

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 3 OCTOBER 2024

# GROW

BUSINESS

KC CHAMBER DIGITAL MAGAZINE



## KC PUBLIC SAFETY COALITION

Engaging Business  
and Community



## ATHENA AWARDS

Empowering  
Women



## DIVERSITY AWARDS

Business Champion  
and Aces



# Bobby Baseball is coming to Annual Dinner!

Greater Kansas City Chamber of  
Commerce  
137th Annual Dinner

Tuesday, November 26  
Kansas City Convention Center  
Kay Barnes Grand Ballroom

Cocktails and networking, 4:00 p.m.  
Program begins at 5:30 p.m.

Email [annualdinner@kcchamber.com](mailto:annualdinner@kcchamber.com)  
for details or to RSVP

Highlights of the evening will be the  
announcement of the 2024 Kansas Citian of the  
Year and passing the gavel from outgoing Board  
Chair Lisa Ginter of CommunityAmerica Credit  
Union to incoming Board Chair Charlie Shields  
of University Health.

*Oh, and don't forget Kansas City Royals  
shortstop Bobby Witt, Jr., winner of the  
2024 American League batting title.*



Image courtesy of CommunityAmerica Credit Union





# CONTENTS

**6**  
**KC PUBLIC SAFETY COALITION**  
Engaging Business and Community

**8**  
**WELCOME**  
Experienced Leaders  
Join the KC Chamber Team

**12**  
**ATHENA AWARDS**  
Empowering Women

**14**  
**DIVERSITY AWARDS**  
Business Champion and Aces

**20**  
**NEW MEMBERS**  
Milestone Anniversaries, President's Circle and Leadership Circle

**25**  
**RIBBON CUTTINGS**

**29**  
**MEMBER NEWS**



Page 14

GROW KC designed by Ridpath Creative Partners  
[www.ridpathcreative.com](http://www.ridpathcreative.com)

On the Cover: Jackson County Prosecutors' Candidate Forum, hosted by the KC Public Safety Coalition. Photo by Roger Ridpath of Ridpath Creative.

## DEI CERTIFICATE OF MASTERY & CAPSTONE PROGRAM

Are you a Kansas City area professional looking for a deep learning opportunity specifically focused on diversity, equity and inclusion? If so, we have a great new program! The KC Chamber is partnering with Authentico, a national full-service, multicultural marketing agency with a diversity, equity, and inclusion practice, to promote its DEI Certificate of Mastery & Capstone Program.



Email the  
KC Chamber's VP of DEI  
Greg Valdovino  
[valdovino@kcchamber.com](mailto:valdovino@kcchamber.com)



## PRESIDENT & CEO'S POINT OF VIEW

As the Kansas City region continues to grow and evolve, so too must the strategic vision that guides the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. To remain relevant, innovative and impactful, the KC Chamber regularly undertakes the process of refreshing its strategic plan. This critical exercise ensures that the organization continues to meet the needs of its members while driving regional prosperity and unity.


In today's fast-changing world, businesses face new challenges and opportunities that demand adaptability. As such, the KC Chamber's mission requires the continuous assessment of its strategic direction and values alignment of its work. Updating the plan allows the organization to reflect on recent accomplishments, learn from evolving trends and embrace new priorities that resonate with both local businesses and regional leaders.

This refresh is not about starting from scratch but building upon the foundation already laid. It ensures that the Chamber's long-term goals align with the latest economic, governmental and social changes while keeping its commitment to its core values with an enduring focus on representing our diverse business community.

A strategic plan refresh begins with listening. The Chamber partnered with the University of Missouri - Kansas City's Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership to survey Board leadership, members of our internal leadership team and staff members. Through in-depth conversation and planning sessions, these stakeholders supplied valuable insights on key issues







affecting our work. This inclusive approach allowed the Chamber to identify emerging challenges, growth opportunities, and the shared goals that will shape the future of business in Kansas City with a plan that is data-driven and forward-looking.

The refreshed plan involves realigning our work around four strategic pillars. The plan also outlines specific initiatives designed to support member businesses, from entrepreneurial support programs to large-scale projects such as developing and enacting transportation and transit plan funding.

Accountability is crucial. By developing key performance indicators, the Chamber ensures system-wide progress that is measurable and impactful. Transparency is also central to the process, with the Chamber committed to providing regular updates to its Board of Directors and broader membership that show meaningful value to our community.

The KC Chamber's refreshed strategic plan is more than just a document—it's a roadmap for the future. By fostering collaboration, leveraging data, and maintaining a steadfast focus on the needs of its members and the greater Kansas City community, the Chamber is positioned to continue driving positive change across the region.

As the Chamber implements the plan in the new fiscal year, the entire Kansas City business community can look forward to sustained growth, innovation and opportunity. The process of refreshing the strategic plan ensures that we are ready to face the challenges ahead and seize the opportunities that will define our shared future. 📌

---

**JOE REARDON** @JReardonKC @KCChamber

# Kansas City Public Safety Coalition Partners to Reduce Crime



**A**n energy is bubbling in neighborhoods across the city. It's not marked by grand announcements, but rather by a focused, coordinated effort to make Kansas City a safer place to live, work and play. This movement is supported by the **18-member** Kansas City Public Safety Coalition, a collaborative body that has become a key player in the city's fight against crime.

At the core of the Coalition's mission is the idea that public safety is a shared responsibility, bringing together various organizations and agencies across Kansas City, including the Kansas City Police Department (KCPD), local government officials, community groups, social services and business leaders. The goal? To address the root causes of crime through a multi-pronged, community-based approach.



The Kansas City Public Safety Coalition is a network of stakeholders who understand that the solution to crime doesn't lie solely in policing. While law enforcement remains a critical component, the group believes that sustainable crime reduction comes from addressing the social and economic factors that fuel it.

## Engaging the Community

The real power of the Kansas City Public Safety Coalition lies in its community-driven focus. Members meet regularly, bringing together community partners to discuss neighborhood concerns and strategies for reducing crime. This engagement ensures that the community has a voice in the initiatives being developed and implemented.

This is particularly evident in the Coalition's community listening sessions held to gather input into the hiring of a new police chief in 2022. This gave the public an opportunity to engage in the search process as participants were asked to discuss a series of questions about effective community engagement, transparency and accountability. A report was issued to the Board of Police





Commissioners and Chief Graves was ultimately selected for the position. Since then, the Coalition has continued to partner with KCPD on community listening sessions that allow the Chief to share her vision while also hearing feedback from those the department serves and protects.

Events are also hosted to keep the community informed about initiatives that enhance safety. In July, The State of Public Safety in Kansas City brought police, fire and emergency management services together with youth ambassadors and community advocates to share current priorities and concerns. This rare opportunity introduced the audience to Youth Ambassadors who help young people cope with the trauma and violence around them. Coalition member KC Common Good discussed KC 360, a holistic violence reduction initiative focused on addressing the root causes of crime.

In September, the Coalition invited people to a Jackson County Prosecutor Candidate Forum, giving voters an opportunity to learn about the two candidates and highlighting the critical role this elected official has on public safety work. In October, the Coalition helped host a public screening of the Kansas City PBS documentary, *A Tale of Three Cities*, followed by a panel discussion to dig deeper into the subject matter of the film. [View the documentary here.](#)

## Results and Future Opportunity

While crime reduction is a long-term goal, the Kansas City Public Safety Coalition is already seeing encouraging results through programs like KC 360, a comprehensive, community-based approach to reduce gun violence and violent crime, build stronger community relations, increase access to education and jobs, and implement responsible justice reforms. The Santa Fe neighborhood, KC 360's first Village Initiative, has seen a significant reduction in homicides and other violent crimes, and it has begun to see strong community-police relations and a renewed empowerment in its residents. Other areas are



now reaching out to expand the Village Initiative to their neighborhoods.

As active as the Coalition has been, its members know there's still much work to be done.

As a KC Chamber Board member and active member of the Coalition, Pastor Ronald Lindsay of Concord "Fortress of Hope" Church knows the importance of safety for regional growth and development. "When safety flourishes, economic well-being and stability can drive business growth. If we choose to do amazing things together, this region is primed for unprecedented opportunity as we prioritize safety and security for all Kansas Citizens."

As a founder of the Public Safety Coalition, Pastor Darron Edwards of United Believers Church shares his hope that this work continues based on conversation, collaboration and investment. "Unless these three things are in place, the mission will topple. Like a three-legged table, it takes all three to create stability and a workable instrument. I'm speaking of small investments made by private donors in affected communities in neighborhoods throughout Kansas City. There's a path forward that doesn't require bureaucracy to achieve fast results."

The Kansas City Public Safety Coalition is proving that crime prevention isn't just a matter of law enforcement; it's a matter of collective effort. By uniting the city's many stakeholders, the Coalition is a testament to the power of collaboration. By bringing together voices from across the city, these community partners are not only working to reduce crime but seeking to create stronger, more resilient communities. ▀



Erik Bergrud



Diane Gallagher

## CONVERSATIONS IN LEADERSHIP: **GET TO KNOW TWO NEW KC CHAMBER LEADERS**

➤ **T**wo dynamic leaders joined the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce staff in 2024. Diane Gallagher is the new Vice President of Civic and Community Initiatives, who started in the role on April 1, bringing her personable, growth-oriented leadership skills and deep civic and community connections to our talented team. Erik Bergrud, the new Senior Vice President of Public Policy, joined the team on August 1 and is taking the reins from Cathy Bennett who has recently retired after 22 years of Chamber leadership.

To help introduce our newest leaders and highlight the vision they bring to their respective positions, we asked Diane and Erik to answer a few questions that offer insight into their personalities and leadership goals. See what they had to say!

### **What inspired you about the possibilities of your role at the KC Chamber?**

**DIANE:** I have lived in the Kansas City metro for 30 years now, and as a former Chamber Board member and Centurions alum, I have witnessed the work of the organization for some time. However, the chance to be a part of the team at this particular point in time is a treasure. I am humbled and honored to be here.

**ERIK:** I graduated from the Centurions Leadership Program in 2009 and served in multiple volunteer roles over the years, most recently as chair of the Chamber's Missouri State Affairs Committee. These experiences proved to me the Chamber's unique position in advocating for the region's business community with local, state, and federal elected officials.



## NEW KC CHAMBER LEADERS

### ➤ What is your vision moving forward? What goals do you have for your department and its initiatives?

**DIANE:** We have a wonderful opportunity to expand the KC Chamber Foundation through genKC and Centurions as well as advance efforts toward inclusive prosperity. We are approaching the 50th anniversary of the Centurions program. We look forward to celebrating this milestone and reflecting on the contributions of our alumni in Kansas City and beyond.

**ERIK:** In a year from now, I would like to report that our Public Policy department reflects responsiveness, collaboration, and enthusiasm. We will be responsive to our members' interests and to changes in the public policy environment. We will collaborate with Chamber colleagues and like-minded organizations. We will show enthusiasm in our work, for our members, and for our region.

### What is something that really excites you about the future of the Kansas City region?

**DIANE:** I am, of course, excited about FIFA World Cup 26™, but I am even more enthusiastic about the legacy that remains at the conclusion of the competition.

**ERIK:** Kansas City will host the 2024 National Women's Soccer League Championship on November 23, and six World Cup matches in 2026. In both cases, our region will receive a unique opportunity to display Kansas City to a broad audience. Having joined the Chamber following an extensive career in higher education, I know that international students representing our area's colleges and universities will supply needed language and cultural expertise in 2026, reminding visitors that Kansas City is truly a global city.

### What is something fun you want people to know about you, professionally or personally?

**DIANE:** I can say the alphabet backwards; however, I don't know how to swim! Seriously, I am a "Developer" on Gallup StrengthsFinder, meaning I build strong relationships with team members and place a premium on connecting with colleagues and work associates. That attribute has been evident throughout both my professional career and volunteer efforts.

**ERIK:** Announcing collegiate and professional soccer games has become a personal passion. This November, I return for my fifth season as broadcast analyst for the Kansas City Comets. I also host the league's interview series, Ten for Ten. I had the privilege of serving as a guest announcer for a Kansas City Current local broadcast this summer. Viewing CPKC Stadium from the broadcast booth reminded me about our region's connectivity, via the Missouri River and across multiple continents and languages.

### What is your favorite motivational quote and how has it shaped you as a leader?

**DIANE:** I have kept a handwritten note on my desk with this quote, "Do not walk through time without leaving worthy evidence of your passage," from Pope John XXIII. I try to add value - personally and professionally - and contribute to the people around me and in the work that I do.

**ERIK:** When I held a work-study position in college, my department head once told me "Never be afraid to do what's needed" as he was emptying a trashcan. His simple statement and action motivated me to lead by example and volunteer when needed. This commitment to service before oneself guides me in my professional, civic and charitable activities. ➤



**Rear Admiral Larry Watkins**

Vice Commander,  
U.S. Naval Forces Europe  
Vice Commander,  
U.S. Naval Forces Africa



The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and World Trade Center Kansas City are pleased to welcome Rear Admiral Larry Watkins for a special reception for business during **Kansas City Navy Week.**

Join us to hear how the U.S. Navy is deployed around the world and around the clock, and why a strong Navy is vital to protecting the American way of life. In addition, you'll learn how the Navy helps businesses import and export.

Rear Admiral Watkins is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was commissioned through the University of Missouri-Columbia Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program in December 1990 while graduating with an economics degree. He is also a 2012 graduate of Webster University with a Master of Business Administration and completed Joint Professional Military Education curriculum at Army Command & General Staff College.

**Wednesday, November 13, 2024**

1-2 p.m. Informational presentation

2-3 p.m. Networking with Rear Admiral Watkins and additional Navy guests

Union Station Kansas City  
30 W Pershing Road  
KC Chamber Board Room  
1st Floor next door to Pierponts

**RSVP by email to**  
**[info@kcchamber.com](mailto:info@kcchamber.com)**



**WORLD TRADE CENTER®**  
**KANSAS CITY**





# MEMBER DISCOUNTS

## *Exclusive Savings for KC Chamber Members*

*We've leveraged the purchasing power of our 2,000 member businesses to bring you exclusive savings and opportunities.*



**Kansas City**

### HEALTH INSURANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS

**ChamberCHOICE** is a suite of hand-picked health insurance products designed exclusively for KC Chamber members with 5-99 employees. Five health insurance options to choose from, and discounts on bundled dental/vision plans. Plus, defined contributions control your business's annual costs. Learn more at [www.bluekc.com/chamberchoice](http://www.bluekc.com/chamberchoice).



### EXCLUSIVE MEMBER PRICING

Exclusive access to national contract pricing, only for KC Chamber members. Check it out...

- One-stop shopping, online or in-store
- FREE next-day delivery (orders over \$50), and FREE returns
- It's all here! Save big on office supplies, promotional products, furniture and more.

Sign up today at [www.chambersave.com/staples](http://www.chambersave.com/staples)



The Payroll and HR technology from CBIZ will save you time and money. KC Chamber members save a minimum of 10% on Human Capital Management Services, plus unlimited hours of free HR support for the first year.

PAYROLL



Contact Bob Kelly, [bkelly@cbiz.com](mailto:bkelly@cbiz.com) or (816) 500-0514, for more information.

**For more information, please contact David Prunte, [prunte@kcchamber.com](mailto:prunte@kcchamber.com). or (816) 374-5401.**

*The KC Chamber's Cost Saving Benefits offer negotiated discounts on goods and services, based on the purchasing power of our 2,000 member businesses. Save big with these offers from our partners!*



## INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP: **2024 ATHENA AWARDS**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce has once again spotlighted two extraordinary leaders as the 2024 ATHENA Award recipients, honoring their commitment to professional excellence, community service, and the mentorship of women.



*“The ATHENA Award is about championing women in business and the community.”*

Lindsay Jarquio  
KC Chamber Director of Leadership Development

This year’s ATHENA Leadership Award goes to Qiana Thomason, President and CEO of the Health Forward Foundation. Thomason is recognized for her transformative leadership in health equity, driving strategic investments and policy initiatives to foster economic inclusion in Kansas City. Under her guidance, the Health Forward Foundation has become a national model in public health and community empowerment.

Thomason’s “self to systems” leadership practice, her commitment to harmonizing organizational care and accountability, and her prowess in leading change effectively through disruption makes her a trusted executive and partner in governance, while supporting innovation, profitability, sustainability, and impact goals. She was recognized by the national *Business Journal*’s BizWomen’s 2022 inaugural listing of women making an impact in their local business communities. She was also honored by the Urban League of Greater Kansas City with its 2024 Difference Maker award, Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey with the 2022 Race, Place, and Diversity award and Kansas City University with an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters.

The 2024 ATHENA Young Professional

Leadership Award is awarded to Kamera Meaney, Director of Advocacy and Government Relations at University Health. Meaney is a resolute advocate for eliminating health disparities and improving health outcomes, particularly in underinvested communities. She actively contributes to policy creation and serves on several boards, including Nurture KC and the UMKC Alumni Board. Thomason holds a BA in Social Work from Florida A&M University and an MA in Social Work from The University of Kansas.

Meaney is also committed to the betterment of the community and all of those within it. She is a graduate of the Centurions Leadership Program, a current participant in the Missouri Chamber’s Leadership Missouri, and was recognized as a 2024 NextGen Leader by the *Kansas City Business Journal*. Currently Meaney serves on the UMKC Alumni board and is past board president of Nurture KC as well as the Centurions Alumni Board. She also serves as a board member of America’s Essential Hospitals national PAC Board.

“The ATHENA Award is about championing women in business and the community,” said Lindsay Jarquio, KC Chamber Director of Leadership Development. “This is an opportunity to honor exceptional women like Qiana Thomason and Kamera Meaney, who unlock the potential of others and drive progress in critical issues. The ATHENA Award celebrates those who lead the way in empowering women throughout the Kansas City region to rise, lead and inspire the future.”

Both honorees were celebrated at an awards reception on October 16, at Starlight Theatre’s Jeannette and Jerome Cohen Community Stage House. ▀

## 2024 CHAMPION OF DIVERSITY



# H&R BLOCK

## FOSTERS A CULTURE OF INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY

Imagine the feeling of always being outside the conversation and rarely having your perspective included in the decision-making process - a feeling of being excluded and undervalued. That is often a reality for those in historically underrepresented communities and why diversity, equity and inclusion efforts remain critically important. As the audience heard at

the 2024 POWER of Diversity Breakfast in August, DEI is about welcoming all people to the conversation. It's additive rather than exclusionary, meaning more chairs get added to the table so everyone has a voice.

And that is exactly what this year's Champion of Diversity recipient has been doing for many years. H&R Block built a larger table and



## Watch the Video Learn More

continues to add chairs so that every person feels they belong and is represented in the organization.

“We have a strong commitment to DEI and ‘Belonging@Block’ is a significant cornerstone of our culture,” said LeAna Flores, Director of DEI. “Our goal is to create a culture of belonging where every voice is heard, and associates feel safe, included and inspired.”

H&R Block strives to cultivate a space where diverse identities thrive, fostering a connected culture and nurturing a sense of belonging for all. “This is our mission, and it is prominently displayed to all our associates on our intranet and beyond,” Flores said. “We begin sharing our commitment to belonging as early as the interview cycle.” Once hired, associates are educated about belonging via the Belonging@Block intranet pages, new associate orientation, frequent news articles in internal communications, elevator slides and activities. Belonging is everywhere!

“We celebrate diversity at every level we can,” shared Chris Arnold, Manager of Talent Development. “What we try to do here is ensure that everyone has a seat at the table and can contribute in a way that brings forward a diverse perspective.”

Diversity, equity and inclusion at Block results in a vibrant workplace culture. Programming ensures that employees feel a deep sense of belonging, regardless of their backgrounds, by fostering a community that celebrates differences and promotes collaboration.

Central to Belonging@Block are the Employ-

ee Resource Groups (ERGs), which are spaces for employees from diverse backgrounds to connect, support one another, and advocate for change. No fewer than seven ERGs cater to various identities, including race, gender, LGBTQIA+ and more, providing a platform for voices that have historically been marginalized.

“I love Belonging@Block! It’s all about creating an energy and an intensity around people intentionally showing up as themselves,” enthused Roxanne Harris, Vice President of Block Advisors.

The initiative goes beyond social connection, embedding inclusivity into the company’s core operations. Through a combination of training, leadership development, and advocacy, the program seeks to build awareness around unconscious bias and empower employees to drive change from within. Block also supports initiatives like mentoring programs and inclusive hiring practices, ensuring representation at all levels.

“I think the really awesome thing is that you can come and bring your authentic self, and you get to learn different things and the different cultures that people bring,” said Mylee Pittel, Franchise Support.

What makes Belonging@Block particularly unique is its holistic approach. It not only champions inclusivity within the company but also extends efforts into communities Block serves, reflecting its commitment to social equity on a broader scale.

By prioritizing diversity and inclusion, H&R Block cultivates a work environment where everyone feels valued, heard, and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives. It’s a cornerstone of Block’s mission to create positive, long-lasting social impact through innovative, human-centered design and leadership. ➡



# 2024 **ACE AWARDS HONOR DEI ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce's annual POWER of Diversity ACE Awards has long been a hallmark of recognition for leaders who champion inclusivity in the workplace and community. In 2024, the awards continue to shine a light on those driving meaningful change and fostering diversity across industries. Recipients stand out for their commitment to creating equitable opportunities and advocating for marginalized voices.

This year's honorees represent the best of Kansas City's drive toward a more inclusive future and remind us that real progress happens when diversity and equity are prioritized. ➤

**2024  
KC CHAMBER  
ACE AWARD**

**ANNA BAZAN-MUNGUIA**  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH  
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS  
OF KANSAS CITY



**Watch the Video  
Learn More**



**A**нна Bazan-Munguia plays a pivotal role in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion at Big Brothers Big Sisters Kansas City (BBBSKC). As the Director of Community Outreach and co-chair of the organization's Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Advisory Board, she leads efforts to ensure that BBBSKC's programs are inclusive and reflective of the communities it serves. Bazan-Munguia has a strong commitment to engaging underrepresented groups and fostering equity through mentorship and outreach initiatives.

"When you are passionate about making a difference and having the opportunity to work with so many amazing people, internally and externally, it is so rewarding that it feels as if you aren't working at all," Bazan-Munguia reflected.

Guided by her vision and leadership, BBBSKC is intentional about addressing gaps

in knowledge, holding monthly staff learning sessions to further the conversation of DEI, sourcing businesses of color to partner with, and creating an inclusive environment for all. Even board and committee members are prepared and trained to share the inclusive mission of BBBSKC along with their personal "why", serving as the ultimate brand ambassadors. With a focus on building relationships in multicultural communities, BBBSKC is creating trust that results in recruiting diverse Bigs to mentor diverse Littles, forging bonds with adults who can relate to a child culturally.

For Bazan-Munguia, "this award stands for the beauty of community. I hope to be an inspiration to other women of all cultures. I'm proud to support this cause and so honored to be a Power of Diversity ACE Award recipient."

**2024  
KC CHAMBER  
ACE AWARD**

**JENN MILLER**  
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT  
HENDERSON BUILDING  
SOLUTIONS



**Watch the Video  
Learn More**



**A**s the Director of Business Development at Henderson Building Solutions, Jenn Miller has been instrumental in cultivating an inclusive culture that promotes representation and belonging across the firm. Her leadership has shaped various programs aimed at fostering diversity within the engineering industry—a field traditionally lacking in this area.

Miller's work includes implementing comprehensive DEI strategies, creating training programs that emphasize the importance of equity in the workplace, and leading efforts to recruit and retain a diverse workforce. Through her guidance, Henderson has strengthened partnerships with minority-focused organizations, developed mentoring programs to support underrepresented talent, and launched internal DEI committees to continually improve the company's policies and practices. Retaining diverse employees is essential to the firm's bottom line.

Miller's work is rooted in the belief that diversity drives innovation. Prioritizing equity and inclusion, Henderson is not only enhancing its workplace culture but also ensuring more holistic, creative problem-solving within its project teams. And Miller's impact extends beyond the firm, as she advocates for broader industry-wide changes to make engineering more accessible and equitable for all.

Reflecting on her ACE Award recognition, Miller shares, "This award is an important signifier of the foundation that has been laid and the work that continues to be put into building a more inclusive society. Receiving this award is an honor because it's not just a win for myself. It's a win for all DE&I practitioners across Kansas City because the public recognition signifies that this work matters and is making a difference within our business community."



**2024  
KC CHAMBER  
ACE AWARD**

**KELLY HASS**  
SENIOR QUALITY DIRECTOR  
KANSAS CITY NATIONAL  
SECURITY CAMPUS



**Watch the Video  
Learn More**

**F**requently experiencing situations where she was the only woman in the room, Kelly Hass learned early on in her career that representation and communities of belonging matter. In her role as a Senior Quality Director at the Kansas City National Security Campus (KCNSC), managed by Honeywell FM&T, she has helped drive initiatives aimed at creating a more inclusive and equitable culture.

Hass' work emphasizes creating spaces where all employees feel valued, heard and empowered to contribute fully. One of her primary focuses has been on implementing strategic policies that not only improve representation but also address systemic barriers within recruitment, retention, and career advancement. Her advocacy for inclusive leadership ensures that leaders at KCNSC are equipped with the necessary tools and training to lead diverse teams effectively.

Under Hass's leadership, the diversity and inclusion concepts at KCNSC are creating opportunities for employees to feel valued. Eleven employee networks are active year-round with most having monthly meetings and hosting multiple special events. For example, KCNSC employees proudly march in the annual Kansas City Pride Parade as an event sponsored by the Pride Network, which also hosts regular "DiversiTEA Time" where employees can gather to discuss relevant topics.

Hass hopes her recognition as an ACE Award recipient inspires others to continue their DEI efforts. "It is important that everyone feels comfortable being their authentic self. Everyone should be respected for who they are and the contributions they bring to the table. The more we take the time to listen to ideas that differ from our own, the better solutions we generate!" 📌

# NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these members who recently joined the KC Chamber.

## Advertising Agencies & Consultants

### Woodruff

Andy Grollmes  
(816) 255-1917  
<https://wearewoodruff.com>

## Aircraft Charter

### Airshare

John Owen  
(877) 483-5855  
<https://www.flyairshare.com/>

## Apartments

### BAM Management

Kelly Dickey

## Associations

### National Association of Insurance Commissioners

June LeBlanc  
(816) 842-3600  
<http://www.naic.org>

## Attorneys

### Schoonover & Moriarty LLC

Julia Peterson Palmer  
(913) 354-2630  
<https://www.schoonoverlawfirm.com/>

## Attorneys

### DiPasquale Moore Law Firm

Stephanie Moore  
(816) 323-5259  
<https://www.dmlawusa.com>

## Building Construction

### Kala

Mark Eyman  
(913) 441-0000  
<https://www.kalabuilt.com>

## Building Systems & Services

### HomeSmiles

Robert F Loman  
(816) 814-2938  
<https://kansascity.homesmiles.com/>

## Business Solutions/Services

### SafetyCulture, Inc.

Jay Lysinger  
(816) 787-1343  
<http://www.safetyculture.com>

## Caterers

### Strang Reserve

Scott Kautzi  
(913) 276-0390  
<https://strangreserve.com/>

## Chiropractic Clinics

### Central Division Chiropractic

Dr. Ethan Peterson  
(816) 301-4355  
<https://www.centraldivchirokc.com>

## Clinics

### DaVita Kansas City Renal Center

Melanie Hoover  
(816) 756-0645  
<http://davita.com>

## Community Development

### Avenue of Life

Angela DeWilde  
(816) 787-6101  
<http://www.avenueoflife.org>

## Community Relations Consultants

### Aimclear

Rob Karwath  
(218) 727-4325  
<http://aimclear.com>

## Construction

### Women Owned Dumpsters

Ashley Edgmon  
(816) 525-4123  
<https://womenowneddumpsters.com/>

## Construction & Project Manager

### Remodel Moore

Jen Mazi-Moore  
(816) 721-2529  
<https://remodelmoore.com/>

## Consultants

### Growing Good Consulting

Celeste Carlson  
(620) 480-0672  
<https://www.growinggoodconsulting.com/>

## Consultants

### Hudson Strategies LLC

Joe L Hudson  
(816) 719-8461

## Data Processing Systems, Services, & Centers

### Netsmart

Wendy Hill  
(800) 842-1973  
<http://www.ntst.com>

## Employment Agencies

### The Morgan Hunter Companies, Inc.

Brian Price  
(913) 491-3434  
<http://www.morganhunter.com>

## Engineers - Consulting

### Wallace Design Collective

Janel Bales  
(918) 806-7422  
<https://wallace.design/>

## Entertainment

### DJ Max James

Max James  
(816) 679-6588  
<http://djmaxjames.com>

## Entertainment

### Intelligence Check Trivia

Max James  
(816) 679-6588  
<https://www.ictrivia.com/>

## Environmental Consultants & Services

### Titan Environmental Services

Tom Paszkiewicz  
(913) 432-5500  
<http://www.titankc.com>

## Event and Conference Planning

### Evenenergy LLC

David Steffano  
(800) 216-8692  
<http://www.evenenergy.com>

## Event Space

### The Maverick KC

Lisa Miller  
(816) 310-0600  
<https://www.themaverickkc.com/>

## Event Space

### Unity World Headquarters

Sandy M. Eastwood  
(816) 524-3550  
<https://www.unityvillage.org/>

## Financial Institutions

### Fifth Third Bank

Taylor Dunn  
<https://www.53.com/>

## Financial Planning

### Aspyre Wealth Partners

Joni Lindquist  
(913) 345-1881  
<http://AspyreWealth.com>

## Floor Coverings

### Floor & Decor

Ed West  
<http://flooranddecor.com>

## Fulfillment Services

### Southeast Enterprises

Lauren Hall  
(816) 353-2704  
<http://www.southeastenterprises.org>

## Grocers--Retail

### FavTrip

Babir Sultan  
<https://www.favtrip.com/>

## Health & Nutrition

### The Tasty Balance

Ariel Johnston  
(816) 635-0739  
<https://thetastybalance.com/>

# NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these members who recently joined the KC Chamber.

## Home Repairs Service

### A.B. May

Robert Waterfield  
(913) 499-4023  
<http://abmay.com>

## Hotels/Motels

### AC Hotel Kansas City Downtown

Alison Meeler  
(816) 673-3700  
<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/mciad-ac-hotel-kansas-city-downtown/overview/>

## Housing

### Community Housing of Wyandotte County

Carlanda McKinney  
(913) 342-7580  
<https://chwckck.org/>

## Human Resource Consultants

### OMNI Human Resource Solutions

Jennifer Gross-Statler  
(913) 341-2119  
<http://omnihrm.com>

## Human Resources

### Energage

Hawama Azeem  
(484) 323-6300  
<https://www.energage.com/>

## Internet Services

### Kansas Fiber Network

Jesse Parisoff  
(877) 492-2555  
<http://ksfiber.net>

## Loans

### Capital Collaboration

Austin Moss  
(913) 344-5775  
<https://capitalcollab.com/>

## Marketing & Public Relations Services

### DSC Communications LLC

Scott Cahill  
(913) 909-1332  
<http://www.dsc-communications.com/>

## Marketing Services

### Lambert by LLYC

Zack Mukewa  
(616) 233-0500  
<http://www.lambert.com>

## Marketing Services

### Moss Marketing Group

Alex Atkinson  
(816) 615-1157  
<http://MossMarketingGroup.com>

## Motivational & Self-Improvement Training

### Disabled But Not Really

Wesley Hamilton  
(816) 237-0690  
<https://disabledbutnotreally.org/>

## Non-Profits & Small Businesses

### American Theatre Guild

Elaine Stolze  
(816) 421-7500  
<https://americantheatreguild.com>

## Non-Profits & Small Businesses

### Jewish Community Relations Bureau, Inc.

Hillary Thomas  
(913) 327-8127  
<https://jcrbjc.org/>

## Organizations

### The Junior League of Kansas City, MO

Astra Garner  
(816) 444-2112  
<http://www.jlkc.org>

## Pet Services & Supplies

### Furry Land of Kansas City

Aniqa Jaswal  
(718) 501-1784  
<https://furryland.us/locations/kansas-city-mobile-pet-groomers/>

## Real Estate

### A & C Meier Properties, LLC

Chris Meier

## Real Estate

### Let's Get Real KC

Beth Ott  
(816) 863-0952  
<https://letsgetrealkc.com/>

## Retail

### unkCorked Wine & Spirits

Ian Hulon  
(913) 399-3037  
<https://www.uncorked.com/>

## Roofing & Sheet Metal

### Soderburg Roofing & Contracting

Leo Martinez  
(970) 714-9999  
<https://www.soderburgroofing.com/>

## Schools--Universities & Colleges

### WGU

Daniel Avegalio  
(314) 677-2302  
<https://www.wgu.edu>

## Security Services

### Vetforce Security Inc

Dave Harger  
(570) 660-6009  
<http://www.vetforceinc.com>

## Social Service Organizations

### Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City

Erin Markowicz  
(913) 327-8100  
<http://www.jewishkansascity.org>

## Staffing Solutions

### On Demand Employment Services

Erica Hackett  
(913) 371-3212  
<http://ondemandemployment.net>

## Technology

### PayMore

Paul Kushnir  
(913) 336-0620  
<https://overlandparkks.paymore.com/>

## Transportation Logistics

### Kansas City Charter Bus Company

Alexa Thomas  
(913) 423-2204  
<https://www.kansascitycharterbuscompany.com/>

## Wines & Liquors

### Lavada Wine Shop

Bridget Paliwoda  
(913) 433-0536  
<http://lavadawineshop.com>



# PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE & LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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

Airshare	Children's Mercy	Authority	Perfect Promotions
Alliant	Country Club Bank	Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc.	Polsinelli
Bayer	Delta Dental of Kansas	McCownGordon Construction	Port KC
Black & Veatch Corporation	Enterprise Mobility	Meta	Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kansas City, Inc.
BMO Bank N.A.	FNBO	MLP Holdings	RubinBrown LLP
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP	Google Fiber	Netsmart	T-Mobile
Burns & McDonnell	Hallmark Cards, Inc.	PayMore	
Centric	Kansas City Area Transportation		

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

ARC Physical Therapy+	Eastern Kansas	Mariner	QuikTrip Corporation
Block Real Estate Services, LLC	Helzberg Diamonds	Messenger Coffee Co	Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C.
Border States Electric	Kansas Athletics Inc	Missouri Western State University	Serviceberry Benefit Corporation
Children International	Kansas City Board of Public Utilities	MMC Contractors	Swiss Re
Cleveland University - Kansas City	Kansas City Kansas Community College	National Association of Insurance Commissioners	Telemundo Kansas City
Copaken Brooks	Kansas City Power & Light District	Olathe District Schools	Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City Kansas
Crestwood Midstream Partners LP	Kansas City Public Schools	Olsson	University of Central Missouri
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.	Kansas Fiber Network	Ozark National Life	
Energage	Kiewit	Quantum Resource Professionals	
Goodwill of Western Missouri &			

## MILESTONES

The following companies recently celebrated membership milestones.

<b>5 years</b>	Mid-America LGBT Chamber of Commerce	<b>35 years</b>	T-Mobile (60)
AstrumU	Paradise Locker Inc.	Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP	Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc. (61)
Blade & Timber KC - Power & Light	United WE		MMC Contractors (65)
Blade & Timber KC - Town Center		<b>40 years</b>	Research Medical Center/HCA
CareNow Urgent Care		MBB	Midwest Health (65)
Children International	15 years	Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley	WDAF-TV/FOX 4 (66)
Dialectic, Inc.	Mariner	The Family Conservancy	Bayer (67)
Kansas City Kansas Community College	Resurrection Downtown	The Kansas City Public Library	Kansas City Public Schools (69)
Kansas City Orthopedics Alliance		Walter P Moore	Block Real Estate Services, LLC (75)
Kiewit	<b>20 years</b>		Mid-West Terminal Warehouse Co. (81)
Local Pig - Pigwich	CSL Plasma	<b>45 years</b>	Helzberg Diamonds (95)
Saigan Technologies, Inc	Kansas City Business Journal	Cleveland University - Kansas City	KMBC-TV-Channel 9/Hearst Television Inc. (95)
SpringHill Suites Country Club Plaza	Swope Health Services	Spectrum	Hallmark Cards, Inc. (97)
Stellar Image Studios			Black & Veatch Corporation (105)
The Educator Academy	<b>25 years</b>	<b>50+ years</b>	Burns & McDonnell (107)
The Grand Apartments	Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey	Kansas City Art Institute (50)	
	Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kansas City, Inc.	Kansas City Audio-Visual (50)	
<b>10 years</b>		Copaken Brooks (52)	
City of Independence, Missouri	<b>30 years</b>	Halls Merchandising--A Division of Hallmark Cards, Inc. (52)	
J. Rieger & Co.	CC Capital Advisors	Bliss Associates, LLC (58)	
Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City	Country Club Bank	Ozark National Life (60)	
	University of Central Missouri		

# 2024 PINNACLE PARTNERS

centric

  
FLEISHMANHILLARD

menlo   
K12  • Civic 

Deloitte.

 fnbo

 Meta

大成 DENTONS

Google Fiber

 portkc

eag<sup>®</sup>  
ADVERTISING  
& MARKETING

 Grant Thornton  
An instinct for growth™

Southwest<sup>®</sup> 

ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS.

Alamo<sup>®</sup>  
enterprise  
National.

  
HCA  
MIDWEST  
HEALTH

  
SpencerFane™

 First  
Interstate Bank

 HENDERSON  
ENGINEERS INC

UMKC  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
KANSAS CITY

# CHAMPION LEVEL 2023 PARTNERS





# RIBBON CUTTINGS

Highlighting the growth of Greater Kansas City

## @AvilaUniversity



**Avila University** hosted a ribbon-cutting celebrating expanded and updated student housing; honoring Avila alumna and supporter Jean Buchanan and her family; and providing a new home to the Buchanan Initiative for Peace and Nonviolence, in the newly renamed Jean Buchanan Hall (formerly Ridgway Hall).

## @DaVita



**DaVita Kansas City Renal Center** welcomed the KC Chamber to its new space at 4601 Madison Avenue in Kansas City, MO for a ribbon cutting in September. Congratulations on your awesome new space, DaVita!

## @prospect\_kc and @KCLibrary



**The Nook** is a brand new collaborative coffee bar and learning lab at the Central Library in Kansas City, MO. The space is a partnership between The Prospect KC and the KC Library, where culinary students prepare the drinks and menu items.

## @PayMoreStores



The KC Chamber and OP Chamber joined forces to celebrate the grand opening of **PayMore** on September 20. Be sure to check out their recently opened location at 8933 W. 135th St. in Overland Park, where you can buy, sell and trade electronics for cash.

# RIBBON CUTTINGS

Highlighting the growth of Greater Kansas City

## @SoderburgRoofi1



**Soderburg Roofing & Contracting** has moved into a new office in downtown Kansas City! This family-owned company specializes in roofing, siding, and other residential and commercial contracting services. They are now operating out of a great space at 222 W. 20th Street in Kansas City, MO.

## @IBCInc1

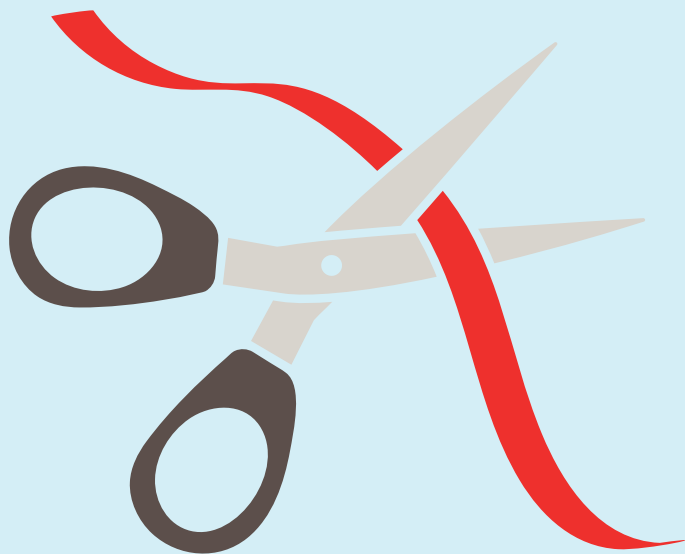


In June, the KC Chamber helped **IBC Carpentry** celebrate fifteen years of hard work, passion and dedication with a ribbon-cutting ceremony as they opened the doors on a new location at 2400 Allen Terrace in KCMO, and celebrated a milestone anniversary.

## @PorterhouseKC



Congratulations to **Porterhouse KC** on the grand opening of their 811 Retail Incubator located at 811 E. 31st St. that helps bridge the gap between pop-up events and a brick-and-mortar store. Eight aspiring entrepreneurs can get space and also comprehensive support and access to resources and programming.





# BALANCE THE HEALTH OF YOUR EMPLOYEES AND YOUR BOTTOM LINE WITH **ChamberCHOICE.**

**Welcome to health coverage that's  
small business friendly. Bottom line  
friendly. And employee friendly.**

ChamberCHOICE is a suite of hand-picked health insurance products designed exclusively for Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce members. With this defined contribution offering, employers get to control the cost of health benefits, and employees get to choose the plan that fits their needs.

**Designed for small businesses with  
5-99 employees**

**Offers a choice of five unique level-funded  
administrative services organization (ASO)  
medical plans**

**Includes the option of choosing one of three  
dental/vision offerings**

**A full portfolio offering Spira Care, BlueSelect  
Plus and Preferred-Care Blue networks**

**Quoting now available**



Consult your broker or a small group Blue KC  
representative at **816-395-3378** to learn more.  
**[BlueKC.com/ChamberCHOICE](http://BlueKC.com/ChamberCHOICE)**



## Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, **Southwest Airlines<sup>®</sup> is committed to you.**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Southwest Airlines have partnered to give the KC business community potential access to exclusive travel discounts and Southwest's business loyalty program. Together, we are thrilled to offer potential business travel solutions that make managing your company's travel program easier than ever. From potential travel agreements tailored to you, exciting Customer experience enhancements, a dedicated travel management team, and Southwest Airlines' brand-new self-service business portal, Southwest Business Assist<sup>™</sup>, we are thrilled to support your business travel program needs. Connect with Southwest<sup>®</sup> Business today to learn more.

### Welcome to a more rewarding relationship with Rapid Rewards<sup>®</sup> Business.<sup>1</sup>

Business is all about relationships, and we want you to get the most out of ours. The Southwest Rapid Rewards Business program means your company can earn reward points on top of the points your travelers are already earning. Our goal is to provide maximum value while delivering the flexibility and control you need to ensure your team is taken care of while traveling.



### Top Kansas City markets:

Southwest has scheduled up to 54 daily weekday flights to 27 nonstop destinations during October 2022,<sup>2</sup> including the below top markets:

Destination	# scheduled daily M-F flights <sup>2</sup>
Denver	7
Chicago (Midway)	7
Dallas (Love Field)	5
Phoenix	3
St. Louis	3
Orlando	3
Las Vegas	3
Washington, D.C. (Reagan National)	3
Nashville	3

### Southwest wants to help you do business travel better.

As part of our commitment to our partnership with you and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, we have created a one-stop-location for you to learn more about the benefits of a potential partnership.

Scan here to learn more about our partnership:



### Why fly Southwest?



No change<sup>3</sup> or cancel<sup>4</sup> fees, and flight credits don't expire.<sup>5</sup>



First and second checked bags fly free<sup>®</sup>.<sup>6</sup>



Exceptional Customer Service and Southwest Hospitality.

<sup>1</sup>All Rapid Rewards rules and regulations apply and can be found at [Southwest.com/rtrterms](https://www.southwest.com/rtrterms).

<sup>2</sup>Based on the Department of Transportation (DOT) published schedules on weekdays beginning 10/1/22 through 4/8/23. For up-to-date system information, including nonstop service for any given Southwest city, please visit [Southwest.com](https://www.southwest.com).

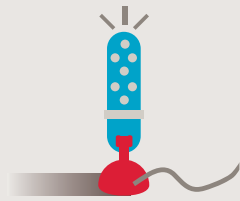
<sup>3</sup>Fare difference may apply.

<sup>4</sup>Failure to cancel a reservation at least 10 minutes prior to scheduled departure may result in forfeited flight credits.

<sup>5</sup>Flight credits unexpired on or created on or after July 28, 2022, do not expire and will show an expiration date until our systems are updated. See full details at [Southwest.com/experience/flightcredits](https://www.southwest.com/experience/flightcredits).

<sup>6</sup>First and second checked bags. Weight and size limits apply.

# GOOD NEWS



## People

The **Lamp Rynearson** Kansas City Office welcomes two new hires, Chad Thompson, PE, and Kent Rettig. Thompson joins the Civil Design Group as a Senior Project Manager, and Rettig will support the Aquatics Group as a Senior Project Advocate.

**Agenda: USA**, Kansas City's first and only Accredited Destination Management Company, is pleased to welcome two respected hospitality industry professionals to the team. Jill Campbell joins Agenda: USA as Manager of Event Services with deep experience in the hospitality industry and a special expertise in hotel operations, catering and convention services. Lauren Harlan joins Agenda: USA as Manager of Operations & Logistics with more than 20 years of meeting planning experience.

The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations recognized Jan Finn, President and CEO of **Midwest Transplant Network**, with the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award. AOPO also announced Terry Shambles, Treasurer and CFO of Midwest Transplant Network, will serve as Secretary/Treasurer of its 2024-2025 Board of Directors.

The governing body of **Park University** – its Board of Trustees – has elected three individuals to serve a three-year term on the board. Elected were Andrea Hendricks, Ed.D. of **Authentico**, Merideth Rose of **Cornerstones of Care**, and Kathrine Swanson, Ed.D of **Metropolitan Community College - Longview**.

**North Kansas City Hospital** and Meritas Health has named Collin Lovitt, DO, as the new medical staff president. Dr. Lovitt began her one-year term July 1. In this role, she acts as a liaison between the medical staff and the hospital system's administration, chairs the NKCH Medical Executive Committee and provides leadership representation for the more than 550 physicians on staff.

**Seaboard Foods** welcomed Chad Groves to his new role as president and CEO of Seaboard Foods. He succeeded retiring President and CEO Peter Brown. Groves joined Seaboard Foods in July 2021 as the senior vice president of global sales, marketing and innovation, leading retail, food service, export and processor sales, and the marketing, innovation, communications and sustainability team.

**Crux KC** has amplified its marketing prowess in creative direction, content strategy, digital marketing, paid media, video and podcasting to meet increased client demand. Recent hires in VP of Creative Brooke Barrier and SVP of Digital Operations Josh Selig-Votaw are ushering in a new era for the firm focused on cross-functional expertise.

The following five **Foulston Siefkin** attorneys were recognized as the Best Lawyers® 2025 "Lawyer of the Year" for Kansas City, Kansas in these practice areas: Tara Eberline, Employment Law - Management, and Litigation - Municipal; Jack Epps, Business Organizations (Including LLCs and Partnerships); Scott Nehrbass, Litigation - Real Estate; Scott Palecki, Health Care Law; and Tony Rupp, Litigation - Land Use and Zoning.

## Miscellaneous

**Academy Bank, N.A.** and its parent, Dickinson Financial Corporation, have entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Westminster, Colorado-based Mountain View Bank of Commerce. The deal expands Academy Bank's already significant presence in the Colorado market with a Westminster branch and a Boulder loan production office.

*U.S. News & World Report* announced its 2024-25 Best Hospitals rankings, and for the 15th consecutive year, **The University of Kansas Hospital** was named the Best Hospital in Kansas City. It is also the Best Hospital in Kansas for the 13th time. No other hospital has ever received these honors.

# GOOD NEWS

Continued...

Kansas City's **Linda Hall Library** has acquired a third copy of Galileo's "Sidereus nuncius", bound with two other works from Johannes Kepler. The 1610 Venice edition of Galileo's "Sidereus nuncius" and the two Kepler titles will be on display at the Library in an all-new exhibition alongside seventeen other new acquisitions to the Library's rare book collection. Following the acquisition, the Linda Hall Library is the only institution in the world with all three "versions" of the publication.

MMC Corp announced that its companies - MW Builders, the MMC Contractors entities, and BCS - are uniting around the new brand name **Cerris**. MMC Corp will become Cerris. MW Builders will rebrand to become Cerris Builders. The MMC Contractors entities and BCS are each rebranding as Cerris Systems, with Cerris Emerging Solutions as the organization's new innovation incubator.

**Bar K**, the popular dog park/bar/restaurant/event space with locations in Kansas City, St. Louis, and Oklahoma City, has been named "Best Dog Bar" in the country in *USA TODAY*'s "Reader's Choice Awards."

**Novella Brandhouse** is proud to announce its alliance with MKA Collective (MKAC), a specialized foodservice and brand development collaboration. MKA Collective is the strategic collaboration of three Kansas City-based agencies, McDonnell Kinder & Associates, Hermanos Design, and Novella. The three agencies combine decades of expertise in marketing and branding, restaurant innovation, and architectural design.

**HCA Midwest Health** announced that Research Medical Center, Centerpoint Medical Center and Menorah Medical Center have been named by *U.S. News & World Report* to its 2024-2025 Best Hospitals

## LIBERTY LEVEL 2024 INVESTORS





# GOOD NEWS

## Continued...

as High Performing hospitals for a total of eight procedures and conditions. This is the highest distinction a hospital can earn for U.S. News' Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions ratings.

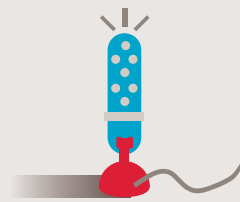
**Spencer Fane LLP** is pleased to announce Montgomery & Andrews, PA, a leading New Mexico firm with rich history in Sante Fe and an impressive bench of trial, transactional, and regulatory attorneys, will combine with the firm effective August 1, 2024. The addition brings 11 new attorneys to Spencer Fane and deepens the firm's presence in the Southwest. Following the combination, clients of both firms will benefit from an expanded network of more than 530 attorneys across 27 offices nationwide.

KC2026, with Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, announced the **National WWI Museum and Memorial** will be the location of Kansas City's FIFA Fan

Festival™ in 2026. As the official FIFA Fan Festival in Kansas City for the FIFA World Cup 26™, it will be one of many activations in and around the region during the global tournament.

The H&R Block Artspace at the **Kansas City Art Institute** is pleased to announce a new Artspace Project Wall by Michael Krueger, a nationally celebrated artist based in Lawrence, Kansas.

**Labconco** has released a redesigned Logic Biosafety Cabinet, integrating over 50 years of biosafety expertise with technological advancements to support the evolving needs of today's laboratories. The Logic BSC ensures protection for personnel, products and laboratory environments when working with biohazardous samples. Suitable for BSL 1-4 laboratories, it provides comprehensive particulate protection and an ISO Class 5 working environment.



## BRONZE LEVEL 2024 INVESTORS



# GOOD NEWS

## Continued...

*Accounting Today* has named **MarksNelson** to its list of the 2024 Best Accounting Firms to Work For, based on policies, philosophy, practices, demographics, and employee satisfaction.

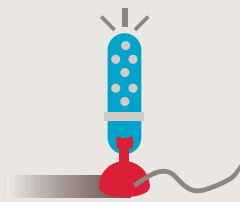
**AdventHealth South Overland Park** has announced the completion of the expansion of its Birth Center, doubling its size. The expanded facility now features 15 modern birth suites designed to allow mothers to labor, deliver, rest, and recover in one comfortable room. This expansion also includes the addition of six experienced OB/GYNs, bringing the total to 14.

**AltCap**, an impact-focused small business lender, is proud to launch the Building Prosperity Initiative to create more pathways for contractors who are minority, women and other disadvantaged professionals. In collaboration with the Opus Foundation and **Cross-**

**First Bank**, the Building Prosperity Initiative will strengthen contractors' businesses, provide access to capital and help them win more public and private contract work.

The **Kansas City Ballet's** Artistic Director Devon Carney announced family-friendly shortened performances of the classic fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast* will be performed February 21-23, 2025 by Kansas City Ballet Second Company Dancers at the historic Folly Theater.

The Cinelli Family Foundation of Lawrence, Kansas has provided a \$10 million gift to create a cellular therapeutics Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) laboratory in the new **University of Kansas Cancer Center** building. This marks the first gift made for this purpose and brings the total amount of funding raised so far to approximately \$247 million.



## SILVER LEVEL 2024 INVESTORS



managed by **Honeywell FM&T**

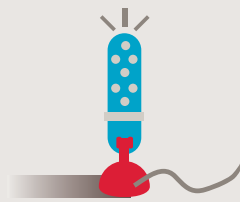


UNCOMMONLY INDEPENDENT



# GOOD NEWS

Continued...



The **Kansas City Tech Council** (KCTC) announced the release of the *KC Tech Specs v.07*, a comprehensive report that highlights the state of Kansas City's technology industry. As the region continues to emerge as a tech powerhouse, the report provides crucial insights into industry growth, workforce trends, and the economic impact of the tech sector in Kansas City and the surrounding areas.

The **Kansas City Chiefs**, the Kansas City community and members of Chiefs Kingdom around the world raised \$1 million for **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kansas City** (RMHC-KC) through flag sales during Red Wednesday - the 33rd edition of Red Friday - on Wednesday, September 4. Over the past decade, Red Friday sales have raised more than \$6.5 million to help RMHC-KC continue its mission of keeping families close in times of sickness and need.

**BOK Financial** has received the 2024 Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award (GEWA). This award recognizes the most engaged workplace cultures in the world. Worldwide, only 23% of employees are engaged - that is, committed to their work and connected to their workplace - and just 33% of employees in the U.S. workforce are engaged. Seventy percent of employees at winning GEWA organizations are engaged.

The **AC Hotel Kansas City Downtown** is officially open in the heart of the Financial District. Located at 906 Grand Boulevard, this new hotel offers guests a perfect blend of modern style and historic charm, featuring thoughtfully designed spaces with timeless finishes. Each of the 239 well-appointed rooms and 11 suites is designed for comfort and convenience, complete with lavender turndown service, complimentary WiFi, and mini refrigerators.

## GOLD LEVEL 2024 INVESTORS





# GOOD NEWS

Continued...

## Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern

**Kansas** (MoKan Goodwill) announced plans to start an adult high school, which will be known as The Excel Center Kansas City. The school will be located in southern Kansas City, Missouri near the intersection of Bannister Rd. and I-435 at 5000 East Bannister Road. It will be easily accessible by car or bus, with a Troost Max Line bus stop just outside. The first of its kind in the region, the Excel Center is open to any Missourian aged 21 and over who doesn't have a high school diploma. Free, onsite childcare will be provided.

Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas and **WeCode KC** were recipients of **Spectrum** Digital Education Grants from Charter Communications, Inc. The funding helps nonprofits connect communities with digital tools, resources, and skills training.

**Foley Equipment**, the Caterpillar dealer for Kansas and Northwestern Missouri for more than 80 years, announced that it will be expanding by adding a new facility in Chillicothe, Missouri. This full-service facility that opened on Oct. 8 includes sales, rental, parts and service for Foley's construction and Power Solutions businesses. The location has more than 26 acres, including 6 service bays and a 19,000 sq ft parts warehouse.

Share your good member news with the KC Chamber! Send us your news release and an optional image (at least 500px square). Be sure to include a headline, introduction, and contact information.

Just add [info@kcchamber.com](mailto:info@kcchamber.com) to your media distribution list.

## TITANIUM LEVEL 2024 INVESTORS

Community**America**<sup>®</sup>  
CREDIT UNION

**JEDUNN**<sup>®</sup>  
CONSTRUCTION

**evergy**<sup>™</sup>

**K** EWING MARION  
**KAUFFMAN**  
FOUNDATION

# PLATINUM LEVEL 2024 INVESTOR



## Kansas City

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



Union Station  
30 W Pershing Road  
Suite 301  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

**For membership information,  
call (816) 221-2424  
or email [info@kcchamber.com](mailto:info@kcchamber.com)**

GROW KC Business is produced by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Marketing Department for Chamber Management Services, LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of the KC Chamber). Information in this publication is carefully compiled to ensure accuracy. However, neither the KC Chamber nor CMS assume responsibility for accuracy. Contents are copyrighted by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.  
Design solutions for GROW KC Business provided by KC Chamber member Ridpath Creative Partners, LLC, [www.ridpathcreative.com](http://www.ridpathcreative.com).

# We create imaginative visuals that make you look great!

Ridpath Creative is ready to tackle your business communications needs.

We are a boutique graphics design shop equipped to manage your  
**website, digital-print media, photography, video** and **live streaming** needs.

## THREE WAYS KANSAS CITY BASED RIDPATH CREATIVE IS DIFFERENT:

1

### EXPERIENCED

Experience matters. Our team has a combined fifty plus years of creative experience. The result, we provide our clients with a wealth of options and ideas.

2

### BROAD RANGE OF CAPABILITIES

Our client focus is narrow. Our range of services and experience is broad. The result is a synergy of all your creative marketing needs, web, design and photography.

3

### SMALL TEAM, BIG IDEAS

Our team is small. Our experience is broad. We provide dedicated focus on your projects. We focus on timely delivery and quality results. All at a reasonable cost.

Roger Ridpath  
creative

816.792.9669

[roger@ridpathcreative.com](mailto:roger@ridpathcreative.com)  
[ridpathcreative.com](http://ridpathcreative.com)



RIDPATH  
creative