

CENTER *express*

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL • UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

KUMC Honored for TeacherTech Hires

YouthFriends of Greater Kansas City named the University of Kansas Medical Center its UpLink 2008 Partner of the Year.

KUMC earned the honor by hosting 10 TeacherTech “summer externs” – more than any other Kansas City area employer. TeacherTech connects teachers to eight-week externships in businesses, academic institutions and research facilities to expose them to applied industry concepts. Back in the classroom, teachers can inspire students through real-world application of math, engineering, technology and science.

“As KUMC’s reputation as a leading medical research, education and patient care center grows, so will the

need for securing talented, well-educated professionals. TeacherTech helps us address that need,” said **Barbara Atkinson, MD**, executive vice chancellor.

Positions local teachers filled at the medical center included:

- Construction assistant toxicologist
- Pediatric project coordinator
- Project manager, External Affairs
- Technology transfer fellow
- Web-based module developer/student resource
- Web-based module developer/technology
- Web-based writer/data manager

Among KUMC’s TeacherTech success stories was **Allison Johnson**, a biology

TeacherTech Summer Externs Available

Beginning Monday, Jan. 5, departments across campus interested in hiring teachers as eight-week summer externs can start the application process at youthfriends.org. Under UpLink, the Web site provides detailed information on how the program works, requirements and responsibilities for employers, sample externship positions and more. Medical center staff can direct questions to **Paula Baum**, External Affairs, 8-1017. Hospital staff can contact **Laura Norris**, YouthFriends, 816-842-7082.

teacher at Blue Valley West High School. She was hired to assist with research programs in the toxicology lab in the Kansas Life Sciences Innovation Center. Her responsibilities included measuring gene expression, mainly in the liver.

“When we heard about TeacherTech, we thought it would be a great fit for our laboratory to expose different individuals to the field

of toxicology,” said **Lauren Aleksunes, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics. “It’s not an area that’s routinely discussed at the high school level. But it’s a career option for those who are interested in biology and chemistry.”

For Johnson, the experience was challenging and rewarding. Working with a staff of scientific researchers, she had access to sophisticated lab equipment she said she’d only dreamed of using. She now shares her experiences and what she learned about the latest medical technology with her students.

This was KUMC’s second year to participate in TeacherTech.

To learn more about the program, visit youthfriends.org. On the right side under UpLink, click on Teacher externships.

Baby Frosty Wreath Melts Judges’ Hearts

Pediatrics staff fashioned the famed snowman in babyhood, complete with binky and bottle. The entry was among winners in the hospital’s annual wreath contest. From left are **Lisa Thierheimer**; **Mandy Delich, RN**; **Heather Schull, RN**; **Brandi Inslee-Cox**; and **Tasha Saffa, RN**. About 40 wreath entries were distributed to patients’ families before Christmas.

