

STAKEHOLDER NEWS



Upcoming in December

GEAPS Hands-On Training

IGP-KSU Flour Milling for State Wheat Leaders and Staff

IGP Introduces First Baking Microcredential

In November, IGP and the Department of Grain and Food Science announced the approval of the IGP-KSU Baking Basics course as the department's first microcredential.

Microcredentials have been identified by the university as an effective way to meet the needs of industry and adult learners while also supporting the university's goal of boosting enrollment. IGP and the Department of Grain and Food Science saw microcredential development as a timely opportunity.

Beginning in Fall 2022, K-State began offering these small units of learning that result in electronic badges demonstrating the skills and competencies learners have gained in a specific subject area. Microcredentials are smaller than certificates, fewer than 12 credit or noncredit hours, and can be delivered in a variety of formats, including in-person, virtual, online, or hybrid.

"A microcredential is a more accessible way for people to gain the knowledge and skills they need on a topic and then share or display to others through a digital badge that they have done so. The appeal of microcredentials to those in the workforce is that they are earned without the cost and time involved in getting an academic certificate, minor or degree," said IGP education manager, April Darnell.

To follow through on a pledge to stakeholders, IGP established developing microcredentials as a strategic goal for 2025. Because microcredentials align with the university's objectives and industry needs, this is an ideal moment for IGP and the department to expand their offerings.

At a presentation in early February 2025, IGP outlined to stakeholders the value of transforming existing IGP courses into microcredentials and creating new online courses to broaden appeal. This would also allow IGP to leverage K-State's marketing and administrative



Image of the Credly badge participants will receive after completing the Baking Basics course.

infrastructure to increase its reach and profitability. In June 2025, Department of Grain and Food Science department head, Joseph Awika, asked the baking faculty to collaborate with IGP in exploring the development of online, noncredit microcredential courses. The application to convert IGP's Baking Basics course into a microcredential was submitted in September and approved in October 2025, becoming the department's first approved microcredential. The course is scheduled for May 27–29 on site at IGP and the bakery science lab on campus.

K-State uses the Credly platform to host and issue its microcredential badges, allowing learners to display verified evidence of their skills. Employers who value these competencies can easily review a Credly badge when considering candidates for hiring or promotion.

There are now plans to develop a collection of ten online, on-demand microcredential baking courses aimed at meeting industry needs for specialized baking science training beyond what K-State's academic degrees currently provide.



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

November Participant Numbers

29

Distance

0

On-site



November Trainings and Activities

- Hosted NASDA Trade team
 - Hosted Alpha Mu Initiation Banquet
 - Hosted GFS Thanksgiving Luncheon
 - Attended and presented on HRW wheat quality at the 2025 USW South America Crop Quality Seminars in Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Chile
 - Radio interview on soybean storage with George Akagi on behalf of Kansas Soybean Commission
 - Participated as speaker at AMLAN's instructor on the SEC Americas Basic Feed Manufacturing Course Live Q/A sessions
 - Participated as speaker on behalf of USGC on PCQI Feed Safety Training for the Colombian Feed Industry in Bogota, Colombia
 - Taught North Dakota State University ASM 323 class on grain storage and sampling – virtual
 - Participated as speaker for the 10th SEC MENA Feed Manufacturing virtual course
 - Participated as vice-chair on the GEAPS education and training committee
 - Attended VIV MEA and the Aquaculture Extrusion short course
 - Guest presenter for MANGT 662 – “Brief Introduction to U.S. Grain and Oilseed Supply Chains and Marketing Systems”
 - Attended Grain Farmers of Ontario, Canada
 - Attended USSEC Strategic Utilization Team (SUT) Sustainability and Market Access. Event attendance – 64 plus USSEC staff
 - Attended Corn Belt Port Annual Summit Series. Event attendance – 145 +/- people
 - Presented Farmdoc Daily Articles
 - Featured in High Plains Journal magazine article “China’s return to buying U.S. soybeans welcome news”
 - Spoke on Grain Central “U.S. Government Shutdown Has Market Missing WASDE
 - Attended the Online Learning Consortium (OLC) Accelerate Conference, focused on advancing digital learning and fostering innovation in online and blended education, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida
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