ANNOUNCING A FUN NEW WEB-LEARNING TOOL FOR YOUTH:

Universal Design is a new-old concept with the potential to make the world a user-friendly place for EVERYONE. The UD approach includes, but goes beyond access to adaptability, aesthetics, and affordability. UD honors human diversity and addresses the rights of all people, from childhood to the oldest years, to use products, places, and information in an independent, INCLUSIVE way.

To disseminate the Universal Design concept to the mainstream population, the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **Kansas State University** cooperatively supported the development of two **Universal Design web sites for young teens and their teachers and youth group leaders.** We invite you to view them at: http://www.ksu.edu/udlearnsite/ and http://www.ksu.edu/udguidesite/

The **Youth UD Learnsite** is designed to create UD awareness among Middle School or Junior and selected Senior High classes and after-school groups, and encourage them to 'spread the UD word' to families and friends. The companion **UD Guide Site** offers background information, detailed lesson overviews, supervised learning activities, and related resources for youth-developed UD community service projects.

Together, teens and their Guides can **build interdisciplinary UD Units that utilize all ten or fewer lessons** and meet curriculum guidelines for general education or Art, Consumer and Family Sciences, Social Studies, Tech Ed, and Building Trades classes. Boys and Girls Club members, church youth groups, 4-H clubs, scout troops, and Youth Community Service programs may also enjoy using the UD Learnsite.

The UD Learnsite lessons emphasize web-based learning, critical thinking, problem-solving, and a multi-cultural perspective. The sites may be used with standard individual computers, small group sharing, or EVEN where Web access is limited to the teacher's desk. They are easily downloadable with phone modems, and accessible so that teens with vision or perception limits may learn the material WITH their peers.

Professors Betty Jo White and O. J. Selfridge, at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, developed the sites. Questions or comments? Contact Dr. White at bjwhite@ksu.edu