemenway, KU chancellor. "Our Confucius Institute reflects the strength of KU's connection to China, as well as our superb and extensive Chinese and East Asian programs. It also gives Kansas and the region a competitive advantage in doing business with China as it becomes a leading economic force in the world."

KU's Confucius Institute was the fifth such institute to open in the United States when it was dedicated in May 2006. The first four were located in Washington, D.C., Chicago, New York and San Francisco. There are now 38 institutes in the United States.

The institute serves communities, businesses, schools, government, nonprofit organizations and the media throughout the region by offering community-based Chinese language instruction, supporting the training and professional development of Chinese language teachers and promoting outreach programs on Chinese culture. It is a cooperative project of KU, the Office of Chinese Language Council International of the Chinese Ministry of Education and Huazhong Normal University.
Scholarship winners identified at Kansas University

Local recipients of scholarships at the University of Kansas include:

*Baileyville*: Amy L Rottinghaus – Design BFA, Junior, Juanita B. Strait Scholarship, Charles W. Shipley Memorial, Flinn Scholarship B & B High School;

Laura A Rottinghaus, DesignBFA, Senior, Helen Amick Brainerd Student Aid, Ida M. Stocking Fund B & B High School Baileyville

*Baileyville*: Megan Renee Sanders, Business, Junior J. A. Burzle Scholarship, B & B High School Baileyville.

*Centralia*: Hailey Nicole Stallbaumer, Design BFA, Sophomore, Helen Amick Brainerd Student Aid, Centralia High School Centralia.

*Corning*: Renee Lynne Stallbaumer, Educ-Curr&Ins, MSE Graduate, Chris and Marilyn Anderson Scholarship, Ruth E. Litchen memorial scholarship Nemaha Valley High School Seneca, Nemaha Valley High School Seneca


*Seneca*: Emily E Bergman, Applied Behavioral Science BA, Freshman, Harvey Haines III Memorial Scholarship B & B High School; Jamie Lynn Bergman, Social WorkBSW, Senior, School of Social Welfare, Advisory Board Scholarship Nemaha Valley High School; Lindsay R Bergman, Psychology BA, Sophomore Harvey Haines III Memorial Scholarship Nemaha Valley High School; Tara M Bergman, Accounting BSB, Junior, Henry E. Crawford Scholarship in Business Nemaha Valley High School.; Julie Danielle Eisenbarth, English BA, Junior, NILA B. MCCONN SCHOLARSHIP, Nemaha Valley High School ; Amy F Gress, Mathematics BSE, Junior, Harvey Haines III Memorial Scholarship, Joan Pelton Haver Scholarship in Education Nemaha Valley High School; Laura Elizabeth Hammes, Dietetic Internship Cert Prog Graduate, Freeman Roy Scholarship;


*Wetmore*: Jareb Tyler Stallbaumer, Pre-Pharmacy Freshman, KU Scholarships Wetmore High School.
KU awards $26 million to students

More than 5,400 students at the University of Kansas will receive about $26 million in privately funded scholarship support during the 2007-08 academic year. This is a 10.6 percent increase from the 2006-07 school year, in which KU students received $24.3 million in scholarship support.

This year’s recipients represent 101 of the 105 counties in Kansas, 44 other states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 50 other countries.

So far, 7,603 scholarships have been awarded for the current academic year. Many students receive more than one scholarship. KU divides many scholarship awards between the fall and spring semesters, and there are some students who receive scholarship support for the summer term as well.

Virtually all scholarships, awards and fellowships awarded by KU come from private contributions to KU Endowment.

Though KU Endowment raises support for scholarships and other student aid, KU determines the distribution of available support. The figure fluctuates each year based on several factors, such as the number of students who apply for and receive them, the investment performance of endowed scholarship funds and new gifts for scholarships.

Those from Jefferson County receiving scholarships are:

Oskaloosa—Jessica Anderson, nursing, graduate, Arthur S. and Leora J. Peck Scholarship; Chantel Bauman, chemical engineering, sophomore, Kansas Athletics Univ. Undergraduate Scholarship and Paul and Virginia Bassett Miller Engineering Scholarship; Kimberly Brey, medicineMD, Prof 1, Peter T. Bohan Student and Cultural Enhancement and Diversity NIH Scholarship; Lindsey Ottensmeier, daughter of Randy and Darla Ottensmeier, pre-business, Freshman, Targeted Scholarships; Amber Peterman, daughter of Deborah Thompson, pre-nursing, freshman, Emily V. Berger Scholarship; Kyle Scrimsher, son of Brian Scrimsher, mechanical engineering, freshman, Richard R. Riss Sr. Scholarship; Jennifer Preston, daughter of John and Janet Preston, Sarah D. Knox Scholarship and KU Nursing Scholarship.

Ozawkie—Dustin Hothan, son of Matt and Halene Hothan, pharmacy, Prof 1, George Guy Hall Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy; Susan Ann Kary, daughter of Ronald Bruggeman, dietetics and nutrition, Graduate School of Allied Health Scholarships; Wendi Menke, daughter of Tami Ruff, Educ-Curr. and Ins., graduate, Tollefson Scholarship in Science Education; Thomas Sanford, business administration, graduate, Gary D. Irish Endowed Scholarship and Richard R. Riis Sr. Scholarship.

Perry—Erin Easum, business administration, graduate, Clifford J. Goering Business Scholarship; Leah Grady, daughter of Barbara and Gayden Grady, undecided, freshman, Sarah D. Knox Scholarship and KU Scholarships; Jennifer Preston, daughter of John and Janet Preston, social work, graduate, William A. and Monte L. Murphy Social Welfare Scholarship.


County: Jefferson

Willis, undecided, Janicke Freshman Honor Scholarship and Coca Cola Scholarships; Emma Willis, daughter of Jeff and Sheree Willis, music education, junior, Coca Cola Scholarships and Band Scholarship.

Ozawkie—Dustin Hothan, son of Matt and Halene Hothan, pharmacy, Prof 1, George Guy Hall Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy; Susan Ann Kary, daughter of Ronald Bruggeman, dietetics and nutrition, Graduate School of Allied Health Scholarships; Wendi Menke, daughter of Tami Ruff, Educ-Curr. and Ins., graduate, Tollefson Scholarship in Science Education; Thomas Sanford, business administration, graduate, Gary D. Irish Endowed Scholarship and Richard R. Riis Sr. Scholarship.