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Dear Allied Colleagues,

The 2025 Active Living Conference is just around the corner—taking place March 16-20 in Manhattan, Kansas. Hosted by Kansas State University, this year's conference theme, *Bridging the Research to Practice Gap*, will bring together researchers, practitioners, educators, parks and recreation professionals, and community leaders in our allied fields, to discuss how we can translate research into actionable strategies for building active, healthy communities.

Early bird registration closes on February 10th, so this is the perfect time to secure your spot at a discounted rate.

[Register Now](#)

Program Highlights



Plenary Discussion | Monday, March 17th

Bridging the Gaps: If What We Are Doing is So Great, Why Isn't It Sticking?

Gia Merlo, Clinical Professor, NYU Grossman School of Medicine



Panel | Tuesday, March 18th

Kansas Connections: Local Active Living Initiatives

- **Virginia Barnes**, Director, Blue Health Initiatives, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas
- **Elaine Johannes**, Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professor in Community Health State Extension Specialist
- **Courtney Koenig**, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- **Aaron Stewart**, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Manhattan, KS



Panel | Wednesday, March 19th

Bridging the Research to Practice Gap



- **Christiaan Abildso**, Physical Activity Specialist, Family Nutrition Program, Extension at WVU
- **Natasha Frost**, Partner, Seeds to Roots
- **Deborah Salvo**, Associate Professor, The University of Texas at Austin

Plan Your Trip

We recommend arriving on Sunday, March 16th for the *Welcome Reception* and networking opportunities before conference sessions kick off on Monday morning. The local airport to fly into is Manhattan, Kansas (MHK). **For your convenience, discounted group rates as low as \$106/night are available at three nearby hotels.**

More details, including hotel information and the full conference program, are available on the event website.

[More Information](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

2025 Active Living Conference Co-Chairs

Gina Besenyi, Associate Professor and Director, Physical Activity Research in Community Settings (PARCS) Lab, Kansas State University

Peter Stoepker, Assistant Professor and Director of the Active Schools Lab, Kansas State University

Jessica Stroope, Community & Economic Development Specialist, Louisiana State University AgCenter

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