Animal health effort corrals MBA program

The Kansas City Animal Health Corridor announced a new master’s in business administration program designed to train new management leaders for area animal health companies.

The University of Kansas School of Business, in collaboration with Bayer Animal Health, developed the novel MBA in animal health degree program. The business school has since invested in expanding the program to meet the needs of the many animal health companies based in the Kansas City region, according to a release from the Kansas City Area Development Council.

The KCADC is one of three area economic development organizations promoting the corridor between Manhattan, Kan., and Columbia, Mo., as the nation’s largest concentration of animal health companies.

“'In addition to working with Bayer Animal Health,'” the release said, “'KU is exploring the needs of other animal health care companies within the region, including Hill’s Pet Nutrition, CEVA Bio-mune, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. and Fort Dodge Animal Health.”

Bayer Animal Health in Shawnee, for example, is using the program to attract new executives who can earn an MBA in three years while rotating through a number of key functions within the company.

“Because our industry is growing rapidly, we need to identify the next generation of business leaders who can take companies like ours to the next level,” Joerg Ohle, general manager of Bayer Animal Health, said in the release. “This program is key to filling the pipeline with tomorrow’s industry leaders. In addition, this program is tangible evidence that the corridor is bringing value to the industries and to the companies who locate here.”

About 130 animal health organizations — including 37 global or U.S. headquarters — are based in the corridor. It also includes more than 15,000 animal health employees and is within 300 miles of five major universities with veterinary medicine or animal science programs.

Rob Roberts
KU students complete certification for service learning

LAWRENCE — The Center for Service Learning at the University of Kansas has recognized 50 students in 19 disciplines for completing certification in service learning during fall 2007.

Among them is Lacie Reed, daughter of Stacy and Debbie Reed, Burlington. She is a junior majoring in sport science and was awarded a Center for Service Learning certification.

Students who completed the certification process this fall receive a designation on their transcripts and will be recognized in a ceremony in spring 2008. The notation will inform future employers and graduate and professional schools that the students have dedicated significant time to classes and activities that foster civic engagement, community involvement and leadership.

KU’s Center for Service Learning allows students to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings, gain experience and serve their community. The certification process consists of four components: completion of a service learning course; an independent service project; a set of directed civic engagement and leadership readings; and a reflection. All undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for certification.

During the fall 2007 semester, KU students participated in more than 60 service learning courses in departments as diverse as anthropology, business, music therapy, architecture and political science. Projects within these courses ranged from performing surveys for local community organizations in a sociology class to teaching English to native Spanish speakers in a Latina/o literature course.

For their independent projects, many of the students volunteered with local service groups such as Headquarters, Up ‘til Dawn, Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club and Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

The Center for Service Learning was established in 2005 to create meaningful learning opportunities for students. Since then, more than 300 students in 30 majors and four graduate programs have been certified in service learning, aiding more than 42 community-based organizations and partnering with them for more than 5,725 hours.

Students who participate in the certification program say service learning provides a chance to make their course content more meaningful but also guides their future academic and career interests.