

# Hospital & Community Benefit from Education Opportunities Using Kan-ed Funded Equipment



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**Stanton County  
Hospital**  
**Serves: 4,000+  
community members,  
80+ staff**  
**Kan-ed member since:  
December 1, 2003**

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Stanton County Hospital has been using Kan-ed funded videoconferencing equipment for the past four years to access continuing education opportunities for staff and community members. Located in Southwest Kansas, these continuing education offerings usually require staff to travel a distance of at least 90 miles, which can mean losing an entire day of work between attending the meeting and travel time.

According to Shae Veach, Administrator, and Fran Sheppard, RN Education Coordinator, "The videoconferencing equipment has been an excellent tool to provide accessible education for our facility. The convenience of attending continuing education opportunities in our facility has cut down on travel time and allowed staff to attend meetings that we otherwise might not have the opportunity to attend. It has also cut down on fuel costs." Staff members at Stanton County Hospital regularly access continuing education offerings



through the Pioneer Health Network (PHN), and they have connected with Kansas State University on several occasions. Another advantage is that staff from two shifts can attend a given meeting or training. If required to travel to attend a meeting, not as many people would be able to participate given that the hospital must maintain staffing requirements.

Stanton County Hospital has invited the community to take part in some educational opportunities. For example, they have hosted a diabetic education meeting and invited the community. "The response to the diabetic education meeting was wonderful. We had in attendance two newly diagnosed participants along with others who had been diagnosed for some time. The conversations after the meeting were just great. There were many who shared experiences and feelings about the disease. It was as if they were not ready for the evening to end," Veach and Sheppard shared. The hospital also has provided an opportunity for dietary staff and community members to attend the ServSafe® food safety training programs. Veach and Sheppard remarked, "The food safety program benefits the hospital dietary staff, along with others from the community who provide meals for the public. In the long run everyone benefits, those who prepare and those who consume."

Staff members at the hospital realize that these benefits are made possible through Kan-ed support. "I feel that without this equipment, our facility and community would not have the advantage of much of the updated information that can be provided through its use," Veach concluded.