



COLUMBIANA COUNTY East Liverpool and Salem

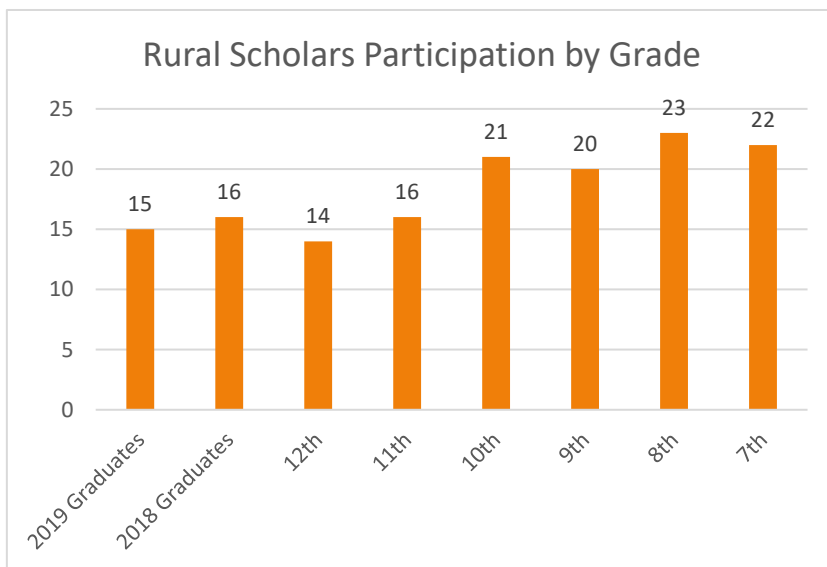


Impact Report 2019-2020

1 OVERVIEW

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Rural Scholars Program served 109 scholars in grades 7-12 in the following school districts: Crestview, East Liverpool, Leetonia, Lisbon, Salem, Southern Local, United and Wellsville. A total of 20 undergraduate mentors visited our middle and high school scholars on a weekly basis to help them stay focused academically, as well as cultivate problem-solving skills, self-efficacy and intrinsic motivation. Mentors conducted a total of 410 hours of individual mentoring; 381 hours of small-group mentoring (including during school hours and during day-long workshops throughout the school year); and 1,366 hours of large-group mentoring during the summer week-long workshops.

Rural Scholars mentors also delivered Junior Achievement financial literacy programming to 6th grade students in the Salem school district, specifically Southeast Elementary.



informational night; ACT prep; careers in broadcasting; leadership; engineering/manufacturing; FAFSA information night; geography; and horticulture.

State Budget of \$200,000

State Rep. Tim Ginter spearheaded a line item on the state budget specifically for the Rural Scholars Program of Columbiana County. The funding was approved in the biennial budget for \$100,000 per year for two years.

Those funds have been earmarked to further improve workshop programming for the students and to expand mentor support and development.

This funding will serve to improve the overall quality of the program for students and mentors alike.

Academic and career readiness week-long workshops were offered throughout the summer and included a total of four intensive summer programs: Soil & Water (7th grade); Risky Business (8th grade); Makers & Mechanisms (9th grade); and Locationology (10th grade). Scholars in 11th grade also participated in a one-week residential program at Kent State University called College Boot Camp.

Scholars participated in day-long academic and career-readiness workshops offered during the school year, covering topics such as Career Day with the Salem Rotary Club; early childhood education; financial literacy; military careers; nursing; physical therapy; robotics; study skills; veterinary technician; senior financial

2 ASSESSMENTS & OUTCOMES

Rural Scholars continue to make progress toward our five core outcomes. As you may recall, these outcomes were created through a collaborative process between community members and educators. As the program expanded, we found it is time to revisit and re-examine these outcomes. They serve as the basis for the students at each of the regional campuses as they start their own Rising Scholars Programs. These five outcomes include:

-Community Engaged/Community Leader: Has pride in their community which results in engagement. Has a sense of place.

-Engaged Learner: Problem solver; they know how to apply information to a meaningful solution.

-Socially Savvy: Possesses a broad knowledge base of how to function in all areas of society: schools, stores, places of employment, religious centers, outreach centers. Knowing what is appropriate and what is not appropriate. Knowing how to navigate through society as a student and an adult.

-Successful Student: Meeting a set of stated goals. Being individually responsible to meet the goals.

-Workforce Ready: Clear understanding of the responsibilities of a good employee: showing up on-time and regularly, ready to work, having a solid understanding of the “language” for benefits and compensation, reliability, showing initiative, and going the extra mile.

Has “soft skills” to be able to work with others (i.e. good verbal, written and face-to-face communication skills; dependable; leads self; problem solver; reliable; resilient (grit); respect for self; others and personal property; teamwork; able to prioritize; etc.).

**Data extracted from A) 2018-2019 scholar academic information; B) 2018 health and wellness survey; C) 2018 Columbiana County Developmental Assets Survey*

Successful Students

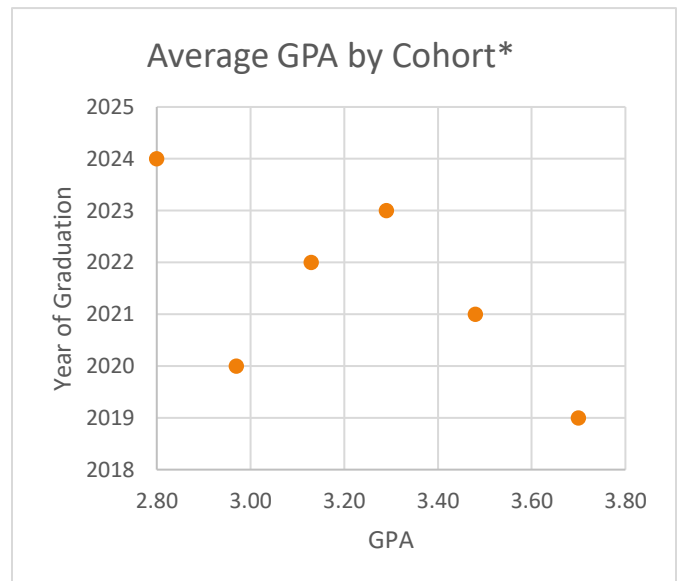
- Average GPA:
 - High School **3.32** Middle School: **3.09**
- Average math GPA:
 - High School **3.19** Middle School **3.57**
- 100 percent of students in Algebra I (or higher) as 9th graders
- 45 percent of students in Algebra II (or higher) as 9th graders

Engaged Learners

- 91 percent report “doing their best work” at school;
- 67 percent of students reported doing at least one hour of homework every school day, outside of school;
- 61 percent report “never coming to school without homework finished.”

Workforce Ready

- 83 percent report staying away from illegal drugs;
- 91 percent report taking responsibility for their actions most or all the time;
- 93 percent of student that participated in a manufacturing/engineering workshop said that they have a better understanding of the field; 69 percent said that they are interested in looking further into the field.



Socially Savvy

- 71 percent of scholars report feeling in control of their lives;
- 61 percent report planning and making good choices most of the time;
- 97 percent report accepting people who are different from them.

Committed to Community

- Scholars committed more than 1,000 hours of community service through individual service and group projects;
- 94 percent of the scholars report spending time helping others;
- 76 percent of the scholars think that others feel they are good at making and keeping friends.



“What I found interesting at the Wildlife Education Center was not all weeds are bad. Some are saved for making new things. What I learned at the Wild-Life center was everyone needs to participate in helping the environment.” -7th grader, Soil & Water workshop

3 COLUMBIANA COUNTY

The Rural Scholars Program assesses the developmental assets of program participants via an annual health and wellness survey. Results are extrapolated and compared with the participants’ peers within Columbiana County. Rural Scholars works with the Columbiana County Educational Service Center on these comparisons.

Developmental Assets, as defined by The Search Institute, is “a research-based framework that identifies the basic building blocks of youth development. Search Institute has identified 40 positive supports and strengths that young people need to succeed. Half of the assets focus on the relationships and opportunities they need in their families, schools, and communities (external assets). The remaining assets focus on the social-emotional strengths, values, and commitments that are nurtured within young people (internal assets).” Research shows there are clear relationships between positive youth outcomes and asset levels in youth. Young people who have more assets are “less likely to engage in high risk activities and more likely to engage in positive behaviors.”

Rural Scholars outperformed their Columbiana County peers on both internal and external assets, as outlined in appendix A. Students who participated in the Kent State Rural Scholars Program were immersed in experiences, relationships and activities that helped build many of the vital developmental assets. The increased number of developmental assets shown by Rural Scholar participants can be attributed to their involvement in the Kent State Rural Scholars Program.

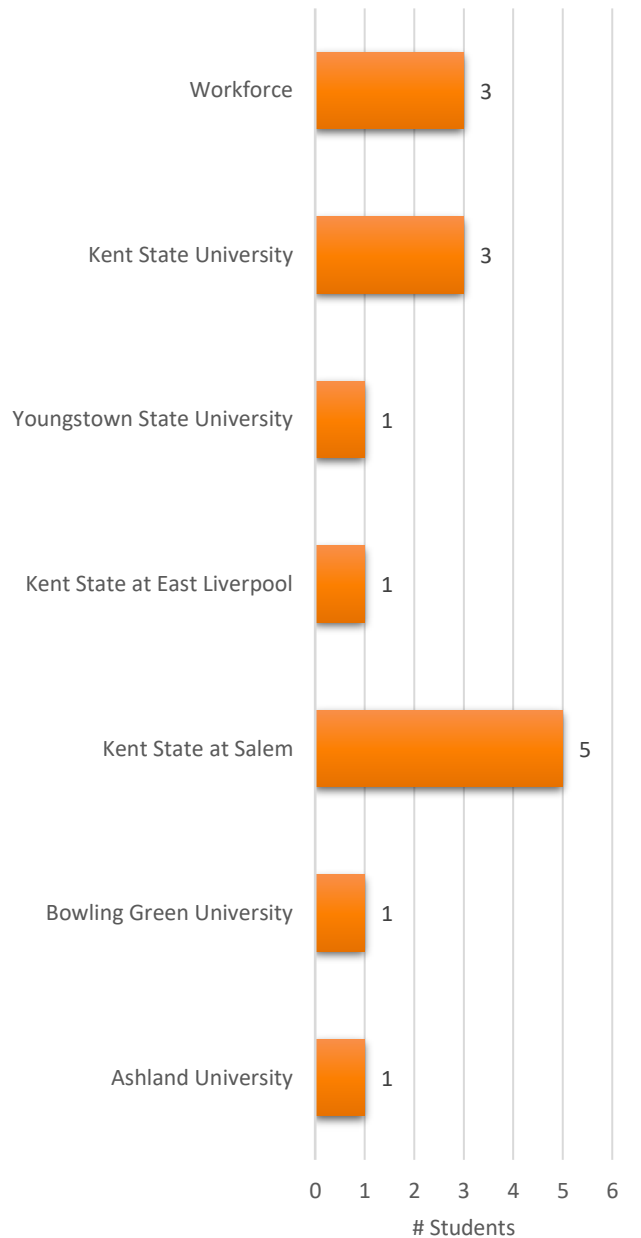
2019 GRADUATES

Where are they now?



Attending Kent State Salem are **Amanda Bowling**, majoring in psychology; **Randy Felton**, majoring in business/accounting; **KJ Kovar**, majoring in business; **Tori Mayer**, majoring in business/marketing; and **Juli Spence**, majoring in radiology. **Korbin Grim** is attending Kent State East Liverpool, majoring in computer software engineering. At the Kent campus, **Judi Crawford** is majoring in visual communication and design; **Eli Hays** is majoring in architecture; and **Hannah Hephner** is majoring in nursing. **Cat Clarkson** is majoring in communication sciences and disorders at Bowling Green University; and **Kyleen Culler** is at Ashland University, majoring in forensic biology. **Kasinda Schmidt**, **Hannah Boyd**, and **Bryce Oller** are each in the workforce, working various jobs.

2019 Graduates



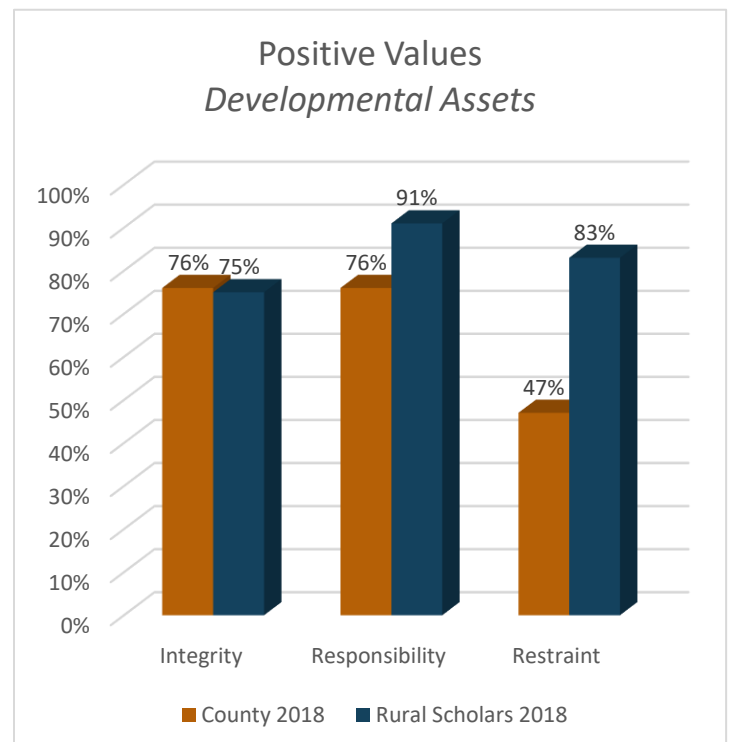
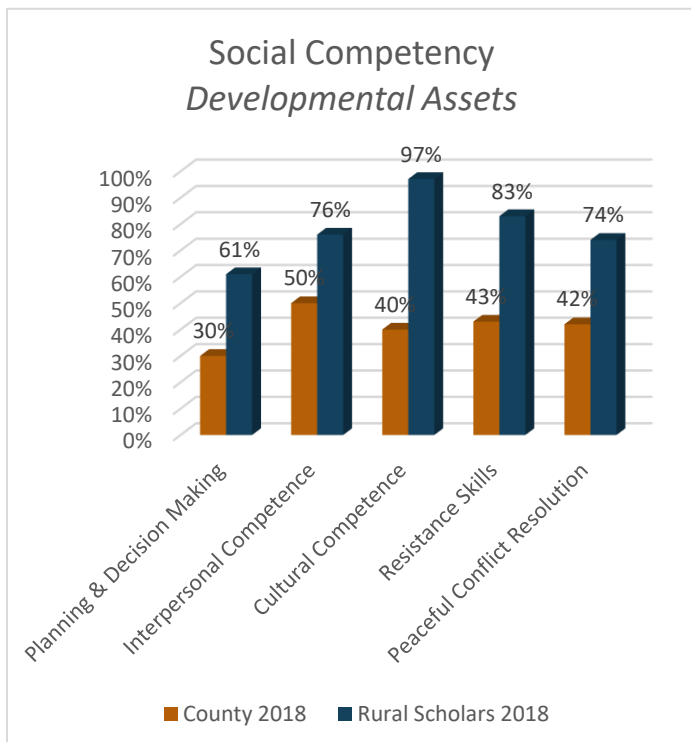
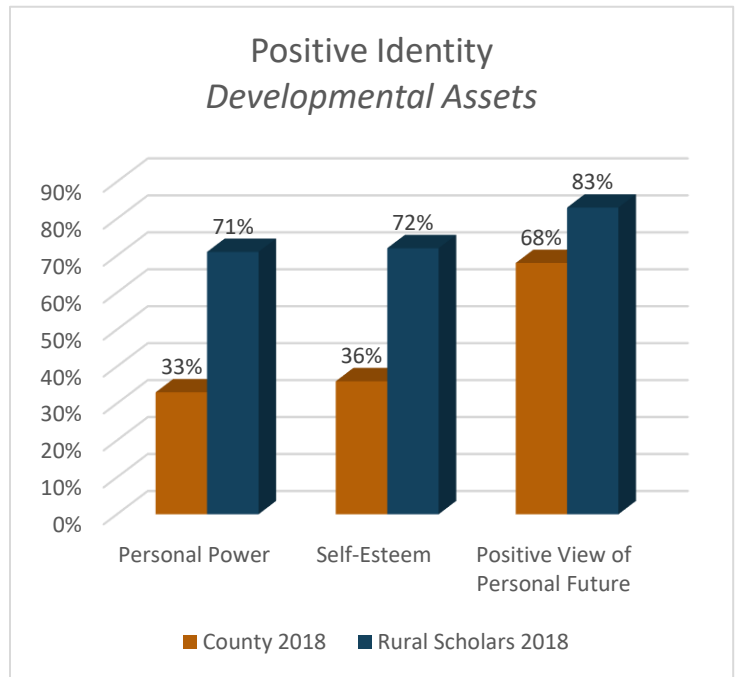
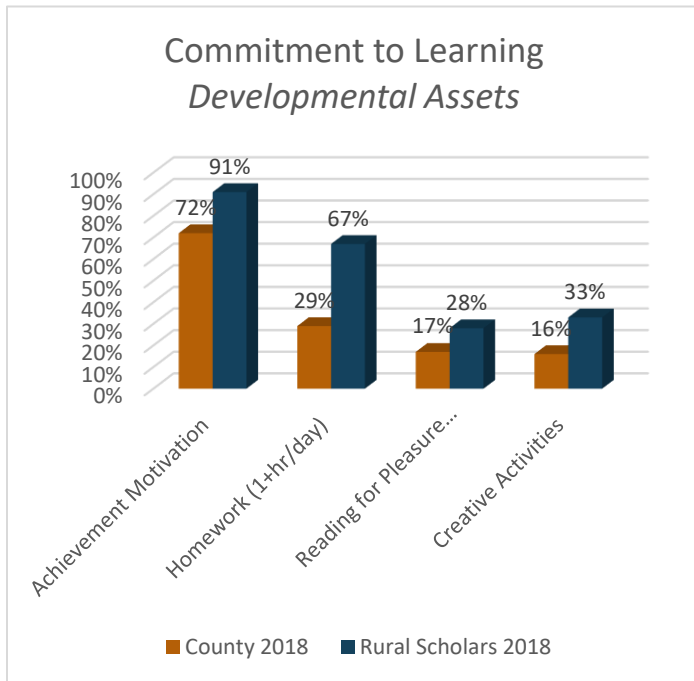
4 2019-2020: LOOKING AHEAD

Despite the transitions in the program in the last year, we are still very engaged. We have been working with the new expanding program known as Rising Scholars that is being formed at each of the regional campuses. In working with these new programs, we are creating a standardized administrative process that can be utilized by all programs, system wide. We recently received \$30,000 from the Kent State University Foundation toward this new expanding program. We will use these funds to create a digital application that will help drive data collection, link all the programs together, and simplify communication. As stated above, we also received \$100,000 for each of the next two years from the Ohio State Budget for the Columbiana County program that will be used for several different, yet great things. Lastly, we continue our relationship with our ever-supportive and generous donors, without which, none of this would be possible.

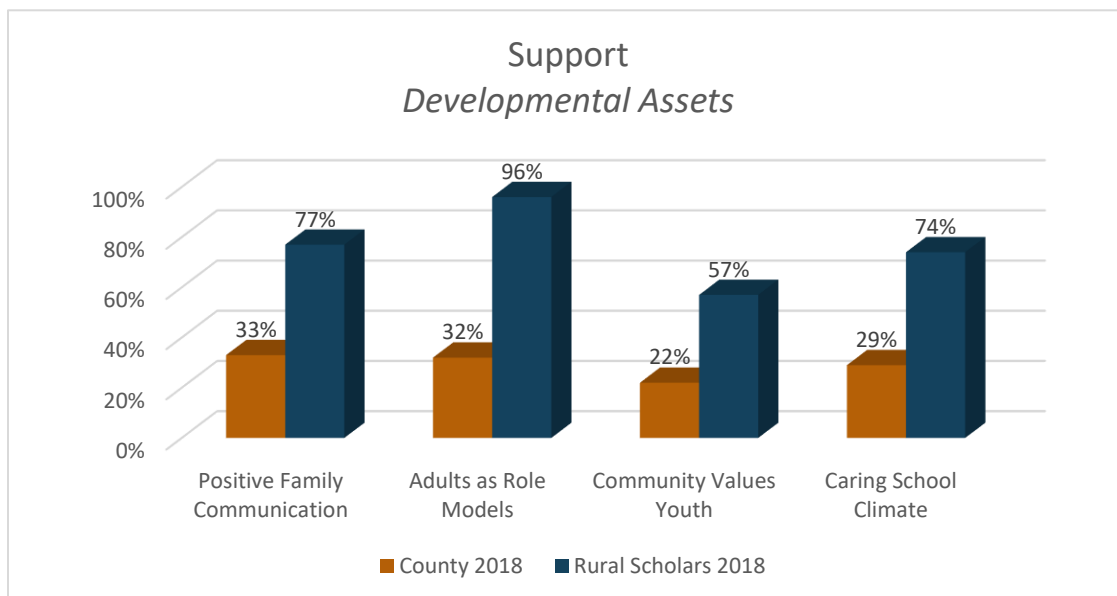
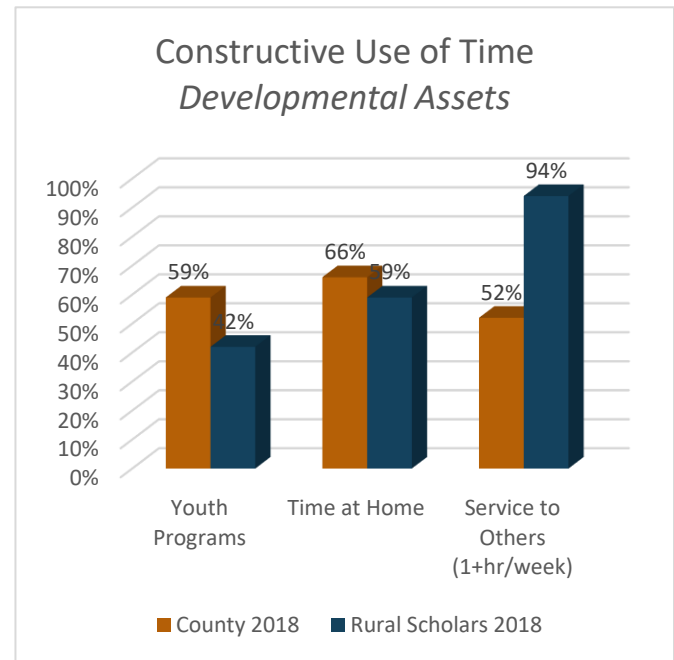
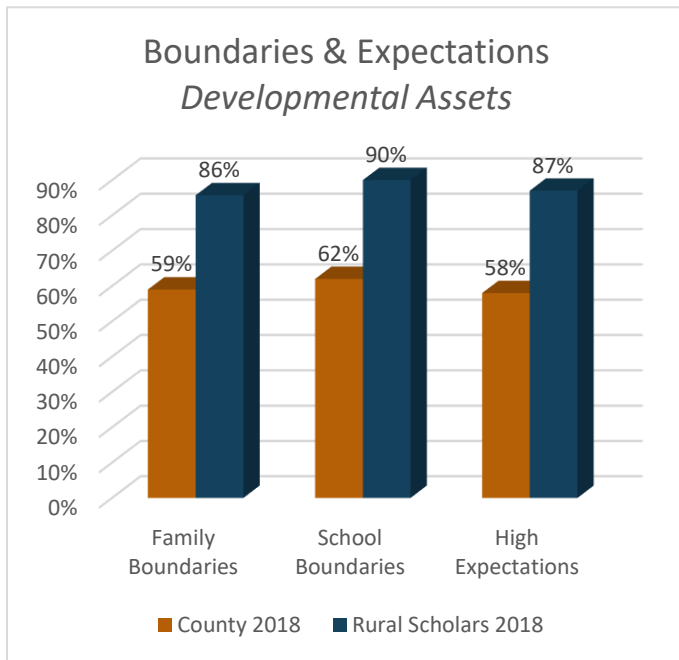
APPENDIX A

The following charts illustrate participants in the Kent State Rural Scholars Program and their developmental assets compared to their peers within Columbiana County.

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS - positive commitments, skills and values that form a young person's inner guidance system. Youth make personal choices and actions based upon the degree to which their internal assets are developed.



EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS - positive developmental experiences that families, schools, neighborhoods, community groups and other youth and family-serving organizations provide young people. These positive experiences are reinforced and supported by the broader efforts of society through government policy, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, civic foundations and other community institutions.



Contact Us!

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<http://www.kent.edu/columbiana/rural-scholars-program>
 Follow Kent State Rural Scholars on Facebook!