KU at Work: Thomas County
The following profile highlights the services and support that KU provides to Thomas County.

Educating Leaders

Students

KU has 37 students from Thomas County: 27 undergraduate, 6 graduate, and 4 students at KU Medical Center.

KU students from Thomas County have support in the form of grants, scholarships, and fellowships. As of the fall census, $97,963 in federal, state, institutional, and outside/private grants, scholarships, and fellowships have been awarded on all campuses to 17 Thomas County students for FY 2015.

Of the fall 2014 students, 137 have transfer credit from Colby Community College.

KU has 117 alumni from Thomas County.

Building Healthy Communities

Public Safety

KU provides public safety training to the state for law enforcement, fire and rescue response. In FY 2014, 124 law enforcement officers and 22 fire and rescue officials from Thomas County were trained at KU.

Healthcare – KU Medical Center

Enhancing Student Education

- 4 Thomas County doctors serve as volunteer KU Medical Center faculty, providing medical students with hands-on training in rural communities as part of the Rural Preceptorship Program.
- 10 high school students in Thomas County participated in activities during Fiscal Year 2014 that encouraged them to consider careers in health care, math and science. These events were hosted by the KU Area Health Education Center.
- Nurses across Kansas can now advance their careers from home, thanks to an innovative agreement between the KU School of Nursing and 18 regional community colleges, including Colby Community College. The agreement provides nurses who have an associate’s degree in nursing from a participating college an easier transition to earning their bachelor of science in nursing through KU’s online RN-to-BSN program.

“Graduates of health programs at the University of Kansas are critical to the well-being of all Kansans, in every corner of the state. Half of all Kansas physicians trained at KU. The majority of pharmacists and other allied health professionals are KU graduates. Thousands of Kansans every day are cared for by KU-trained nurses, whether Kansas City graduates or the two-year degree programs supported by the KU School of Nursing. It’s hard to imagine Kansas without KU.”

– Dr. John Jeter, c’77, m’81, CEO Hays Medical Center

37
KU students from Thomas County

146
Thomas County law enforcement officers, firefighters and first responders trained at KU

88
KU telemedicine visits to Thomas County residents in 2014
Strengthening the Health Care Workforce

- 14 KU Medical Center graduates live and/or practice in Thomas County.
- 4 health care providers have been placed in Thomas County since 2004 through the Kansas Recruitment and Retention Center, which provides placement assistance to rural health organizations and seeks to enhance the quality and quantity of health care professionals in rural Kansas.
- 1 Thomas County physician received funding through the Kansas Bridging Plan, a loan-forgiveness program offered since 1991 to primary care medical residents who agree to practice in rural Kansas.
- 1 Thomas County health care employer exhibited with 2014 Kansas Career Opportunities, which is designed to introduce medical students, residents and other health care professionals to rural communities looking to hire.
- 2 enrollments in KU Medical Center continuing education courses and conferences by Thomas County health care professionals in Fiscal Year 2014.

Advancing Health Care Access

- Thomas County residents saw KU Medical Center health care providers 88 times via telemedicine in FY14. An interactive video technology that connects providers and patients when distance separates the two, telemedicine services are provided through the University of Kansas Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth.
- Thomas County residents made 6 visits to KU Medical Center health care providers in outreach clinics held outside of Kansas City in FY14.