

2026 ARISE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

DAY 1: April 9, 2026 - Thursday



Location: The University of Kansas Conference Center

815 Fambrough Drive | Lawrence, KS 66045 | [Symposium website](#)

All events in Main Hall unless otherwise indicated

8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast <i>Cinnamon Rolls, Fruit, Yogurt, Juice, Tea, Coffee</i>
9:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks Belinda Sturm , Director of Kansas NSF EPSCoR, Professor, Engineering, KU Jennifer Roberts , Executive Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, KU
9:15	Infrastructure Panel Conversation: Building Resilient Energy & Water Systems (50 mins) Moderator: Tonya Bronleewe , Environmental Finance Center, WSU; Panelists: Julie Lorenz , Consultant with Burns & McDonnell and Former KS Secretary of Transportation; and Andrew Ferris , Chief Financial Officer of Kansas City BPU; and Michele Silsbee , Deputy City Manager, Osawatomie, KS
10:05	CLARA: County-Level AI for Resilience and Assistance Demonstration and Feedback Rahul Madbhavi (K-State) introduced by Bala Natarajan (K-State)
10:30	Group Photo
10:40	Break
10:50	Student Research Talks (10 minutes each with 10 minutes for Q&A) Madison Graham , KU, "Behavioral Economic Tasks as Decision-Support Tools for Hazard Preparedness and Infrastructure Planning" Eliyasu Osman , K-State, "Improving Post-Disaster Recovery: Understanding Households' Needs for Critical Resources and Services in the U.S. Central Great Plains"
11:20	LHEAT Discussion of Community Priorities in SW and NE Kansas Christina Pacheco , Clarissa Martinez , and Kim Weaver
12:00 PM <i>Field Club</i>	Networking Lunch - Talk, Learn, Grow <i>Vegetarian (V) and gluten free (GF) salad with parmesan on the side; cucumber salad (V, GF) with garbanzo beans in balsamic vinaigrette; rosemary chicken (GF); penne with squash in cream sauce (V, GF); garlic bread; roasted cauliflower & carrots (V, GF); chocolate-dipped cannoli's (V) & tiramisu</i>
1:30	ARISE Program Evaluation Insights, Introduced by Elaina Sutley (20-minute talk, 10-minute Q&A) Eric Welch , Professor and Director, Center for Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Studies, School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University
2:00	ARISE Share-a-Thon Introduced by Eleanor Gardner Benjy Jacobs & Emma Howard (KU) - Wyandotte dashboard; Anil Pahwa (KSU) electrical grid; Teresa MacDonald, Eleanor Gardner & Tracey Funk (KU) tornado & wind resistance activities; Mary Patterson (KCKCC) Saturday Academy; Rahul Madbhavi (KSU) CLARA; Abu Mahdi (KU) flood floor puzzle; Alireza Monavarian (KSU) watershed model; Jeff Severin (WSU) reactor panels
2:50	Break
3:00	Seed Funding Panel #1 Introduced by Visvakumar Aravinthan (8-minute short talks) Matthew Howland (WSU), "Community Engaged Heritage Mapping and GIS Risk Analysis at Highland Cemetery, Wichita, Kansas;" Yoonjung Ahn (KU), "Manufactured housing vulnerability to multi climate hazards in the United States;" and Shruti Kshirsagar (WSU), "Robust Building Damage Detection in Cross-Disaster Settings"
3:30	Seed Funding Panel #2 Introduced by Rachel Krause (8-minute short talks) Safia Mallah (KSU), "Play-Based AI Learning for Children;" Weimin Fu (KSU), "Cognitive Silicon;" and Arman Zareian Jahromi (KSU), "Survway: Conversational Survey Platform"
4:00 <i>Field Club</i>	Poster Session & Reception <i>Appetizers and self-pay bar (beer, wine)</i>
6:00	Adjourn Day 1
7:00	PSLG-led social mixer (722 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS)

Abbreviations: ARISE stands for Adaptive and Resilient Infrastructures driven by Social Equity; Kansas State University (K-State); University of Kansas (KU); Wichita State University (WSU); PSLG stands for Postdoc/Student Leadership Group

2025 ARISE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

DAY 2: April 10, 2026 - Friday



All events in Main Hall unless otherwise indicated

8:00 AM	Light Breakfast <i>Wheat/white toast with avocados, tomatoes, jams, butter, cheese, prosciutto, eggs, croissants, coffee, tea</i>
8:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks Belinda Sturm (KU)
8:40	ARISE Research Talks: Themes 1 & 4, Introduced by Bala Natarajan Chia-Fu Liu (Postdoc, KU, Theme 1 & 4, 10 mins) "Stochastic Computation Pipeline for Downscaling LODES to Household Level" Zander Seth (Undergrad, KSU, Theme 1, 5 minutes) "Natural Disaster Impacts on Employment Across Industries in Local Communities" Niranjana Unnithan (Grad student, KSU, Theme 1, 10 minutes), "Hetero-functional Agent-Based Infrastructure Toolkit for Modeling Community Resilience" 10 minutes Q&A
9:15	ARISE Data Deep Dive (30 minutes) Michael Branicky and Edina Harsay (KU) and Kansas Data Science Consortium team
9:45	Break
9:55	ARISE Research Talks: Themes 2 and 3, Introduced by Elaina Sutley Rumana Sharmin (Grad Student, KU, Theme 2, 10 minutes) "Water Resilience Metrics" Priyanka Gautam (Grad Student, KSU, Theme 2, 10 minutes) "Strengthening Our Communities Through Smarter, More Resilient Networks: A Graph Learning Perspective" Adithya Melagoda (Grad Student, WSU, Theme 3, 5 mins.) "Equity-Aware Load Prioritization and Planning Strategies to Improve Power System Resilience During HILF Events" 10 minutes Q&A
10:30	Roundtables: Dialogue Within Groups Session 1 (30 mins + 10 mins to report out) Focused small group discussion: 1) Resilience Metrics Framework; 2) Integration Social Infrastructure with Physical Infrastructure; 3) Translating Survey Results; 4) Collaborative Paper – Ongoing & Future Ideas; 5) Synthetic Infrastructure Modeling; 6) CLARA Community Feedback; 7) and 8) Wildcard.
11:20	Roundtables: Dialogue Within Groups Session 2 (30 mins + 10 mins to report out) Focused small group discussion: 9) Upcoming proposals; 10) Upcoming community engagement; 11) REU coordination & discussion; 12) Future directions in AI; 13) Future directions in modeling; 14) Collaborative Papers – Ongoing & Future Ideas; 15) and 16) Wildcard
12:00 Main Hall	Networking Lunch and Poster Award Announcement <i>Taco bar with vegetarian (V) and gluten free (GF) salads, rice pilaf (V), cheese enchiladas (V, GF), chicken fajitas (GF) with churros and cookies for dessert</i>
1:00 Breakout Rooms and Main Hall	1st Breakout Session (45 minutes) - Room #1: ARISE Wave 3 Household Survey needs, policy levers and behavioral interventions – moderated by Jason Bergtold (KSU) - Room #2: Papers/proposals for education & workforce dev. – Claudia Bode (KU) - Main Hall: Themes 1 through 4 group meetings
1:45	Transition time
1:55 Breakout Rooms and Main Hall	2nd Breakout Session (45 minutes) - Room #1: How to use "Roll Out: City Edition" game in your outreach and education efforts – moderated by Jeff Severin and John Colclazier (WSU) - Room #2: Weather data integration across Themes in models and simulations – moderated by Jude Kastens (KU) - Main Hall: Open for coordinated discussions
2:45	Wrap up + Prizes
3:00	Adjourn