

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2019

GROW BUSINESS

KC CHAMBER DIGITAL MAGAZINE



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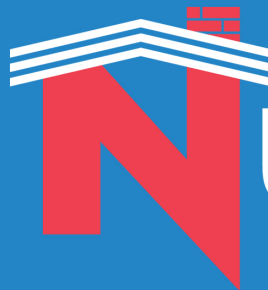
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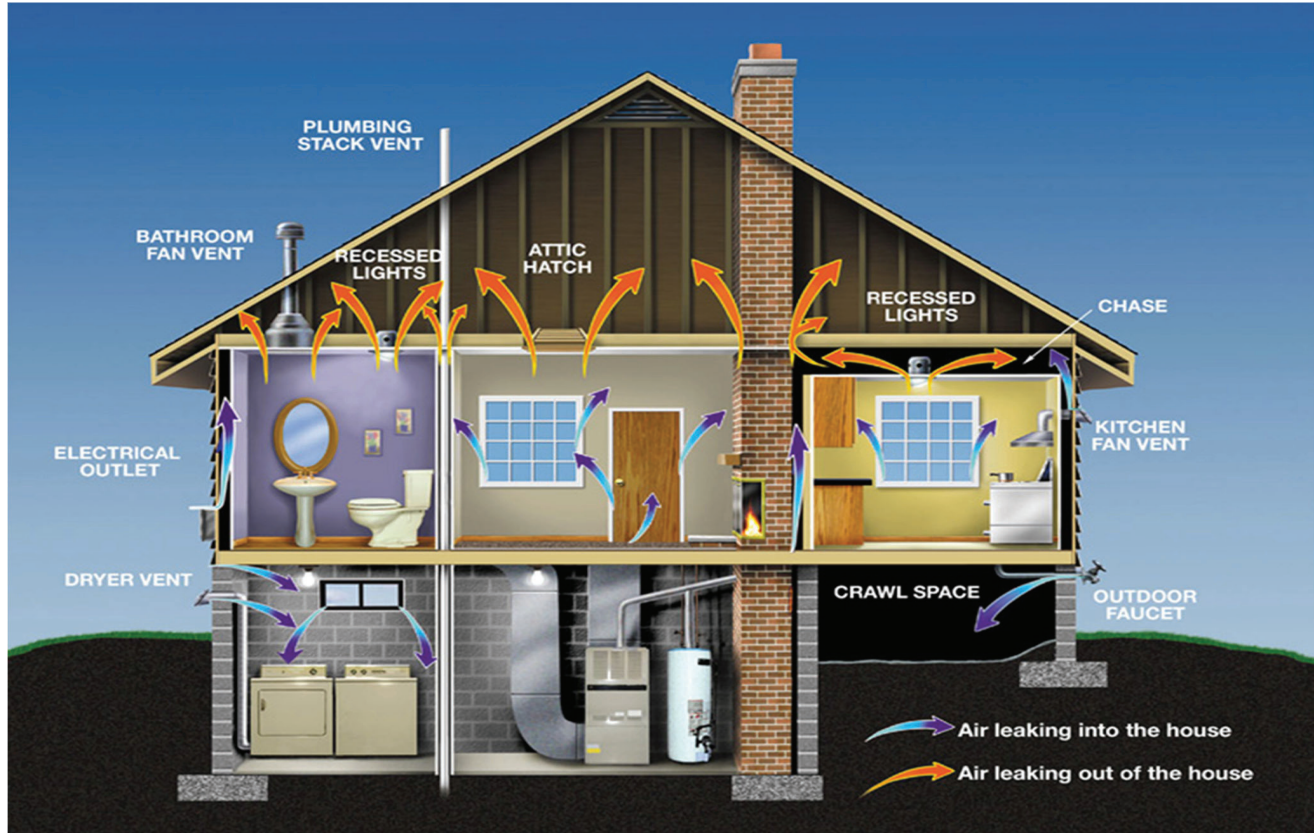


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PRESIDENT & CEO'S POINT OF VIEW

Kansas City, we have a problem that must be addressed for the betterment of our community. While violent crime rates are decreasing in many cities across the nation, we continue to rank as one of the FBI's most dangerous cities.

The violent crime rate in Kansas City is 1,654 violent crimes per 100,000 people. The national average is in the 300s. Our homicide rate is higher than other cities our size - 23.5 murders per 100,000 people. The national average is 5 per 100,000.


Police, prosecutors, social justice organizations, and many more are all working hard to solve this problem. The question we've asked ourselves is what can business do. Is there a role we can play?

So the KC Chamber formed a special task force co-chaired by attorneys Jeff Simon and Jean Paul Bradshaw. (Simon formerly chaired the KCMO Police Board; Bradshaw is a former U.S. Attorney.) After months of intensive discussions with law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, community organizations, and other chambers, the task force presented its conclusions.

One of the best answers to our social problems is a job, and that's where the Chamber will focus. It's difficult for ex-offenders to find jobs - hence the high rates of recidivism.

Anywhere from 60 to 75 percent of returning citizens remain unemployed one year after release from prison. For those ex-offenders who hold a job for one year, the recidivism





rate is 16 percent, compared to a national recidivism rate of 52 percent. While those rates are lower in Missouri (43.0 percent) and Kansas (33.91 percent), recidivism is still too high.

Over the next several months, the Chamber will work to identify, educate and recruit companies to implement friendly ex-offender hiring policies. We'll also partner with KC Common Good and others to create an approved "work ready" certification for ex-offenders to help streamline the hiring process. And we'll advocate for criminal justice reform at the local, state and national level.

If you're interested in learning more about why "second chance" hiring is good business, please join us on October 30 for our next Polsinelli Public Policy Speaker Series. Jeffrey Korzenik, Chief Investment Strategist at Fifth Third Bank will explain that hiring formerly incarcerated individuals not only taps into an under-utilized talent pool, but also gives companies the ability to hire employees who are proven to be more loyal and harder-working. To register, [click here](#).

There's no one solution to ending crime and violence, but we believe the business community can play its part.

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A TRUCE IN THE **BORDER** WAR!

Memorial Hall in Kansas City, Kansas was filled with 300 elected officials, business and civic leaders as Missouri Governor Mike Parson and Kansas Governor Laura Kelly signed a Memorandum of Understanding ending Kansas City's economic border war. The signing was the highlight of the KC Chamber's Governors Summit with the audience giving the two governors a well-deserved standing ovation.



➤ A TRUCE IN THE **BORDER** WAR!



Governor Parson, Governor Kelly, Don Hall, and Joe Reardon at the Governors Summit with the agreement that took decades to reach.

As Chamber President and CEO Joe Reardon said, “this is far less about a moment in time and more about a new focus. Prior to ending the border war, these two governors collaborated together to bring the USDA to the KC region, leading by example and proving that together we are stronger, and we can and will win. Knowing that our true competition is not over the state line but is with other regions throughout the US and the world.”

Under the **agreement**, Missouri and Kansas will not grant state tax incentives in the Kansas City region unless net new jobs are created. That means an end to the back-and-forth of local companies moving from one side of the state line to the other, a practice that has cost taxpayers in the two states more than \$300 million since 2011.

A common sense decision

Governor Parson told the crowd, “Sometimes common sense does prevail,” adding, “I hope that other states, I hope that Washington, D.C., take a good look at what happened here today, when a Republican and a Demo-

crat governor can sit down together and do what is right for the people of our states.”

“We all want companies to set up shop and flourish in our states,” Governor Kelly said. “We know that to attract and retain good businesses and their economic benefits, it’s often necessary to offer incentives, but because there will be return on investment, and not just bragging rights and an illusion of success at a high cost to both states.”

Hallmark Cards Chairman Don Hall is one who has worked tirelessly to end the economic border war. In fact, Hall was presented a framed and signed copy of the governors’ agreement at the Chamber’s August Board meeting as thanks. As Hall told the 300 people at Memorial Hall, “Today marks a major step toward achieving a more unified Kansas City region. This truce legislation is just the beginning, and I personally cannot wait to see what the future holds for Kansas City.”

Looking ahead

Now that the economic border war truce is signed and delivered, what’s next? Chamber CEO Reardon answers, “The region’s cities need to explore real opportunities to collaborate on economic development across jurisdictional lines in a way that will grow their community and the region as well. There are **examples** of these kinds of strategies in cities that compete with us - Denver and Nashville are two notable examples.

“Elected officials also need to understand that if this is done in a strategic way there’s a net benefit to their constituents. We need to educate the public to make sure we use incentives to attract new jobs, which is the best way to grow our region.” ➤



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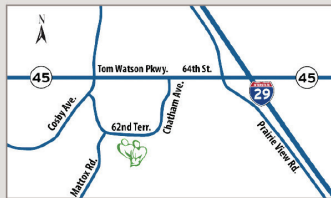
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KC CHAMBER HONORS DIVERSITY SUPERSTARS

It was a packed house as more than 500 attendees gathered to celebrate diversity at the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce's Power of Diversity Breakfast. This year our theme was the CEO Action Pledge, a nationwide movement encouraging CEOs to publicly sign a commitment to advance diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Since the Power of Diversity in July, CEOs from at least four additional KC companies have signed.

The KC Chamber also honored the company and individuals leading the way in diversity and inclusion in Kansas City. Congratulations again to our ACE Award Recipients Gaby Flores of Children's Mercy, Derrick Nelson of Commerce Bank, Matthew Schulte of the Kansas City Royals, and Supplier Diversity ACE Award recipient Lynn Abrams of Hallmark. Our 2019 Champion of Diversity is Black & Veatch.

Black & Veatch Champion of Diversity

At more than 100 years old, Black & Veatch is a company that is continually moving forward. As this year's Champion of Diversity, the company was recognized for their commitment to embracing diversity in the workplace, diverse supplier partnerships, and the community. CEO Steve Edwards set the tone from the top down when he signed the CEO Action pledge, but members of the Black & Veatch team are going above and beyond. The company supports several Employee Resource Groups to promote cultural awareness and engagement, and recently received a 100 percent score from the Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index for corporate policies and practices relating to LGBTQ employees. "We have 10,000 employees worldwide doing great things," said Edwards. "Frankly without having that diversity of thought and perspective and skills, it would be impossible to do those great things that we accomplish."

[▶ Watch video and learn more](#)



Madeleine McDonough of Shook, Hardy & Bacon presented the 2019 Champion of Diversity Award to Stephanie Hasenbos-Case of Black & Veatch.

Gaby Flores ACE Award Recipient

With more than 25 years of experience in health and human services, Children’s Mercy’s Gaby Flores has been making a difference for decades. As the hospital’s Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity, her task was to grow an office and help shape the hospital’s Equity and Diversity Council. Nearly nine years later, the Council has grown so popular there are 30-40 applicants for five open seats per year. Flores also led the creation of the Qualified Bilingual Staff program designed to better serve patients and their families who don’t speak English. There are now 250 staff and providers who can deliver patient care in other languages. “When we think about pediatric care it’s whole family care,” she explains. “It’s about how do we meet the needs of the patient in the bed, but also mom and dad, or maybe there’s mom and mom. It’s how we care for the whole family unit.” An alum of the Chamber’s Centurions program, Flores is currently on the board of directors for Girls on the Run KC, Gilda’s Club KC, Hope Wrx Food Pantry, and Latina Giving Circle.

[> Watch video and learn more](#)



Vanessa Sims of UMB presented a 2019 ACE Award to Gaby Flores of Children’s Mercy.

Matthew Schulte ACE Award Recipient

Matthew Schulte with the Kansas City Royals is sometimes called “the Bobblehead Guy.” As Senior Manager of Special Events and Promotions, Schulte is responsible for all of the give-away items during each Royals season, as well as special ballpark events such as Girls’ Night Out, Salute to the Negro Leagues, Faith & Family Day, Viva Los Reales, and more. Schulte also led the Royals’ first Pride Night event this past September. As a member of the recently-created Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Schulte understands the importance of diversity and inclusion initiatives off the field. “It’s important in our hiring practices, marketing campaigns, employee guidelines and our customer service,” said Schulte. “We’re opening our arms to all fans, letting them know that anybody and everybody is welcome to be a Royals fan to come and cheer on the Royals at the ballpark.” Schulte also serves on the Board of the Heartland Men’s Gay Chorus, Kansas City Youth Symphony, UMKC’s Chancellor LGBT Council, and is an alum of the Chamber’s Centurions Leadership Program.

[> Watch video and learn more](#)



Dr. Susan Wilson of UMKC presented a 2019 ACE Award to Matthew Schulte of the Kansas City Royals.

Derrick Nelson ACE Award Recipient

Derrick Nelson of Commerce Bank asks himself three questions every day: Where have I been? Why am I here? And lastly where am I going? The Assistant Vice President, Corporate Inclusion and Diversity Manager says he wasn't looking for a career in diversity and inclusion, but that it found him. At Commerce, Nelson is responsible for leading employee resource groups and overseeing the Diversity Council. He drives Commerce's D&I strategy through education on unconscious bias and inclusive leadership, and the new Crucial Conversations initiative, which allows Commerce employees opportunities to better educate themselves. Nelson has even more goals for Commerce: expanding the supplier diversity program and getting more diverse talent into the upper levels of the organization. He believes in bringing your whole self to workplace. "Everybody brings something to the organization," said Nelson. "When they're able to bring their entire self, they're more productive, happier, more engaged in the organization, and they lean into 'What can I do as an individual to help the organization move forward?'" In addition to his work at Commerce, Nelson co-founded the Kansas City Diversity & Inclusion Consortium.

[➤ Watch video and learn more](#)



Carla Gibson of REACH Healthcare Foundation presented a 2019 ACE Award to Derrick Nelson of Commerce Bank.

Lynn Abrams Supplier Diversity ACE Award Recipient

Lynn Abrams will tell you her superpower is connecting people from diverse backgrounds. That's an asset when you work in supplier diversity. With 39 years at Hallmark, Abrams has spent the last decade in supplier diversity. Not only does she connect companies to local diverse suppliers, she often acts as a mentor to them during the procurement process and beyond. As a member of the KC Procurement Roundtable, Abrams is constantly participating in growth and recognition programs. She facilitates collaboration among the heads of local diverse organizations so they can work together smarter, not harder. "Diverse suppliers are important because we have a multi-cultural marketplace, and we absolutely have to have a multicultural workforce and we have to have a multicultural supply base," she said. She's currently working with Hall's and Crayola to implement supplier diversity best practices. Abrams is also a 2019 Ambassador to the Mid-America LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

[➤ Watch video and learn more](#)



Christine Kelly of Metropolitan Community College presented a 2019 Supplier Diversity ACE Award to Lynn Abrams of Hallmark.



LOCKTON AND FEMA BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AT METRO-WIDE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FORUM

From flooding to tornadoes, ice storms to power outages, Kansas City has seen its fair share of natural disasters. When they occur, it takes time, money and effort to put an affected community back together. People lose homes, belongings and worry about their livelihood.

Business owners face the same challenges. How do I carry on business? How do I get back up and running? Will my business survive? Unfortunately, many do not. 40% of small businesses fail after a catastrophic event. Of those who survive, only 29% are still in business two years later.

There's no single "how to" book for disaster recovery. Each event presents its own unique challenges. But a good plan and teamwork pre-disaster can go a long way to creating a resilient community.

In an effort to be better prepared, more than 100 local professionals from 92 different companies gathered at Union Station in June for the Community Business Resilience Forum hosted by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Lockton Companies. In its second year, the event supports local partnerships for economic and community resilience, before, during and after a major disaster event.

"Businesses can be a critical line of support in the wake of a catastrophic event," said Annamarie Gibbs, senior vice president and risk control leader, at Lockton. "We want to promote a broader understanding and awareness of the value of preparedness planning with a diverse group of professionals in Kansas City."

The event began with a potential disaster scenario: bombs exploding on a picturesque summer day in downtown Kansas City. Together, the group discussed to how to best communicate and collaborate during and after that kind of catastrophe. Businesses serve as first responders, providing aid before humanitarian organizations arrive. A plan ensures that no one gets overlooked.

Representatives from Children's Mercy Hospital, KU Medical Center, Kansas City Southern, Spring, Lulu's Thai Noodle Shop, the Kansas City Zoo, Harvesters, Hallmark and the United States Department of Agriculture heard from experts about the hazards that exist and the steps they can take to keep disaster resilience top of mind. Lockton and FEMA discussed managing risk through insurance so businesses can get back up and running as quickly as possible.

"At Lockton, we focus on three pillars: our Associates, clients and community," said Gibbs. "We want to lend our expertise to the city where our company began and make sure Kansas City is set up for success when faced with adversity."

Public-private partnerships are key to building resiliency. As FEMA puts it, government cannot solve the challenges of a disaster alone. It takes a whole team. Private organizations can improve decision making, donate resources and increase communication between involved organizations.

While an important step for Kansas City businesses, the 2019 Community Business Resilience Forum is just a part of an ongoing need for information, planning and collaboration pre-disaster.

"You can't always prevent a disaster," said Gibbs. "But by building relationships in our community and developing a plan, our city will not only recover, but become stronger." ▾

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THERE'S A NEED FOR SPEED IN TRADE SKILLS READINESS



High School students from North Kansas City Schools learn from a Builders' Association instructor.

When you think of Hallmark, you think of a great Kansas City company that created its foundation in the greeting card business and has grown into a diverse portfolio of businesses. But do you think about maintenance and facilities? Hallmark certainly does. The successful company is looking a few years down the road at a major challenge: the trade skills gap. A large number of maintenance employees will be retiring and there aren't enough current employees to replace them.

Hallmark is not alone. A report from Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) shows within five years, KC will need to replace half of the current workforce currently in skilled trades. That includes local construction, installation, maintenance and repair, manufacturing, and transportation and material moving.

The trade skills gap is the central issue for the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Workforce Committee. Two years ago, the KC Chamber formed the Committee with the goal

of bringing together businesses, educators, and organizations to help fill that gap. The problem has become so intense that some Chamber members are taking it upon themselves to create their own employee pipeline.

Hallmark is one example. "About two years ago we did a market analysis and looked at the upcoming retirement," said Morgan Arbelo, a human resources specialist with Hallmark. "Our Liberty and Lawrence locations are looking at high retirement rates over the next four years."

To be prepared, Hallmark created a new DOL Registered Apprenticeship in maintenance through Metropolitan Community College. The program started in July with a total of six students: two at the Liberty facility and four at the Lawrence location. Once they're finished, the students will be considered expert maintenance mechanics with their Apprenticeship Certificate and have a certificate from MCC.

Shawn Wagner, 30, is a technical maintenance apprentice at the Liberty facility. He



A Blue Springs R-IV School District Summer School STEM Program student heads up to the second floor platform at the Builders' Association Advancement Center after putting on a harness.

worked at Hallmark in various positions over nine years before beginning the apprenticeship. “I was an order processor, packing boxes with cards. I got into maintenance because I was already taking some maintenance classes on the side and I knew it was a good department. This was kind of my endgame.”

With about 30-40 current maintenance workers providing support for 1,400 employees across all shifts, Wagner knows the urgency, especially when it comes to being able to operate equipment that is unique to Hallmark. “There’s so much specialized equipment here. For example, we have a machine called a stitcher,” he explains. The stitcher allows for automated organization of the necessary paperwork for our customer’s orders. The apprenticeship ensures the stitcher, and other specialized equipment, will be properly maintained into the future.

“You can try corporate recruiters but it’s just not there,” said Arbelo. “It’s like finding a unicorn. You have to figure out how you can create from within.”

Shonda Atwater, Apprenticeship Manager with Metropolitan Community College, is the chair of the KC Chamber’s Promotion of Skilled Trades task force. She says Hallmark is one of the companies getting it right. “If you don’t have a succession plan in place right now to fill your talent pipeline then you are already behind.”

The task force is currently putting together a marketing campaign aimed at students to help build the next generation of skilled trade workers. “Any way I can help show young people these are exciting, lucrative career pathways and then give them hope and direction to follow them,” said Atwater. “It’s not just a benefit to themselves. There’s a huge benefit to a business. For example, if you were working for a transportation company as a Warehouse Logistics Manager or block chain technology expert, but had started out with a CDL from MCC and trucking

experience, can you imagine how powerful that would be to a business?”

Some students across the Metro are already positioning themselves for that future. The Builders’ Association in North Kansas City welcomes school age students from across the region to their Advancement Center, which offers hands-on learning. Outreach Manager Romond Holt focuses on recruiting and educating the next generation. When middle school students come to the organization’s Advancement Center, Holt is prepared to connect with them. “Middle school students are attracted to technology and want to learn how to use it. We have a sophisticated BIM (building information modeling) program with JE Dunn that allows students to see real-time updates to actual blueprints and plans, a virtual reality system that has construction programs on it, and a drone simulator.”

Task force member and The Builders’ Association’s Workforce & Professional Development Director Richard Bruce, Ph.D., says the simulator was intentionally chosen. “That was added to recruit young people. It was definitely part of workforce development.” The Builders’ Association also shows students how to put on a safety harness, how to perform tasks when they’re two stories up, how to build projects in different scenarios, and other real-world simulations.

Even with hands-on training and high-tech equipment, Holt says he’s often fighting misconceptions about the skilled trades when he attends career fairs and exhibitions. “Construction has traditionally been known as requiring low skills and offering low wages, but that’s not the case,” he explains. “We have to educate students and let them know that it takes a lot of skill to build buildings, and that these people are making really, really good money.”

Just how good? “They start anywhere from \$13 to \$19 an hour, depending on the trade,” said Dr. Bruce. “Over four years, your salary

will double. But that’s just the minimum. We have a lot of apprentices making more. Once you’re a full journeyman you’ll be making \$26 to \$40 an hour.”

Promoting the trades is just one way the Chamber’s Workforce is committed to close the trade skills gap. Other areas of focus include sharing best practices, bringing businesses and educators to the table to connect them, and public policy in both Kansas and Missouri. The Chamber has already been part of successful workforce initiatives on the Missouri side, including Missouri One Start and the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant.

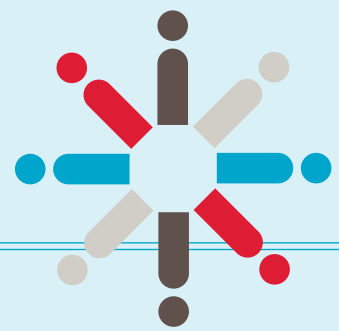
“The Chamber is key in this. They bring people together to solve this problem,” said Atwater. “If we don’t have people who can operate and maintain equipment in Greater KC, we cannot attract more businesses and grow and diversify our economy. Every industry will be impacted going forward. We are all working together to make sure we have a future for our young people.”



Shawn Wagner, one of Hallmark’s technical maintenance apprentices, operates equipment at the Liberty Distribution Center, which has 1,400 employees across three shifts.



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Shawn Flipppo
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www.thryv.com

Specialty Retail Stores & Shops

doob 3D Technology
Fabian Conde
(913) 204-1234
www.doob3d.com

Technology

Saigan Technologies, Inc
Nick Loehr
(816) 303-1301
www.saigantech.com

Transportation Providers

YRC Worldwide
Mike Kelley
(877) 249-2271
www.yrc.com

► PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE & LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

The following companies recently joined or renewed their commitment to the KC Chamber's President's Circle.

Bayer	Deloitte LLP	Kissick Construction Co., Inc.
Black & Veatch Corporation	Enterprise Holdings	McCownGordon Construction, LLC
BMO Harris Bank, N.A.	Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation	MLP Holdings
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP	Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City	Parris Communications Inc.
Burns & McDonnell	Google Fiber	Polsinelli
CBIZ/MHM	Hallmark Cards, Inc.	RubinBrown LLP
Children's Mercy	Henderson Engineers, Inc.	Sprint
CommunityAmerica Credit Union	HOK	YRC Worldwide
Country Club Bank	Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc.	

The following companies recently joined or renewed their commitment to the KC Chamber's Leadership Circle.

2Point Construction	DuraComm Corporation	Landis+Gyr Technology, Inc.	Telemundo 39 Kansas City
Allegiant Technology	Edgemoor Infrastructure & Real Estate	Logan Logan & Watson, L.C., Attorneys	Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.
American Royal Association	Emprise Bank	Mariner Holdings	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-KC District
AstrumU	Fenaroli & Associates	McDowell Rice Smith & Buchanan PC	Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City Kansas
Bernstein-Rein	First National Bank	Missouri Western State University	University of Central Missouri
Block & Company, Inc., Realtors	German May PC	Nonprofit Leadership Alliance	VTPMO
Block Real Estate Services, LLC	Gould Evans	Olsson Associates	
Centric	JenKat Advisors	Pioneer Services, A Division of MidCountry Bank	
Children International	John Knox Village	Port KC	
City of Independence, Missouri	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities	QuikTrip Corporation	
Community Blood Center	Kansas City Marriott Downtown	Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.	
Core Catalysts	Kansas City Power & Light District	Swiss Re	
Crestwood Midstream Partners LP	KCTV / KSMO		
Cushman & Wakefield	Kiewit Energy Group		
Dialectic, Inc.			

► MILESTONES

The following companies recently celebrated membership milestones.

5 years

Batteries Plus Bulbs
 City of Independence, Missouri
 J. Rieger & Co.
 Jax Fish House & Oyster Bar
 Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City
 Kansas Petroleum Council
 Mid-America Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
 Outpost Worldwide
 Paradise Locker Inc.
 Silverstein Eye Centers Arena/Spectra Venue Management
 TechAccel LLC (Technology Acceleration Partners)
 Univision Kansas City KUKC
 Women's Foundation

10 years

Blue Ocean Consulting
 Clear Channel Advertising
 Mariner Holdings
 United Methodist Church of the Resurrection Downtown

15 years

CSL Plasma
 DuraComm Corporation
 Kansas City Business Journal
 Swope Health Services

20 years

Kansas City Fairfield Inn & Suites
 Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey
 Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kansas City, Inc.
 The Summers Advisory Group, Inc.
 Vista Productions, Inc.

25 years

CC Capital Advisors
 Country Club Bank
 University of Central Missouri

30 years

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

35 years

Fern Exposition Services, LLC
 Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley
 Muller Bressler Brown
 The Family Conservancy
 The Kansas City Public Library

40 years

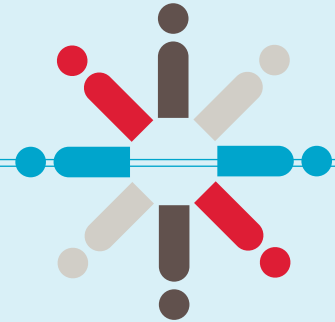
Cleveland University - Kansas City
 Spectrum

45 years

Kansas City Art Institute
 Kansas City Audio-Visual

50+ years

Bliss Associates, LLC (53)
 Ozark National Life (55)
 Sprint (55)
 Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc. (56)
 Research Medical Center/HCA Midwest Health (60)
 MMC Contractors (60)
 WDAF-TV/FOX 4 (61)
 Bayer (62)
 Kansas City Public Schools (64)
 Block Real Estate Services, LLC (70)
 Mid-West Terminal Warehouse Co. (76)
 KMBC-TV-Channel 9/Hearst Television Inc. (90)
 Helzberg Diamonds (90)
 Hallmark Cards, Inc. (92)
 Black & Veatch Corporation (100)
 Burns & McDonnell (102)





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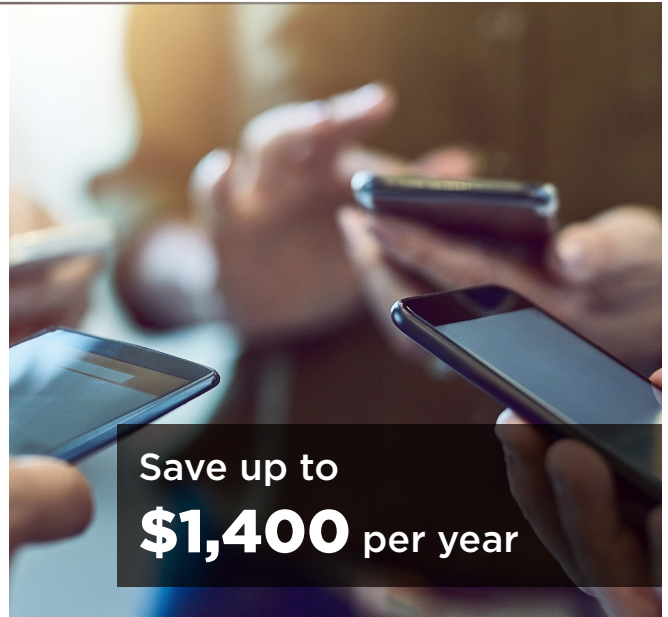
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FACES & PLACES

Highlighting Chamber organizations and people making KC grow.

genKC



The KC Chamber's young professional program, genKC, held its annual Grow to CEO event this summer, with an exceptional lineup of CEOs offering their advice to young professionals about furthering their careers.

Military Affairs Committee



Missouri Congresswoman **Vicky Hartzler** stopped by the KC Chamber to attend the most recent Military Affairs Committee (MAC) meeting to reiterate and reinforce her support for military and veteran issues. MAC Co-Chair **Terry Dunn** of DD Ranch Leawood, Congresswoman Hartzler, and MAC Co-Chair **Kirby Brown** of Park University discussed the work of the committee.

Public Policy Speaker Series



Jordan Rappaport of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City explained why small to mid-sized cities are much better positioned for future success than larger metros at the September Polsinelli Public Policy Up Close Speaker Series event.

Business Policy Roundtable



The KC Chamber and World Trade Center Kansas City were pleased to host Missouri Agriculture Director **Chris Chinn**, Missouri Governor **Mike Parson**, and Congressman **Emanuel Cleaver II** for a Business Policy Roundtable that included a wide-ranging discussion on tariffs and trade policy. In addition to farmers and agriculture industry experts, the roundtable included Chamber members representing Hallmark, Black & Veatch, Burns & McDonnell, Garmin, Boulevard Brewing, and Kansas City Southern to give their perspective on how current issues are affecting future planning and growth.

RIBBON CUTTINGS

Highlighting the growth of Greater Kansas City

@doob3D



Doob is now open on the Country Club Plaza, at 231 W 47th St. Enjoy the experience of the “dooblicator” while you go through the process of creating your own custom 3D action figure.

@CommunityLINC



Community LINC has a brand new Elementary Children’s Center at 4012 Troost Ave.! The KC Chamber, Centurions, and Community LINC celebrated the education center’s grand opening together.

SpringHill Suites



Stop by **SpringHill Suites** by Marriott on the Country Club Plaza at 4500 Madison. They have Chiefs fever like the rest of us - check out their Patrick Mahomes art work!

Hemp Haven Northland



If you find yourself in the Northland, make sure to stop by 9550 North McGee St to say hi to our friends at **Hemp Haven**. They can help with all your CBD needs.

RIBBON CUTTINGS

Highlighting the growth of Greater Kansas City

Prairie Elder Care



Thank you **Prairie Elder Care** for giving us a grand tour of your new spaces. There is the only facility in the area to provide adult care, education, and family counsel for dementia.

@UMBBank



The School of Economics has found a new second home in Downtown Kansas City, thanks to the generosity of **UMB Bank**. This nonprofit will now be able to serve double the number of children in KC, helping them learn the basics of personal finance and money management.

LIBERTY LEVEL 2019 INVESTORS





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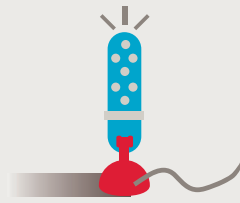
*Promotion ends October 31st, 2019

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BRONZE LEVEL 2019 INVESTORS



GOOD NEWS



People

Denise Kruse, CEO and owner of **AdamsGabbert**, has been appointed as Chair of the Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas Governing Board. Denise has heavily influenced and contributed to the success of the local chapter including being personally responsible for bringing in over \$150,000 of revenue for the local chapter, helping fund 15 wishes; and serving as co-founding chair of the inaugural Bubble Ball for Wishes Sake gala.

Kathryn (Katie) Wiltse, Esq., MHA, CPC, is the new regional chief legal officer for the Mid-America Region of **AdventHealth**, which includes AdventHealth Shawnee Mission in the Kansas City metro area; AdventHealth Ottawa in Ottawa, Kansas; and AdventHealth Durand in Durand, Wisconsin. In her new role, Wiltse will advise the regional leadership teams on legal matters including compliance with federal and state law, acquisitions, real estate transactions, and rules and regulations pertaining to physician relationships and patient rights.

W. Russell Welsh, chair emeritus of Am Law 100 firm, **Polsinelli**, was honored with the Adele Hall Spirit of Caring Award, for his leadership as a community champion and volunteer for **United Way of Greater Kansas City**. The Pinnacle Award was bestowed

upon **Garmin International, Inc.** for its outstanding contributions to the community.

GEHA (Government Employees Health Association) announced two new additions to its executive team. Joe Stasi has joined GEHA as chief financial officer, bringing 25 years of experience in the health care industry, and GC Paul has been named chief information officer, bringing more than 15 years of health care experience to his new role.

Veracity Consulting has hired Patrick Shore as Vice President of Innovation to launch a new service line designed to create value and spur growth by channeling the power of innovation and disruptive thinking. As the founder of IntelliThink LLC, a Kansas City-based strategic innovation firm, he worked with companies across all industries, and the new role will allow him to continue and expand his efforts.

Rita Blitt, international award-winning painter, sculptor and filmmaker, was recognized by the **KU Edwards Campus** for her recent gift of more than 100 pieces of original artwork. Blitt's work is currently displayed on the walls of the campus' Regnier Hall, Regents Center and BEST Building.



RideKC gave the KC Chamber a sneak peek of their new zero-emission electric buses. Two of these vehicles will join the fleet in Summer 2020. The buses can go 150 miles on a single charge. We look forward to their debut.

GOOD NEWS

Continued...

RUMBLE CEO and Founder, and IoT expert, Terri Foudray, was the first Kansas Citian appointed to the Smart Cities/IoT Advisory Council for CompTIA, the world's largest trade association for the global technology industry. This invitation-only international council provides vision and guidance to businesses around the world regarding the adoption and advancement of IoT.

Miscellaneous

The **Harry S. Truman Library and Museum** is launching its first major renovation in more than 20 years and the largest since the museum opened its doors in 1957. The \$25-million project is planned to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the start of Truman's presidency in 2020 and aims to ensure the continued relevance and resonance of Truman's legacy. The project includes a strategic expansion and renovation of the Library's public spaces, including the installation of a new Truman permanent exhibition, addition of visitor-friendly amenities, and enhancement of educational and community programming.

Western Specialty Contractors has acquired the assets of full-service, commercial roofing and sheet metal contractor Great Plains Roofing and Sheet Metal of Kansas City, KS. The acquisition will expand Western's existing roofing business in the Kansas City area and provide Western's customers with a more comprehensive range of roofing, concrete, masonry and waterproofing services.

The brand new **Spectrum** store, located at 8401 N. Mercier Ave., features an enjoyable and relaxed environment, allowing customers to learn more about and try Spectrum services. The store features Spectrum Mobile, where customers can choose from among the latest mobile devices and accessories, transfer their wireless number from other providers and activate service right in the store. Consumers also have the opportunity to experience the power of Spectrum Internet®, featuring starting speeds of 200 Mbps and plans with connec-

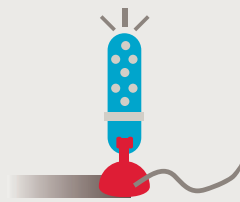
tions up to 1 gigabit per second, as well as the interactive Spectrum TV App, which gives customers access to the Spectrum TV® content across a wide variety of platforms and devices, including Apple TV 4K.

PETS+ Magazine named **Bark** first place in the 2019 America's Coolest Stores Contest. To narrow the field to first, second and third place, plus nine honorable mentions, a team of editorial staff and independent pet industry judges evaluated the entries, which included mini-essays on a variety of topics, photography and media.

Two of the Kansas City area's most respected names in health-sciences education have announced their intent to join forces under an affiliation agreement being signed by **Rockhurst University** and **Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City** whereby the Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences would become part of the University. Through the newly named Saint Luke's College of Health Sciences at Rockhurst University, Rockhurst will add some 700 students in an array of associate's, bachelor's, master's and certificate programs.

Wayside Waifs is celebrating its 75th anniversary year in a very big way - breaking ground on an \$8 million dollar construction project that will add 20,000 square feet to the south Kansas City, Missouri pet adoption campus. The project includes an Education & Training Center for large event hosting, dog training classes, youth education programming, and staff offices; along with a Canine Behavior Center, the second of its kind in the nation, that will exclusively serve shy, fearful and high-energy/arousal shelter dog behavior transformations.

Hub International Limited, a global insurance brokerage, announced that it has acquired the assets of **Truss, LLC**. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Truss has more than 40 years of commercial insurance expertise in the construction, transporta-



GOOD NEWS

Continued...

tion and healthcare industries, as well as expertise in employee benefits, risk management, surety bonds, and HR solutions. Truss brings experience in key industries and supports Hub's specialty practices by complementing and strengthening Hub's existing capabilities.

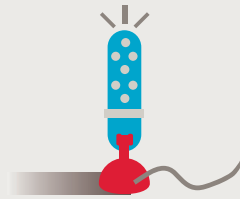
Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, and her husband Prince Harry, recognized **Children International**, the global humanitarian nonprofit that seeks to eradicate poverty, among 15 people or organizations worldwide that are inspiring and noteworthy as "Forces for Change." Children International helps more than 200,000 children in 10 countries find a path out of poverty with programs focused on health, education, empowerment through life skills development and employment.

The Women's Business Center announced that **Bank**

of Blue Valley has committed \$100,000 to support the WE-Lend microloan program. Bank of Blue Valley will purchase loans and provide additional operational support to the WBC. The \$100,000 will allow the WBC to make new loans to entrepreneurs ranging in size from \$2,500-\$25,000 and continue to support our existing portfolio.

The Builders' Association Industry Expo is set for Bartle Hall on Wednesday, September 18. Everyone in the commercial construction industry is invited. Walk-ins are welcome and membership in The Builders' Association is not required.

Blade & Timber's newest location, 1303 Baltimore Ave. in the **Power & Light District**, opened Labor Day Weekend. It offers 11 axe throwing lanes, a beer and wine menu, full kitchen, darts and yard games.



SILVER LEVEL 2019 INVESTOR



GOOD NEWS

Continued...

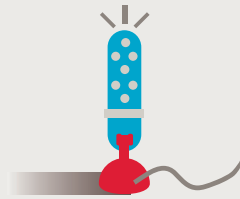
The menu features fried chicken, waffles, sauces made from scratch and more, created by James Beard Award Semifinalist Taylor Petrehn.

The Fall Parade of Homes returns to Kansas City Sept. 28-Oct. 13 and will feature nearly 300 homes by 97 home builders in six counties across the metropolitan area. Homes range in price from \$242,000 to \$2.5 million. Presented twice a year by the **Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City**, the Kansas City Parade of Homes is the second largest in the United States.

State and civic leaders joined leaders from **The University of Kansas Health System** to celebrate the opening of the Strawberry Hill Campus facility in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. The new campus will house a 47-bed inpatient mental and behavioral health unit, as well as additional administrative functions once fully operational.

100Kin10, a national organization dedicated to solving the STEM teacher shortage by 2021, announced that **Kansas City Teacher Residency** joins 40 other new programmatic partners in its ranks this year. This is the seventh and final cohort of partners for 100Kin10 during its first 10 years. The organization launched in 2011 as an answer to President Obama's call during his 2011 State of the Union address to train 100,000 new STEM teachers in a decade.

ReeceNichols Real Estate has joined the growing coalition pledging to advance diversity and inclusion in the workplace. President & CEO Mike Frazier is now among more than 700 CEOs that have come together for CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion™, committing himself and ReeceNichols to advance diversity and inclusion in the workplace.



GOLD LEVEL 2019 INVESTORS



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