

From the desk of V. Marie Martin
Foundation Director, May 8, 2019
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Dear Flint Hills Friends,

The Foundation is excited to enter the public phase of its first ever comprehensive campaign - **THE NEXT VISTAS CAMPAIGN**. Our thanks to the **Manhattan Mercury; Grass & Grain; Ron Wilson's Kansas Profile-Now That's Rural; Mark Nutsch; and KMAN radio**; for local coverage of the 2019 Friends of the Flint Hills event and campaign announcement. We also extend our thanks and appreciation to the other media outlets throughout the Flint Hills and Kansas who shared news of our campaign.

The NEXT VISTA Campaign is seeking private support for three major initiatives. First, the second-floor mezzanine level will become home to KID-SCAPE, a youth-focused, interactive experience immersing children into the place, the people and the promise that is the Kansas Flint Hills. Second, new technology will energize the visitors' experience of Flint Hills Discovery Center. And third, new, endowed funds will provide expanded educational classes, workshops and other activities for children. Private support for new exhibitions and community days of celebration are also part of the comprehensive campaign.

The NEXT VISTAS Campaign Honorary National Chair, Mark Nutsch, was introduced at the April Friend of the Flint Hills by KSU President Richard Myers. President Myers and Mark followed parallel lives being KSU and ROTC graduates and choosing military careers. President Myers was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when Mark and his team was ordered into Northern Afghanistan after the 9/11 attack on America.

It was a wonderful night Saturday April 6 inside the Grand Ballroom of the Kansas State University Student Union. The room lit up as guests gathered to honor Marty Vanier for her longstanding contributions to the Flint Hills region, Manhattan, and in particular, the Flint Hills Discovery Center and Foundation.

Guests from across the region joined together to hear moving comments by Foundation President Bruce Snead; a special introduction of Marty Vanier, made by Kent Glasscock; Marty's heartfelt acceptance of the Friend of the Flint Hills recognition award; and the announcement of the Foundation's \$5 million NEXT VISTAS Comprehensive Campaign for the benefit of the Flint Hills Discovery Center.

When the Foundation and the Discovery Center speak about the "the Place, the People and the Promise of the Flint Hills" the story of Mark Nutsch speaks volumes. His sense of duty and honor, hard work and commitment were developed in his youth ranching in the Flint Hills. These values and the skills he learned – specifically riding horses and ranching – were central to his work in the first days of battle in Afghanistan following 9/11. Mark does not call himself a hero. But we and America call him a hero. We are proud to have him serve as our national honorary campaign chair.



Mark Nutsch, National Campaign Honorary Chair

As Mark's story was shared and the campaign announced, it was impressive to see the diverse and wide-ranging group of people participating. Ranchers, business owners, doctors, lawyers, military personnel, academia, students, teachers, politicians, artists, veterinarians, bankers, musicians, and stewards of the natural environment were all represented that night. It is this diversity of support which will sustain the Kansas Flint Hills!



KSU President Richard Myers, Marty Vanier & Bruce Snead, FHDC-F President

You can view a video of the 2019 Friend of the Flint Hills event and the NEXT VISTAS Campaign announcement on You Tube by going to the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation's YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCyI9Ax8jYdLfo-zm6jhgPQ. There are also photos on the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation's Facebook page.

We are proud of our NEXT VISTAS Campaign Leadership Committee. Joe Carpenter, Jeff Davidson, Kent Glasscock, Jack Lindquist, Karen McCulloh, Carlin Murphy, Bruce Snead, V. Marie Martin, Susan Adams and Katharine Hensler were also introduced during the evening's events. We encourage you to meet with these volunteers when they contact you regarding an opportunity to discuss the NEXT VISTAS Campaign and how your support will benefit the Discovery Center.

The Foundation participated in the recent Greater Manhattan Community Foundation **"Grow Green Match Day"** and raised over \$11,000 for the Flint Hills Discovery Center Youth Education Endowment Fund. This fund is held at the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. **We thank all of you who helped make this a successful day for the Foundation and for Manhattan and thank you** for participating. A special thank you is given to **Phil Howe for providing the "match funding"** for "Grow Green Match Day."

Remember to get a membership to the Flint Hills Discovery Center during the spring membership drive. FHDC membership benefits include one year UNLIMITED access to the FHDC & admission to select events; Program & Event Discounts; Invitations to Members-Only Events; Monthly E-Newsletter Updates; 10% discount on Gift Store items; ASTC Travel Passport Program (Association for Science & Technology Centers, this program provides access to over 350 museums and science centers worldwide, for FREE or discounted admissions). Your FHDC membership is valid for 12 months from the time of purchase and is nontransferable and nonrefundable. For more details go to: www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/194/Become-a-Member. Hurry! The spring membership drive ends on May 31st.

"Meet and Greet" Mark Nutsch, on Friday, June 14, 5:30-7:00pm, at the Flint Hills Discovery Center just prior to the **Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest at 7:00pm**. Make an evening of it by meeting Mark, the NEXT VISTAS Campaign Honorary Chair and listening to the best of the best Kansas Cowboy Poets compete at 7:00, in the final round of the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest. Both events are free and open to the public.

The Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation

315 S. 3rd Street, Manhattan, KS 66502(785) 587-2729, ext. 211, fhdcfoundation1@gmail.com.

VISTAS, a monthly memo, is provided to advance the cause of philanthropy in support of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. We thank and celebrate all those investing in the Center's unique and dynamic mission.