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MEDIA RELEASE

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USD 305 Students Can Now Earn an Associate Degree from K-State Polytechnic during High School

Kansas State University's Polytechnic Campus and USD 305 have partnered to create the new Polytechnic Center for Applied Technology Studies. This academy provides an opportunity for eligible high school students to earn industry-recognized credentials, receive college credit for general education requirements and complete dual credits for an associate degree during high school. The PolyCATS Academy will also foster strong community partnerships with businesses, community organizations and educational organizations.

K-State Polytechnic currently partners with USD 305 to offer Computing Principles, a blended credit class, at both Central High School and South High School. The course is team-taught with a USD 305 teacher and K-State faculty. Collaboration efforts also include 36 dual-credit elective offerings taught by K-State faculty.

"Kansas State University is committed to innovation in education while serving the communities in our state. The PolyCATS Academy is an exciting new initiative which brings important stakeholders together to support the needs of our region in a collaborative manner," said Terri Gaeddert, associate dean for academics and student success at K-State Polytechnic. "Students will benefit. Public schools will benefit. Businesses will benefit. This is a win-win-win approach to ensuring the needs of our workforce are met, both now and in the future."

The PolyCATS Academy will allow students to enroll in classes and receive credit from both USD 305 and K-State. Dual-credit electives will also expand from 36 to 102 courses. By the time they graduate from high school, students will have an opportunity to earn an associate degree in aviation, business or engineering technology. Other student advantages include discounted tuition rates, transitional support to college and career, networking with area employers, a collegiate connection while in high school and connections to the workforce.

USD 305 educators will benefit from the PolyCATS Academy through opportunities to work in concert with college professors, develop a greater depth of knowledge in their content areas, engage in networking opportunities and grow professionally by teaching college-level courses.

"This partnership greatly expands the choices for USD 305 students to have a post-secondary experience while still in high school," said Linn Exline, superintendent of USD 305. "The opportunity to earn college credits and an associate degree are key experiences on their roadmap that leads to success beyond graduation."

To learn more about the PolyCATS Academy at K-State Polytechnic Campus, contact the Office of Admissions at 785-826-2640 or polytechnic@k-state.edu or the high school counseling departments at Central High School, 785-309-3636 or South High School, 785-309-3715.

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