

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1 APRIL 2025

# GROW **KC**

**BUSINESS**

**KC CHAMBER DIGITAL MAGAZINE**



## **A CONVERSATION WITH**

Beto Lopez  
Guadalupe Centers



## **ALL RISE**

KC Current  
Elevates Sport



## **TAKING FLIGHT**

State of Aviation  
in the KC Region



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# CONTENTS

6

## A CONVERSATION WITH

Beto Lopez  
Guadalupe Centers

10

## ALL RISE

KC Current  
Elevates Sport

13

## TAKING FLIGHT

State of Aviation  
in the KC Region

17

## NEW MEMBERS

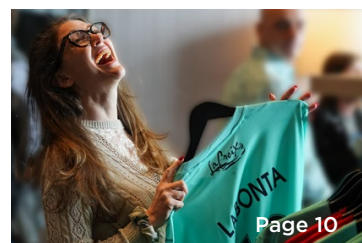
Milestone Anniversaries,  
President's Circle  
and Leadership Circle

20

## RIBBON CUTTINGS

21

## MEMBER NEWS



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Cover photo: Photo of Alana Cook and Lo LaBonta (top) at the inaugural KC Current Kickoff Luncheon. Photo by Kyle Rivas of Rivas Media.

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## PRESIDENT & CEO'S POINT OF VIEW

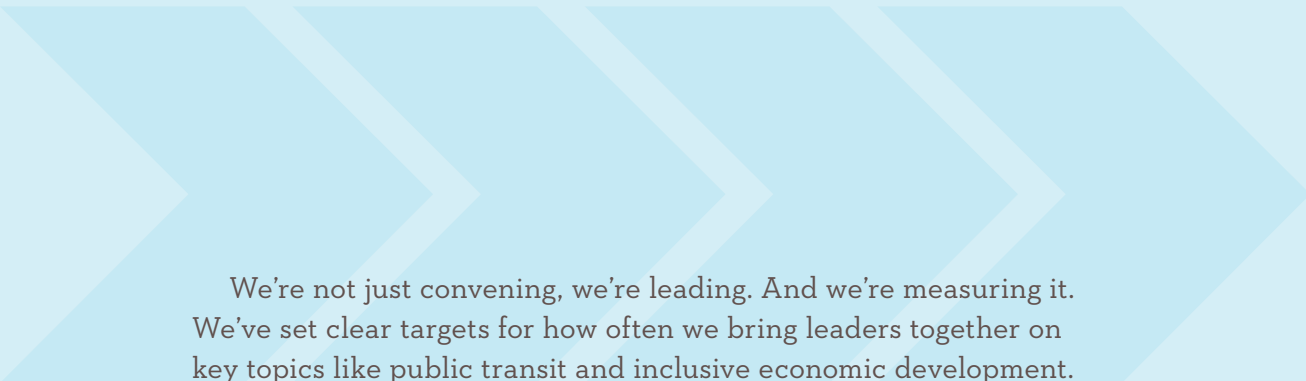
At the KC Chamber, we've never believed in standing still. In a region full of momentum, our job is to ensure that forward progress benefits all and that we're doing everything we can to lead, convene, and deliver meaningful impact. That's why over the past several months, we've been working hard to refresh our strategic plan and sharpen the tools we use to measure success. We're especially grateful to our partners at the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership for guiding us through this process with insight and expertise.

The heart of this refresh is our commitment to achieving regional vitality and cohesiveness by improving the conditions for inclusive economic growth. That's a big statement, but it's more than words – it's a mandate for action. And now, thanks to a thorough review and collaboration across our organization, we've established a new suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that give us a clearer view of our progress, our accountability, and our impact.

This refresh isn't just about tightening the bolts; it's about redefining what it means to be essential. Our vision is that KC Chamber membership isn't a "nice to have" on a company's budget – it's a must have. That's because being part of the Chamber means being at the table for the conversations that truly shape this region: how we grow fairly, how we build a more connected metro, how we strengthen our workforce, and how we retain the institutions (like our hometown sports teams) that define Greater Kansas City's identity.







We're not just convening, we're leading. And we're measuring it. We've set clear targets for how often we bring leaders together on key topics like public transit and inclusive economic development. We're tracking member perceptions to ensure they see us not only as valuable, but as vital in advancing their business goals and our shared regional future.

We're also committed to creating spaces for honest, often difficult conversations, because we believe progress only comes when people feel heard, seen, and supported. Our new metrics around engagement that is welcoming for all reflect that, and we'll continue to measure success not just in attendance, but in trust.

Small business support, workforce development, civic leadership: we're setting goals in all these areas and holding ourselves accountable. We know we must walk our talk, so we're aligning our internal hiring practices with the best standards we advocate for externally. We're also surveying our own team, because the well-being of our staff directly impacts the service we provide our members.

At the end of the day, we want people to say, *"If you care about the future of Kansas City, you need to be part of the KC Chamber."* That's the bar we're setting for ourselves. We're not here to spectate. We're here to move the needle, and with this strategic refresh, we're more ready than ever to do exactly that. 📌

---

**JOE REARDON** @JReardonKC @KCChamber



**W**hen Beto Lopez stepped into the role of CEO at Guadalupe Centers, he wasn't simply accepting a leadership title, he was continuing a legacy. For more than a century, Guadalupe Centers has been a vital pillar in Kansas City's Latino community, and under Lopez's guidance, that legacy has grown to meet the evolving needs of a modern, diverse population.

"I expressed my interest in this role because of what this organization stands for, especially its mission," Lopez says. "The core initiatives that defined Guadalupe over 100 years ago – access to education and health-care – are still critical today. The difference now is how we adapt to meet those needs in a changing world."

That balance of tradition and innovation defines Lopez's leadership style. While deeply honoring the Westside roots and cultural heritage of Guadalupe Centers, he's also ushering in a new era, one marked by growth, collaboration, and bold investment in the future. A clear example: the organization's move into the former FBI building in



# A CONVERSATION WITH **BETO LOPEZ**

*President & CEO at Guadalupe Centers*

*“Attending our high school graduation each year is incredibly inspirational. It’s a reminder of why we do what we do, and a motivation to keep doing it.”*

downtown Kansas City.

“It’s ironic and powerful that we’ve acquired such a high-profile space in the downtown skyline,” Lopez reflects. “This move is more than symbolic. We’re returning to the historic Westside neighborhood to expand our educational services and reestablish a powerful presence right where our school system began.”

The new facility brings much more than square footage. Guadalupe Centers is ex-

panding its high school programming with additional classrooms and launching a workforce development initiative that includes trade-focused education like automotive servicing and marketing. Plans also include wraparound supports such as mental health services, a food pantry, and increased community partnerships, creating a hub for whole-family support.

“We want our students and families to always feel safe, informed, and supported,” Lopez says. “That’s our most urgent priority, and our ongoing commitment.”

That commitment is reinforced every spring during graduation season, when Lopez finds renewed purpose in his work. “Attending our high school graduation each year is incredibly inspirational,” he shares. “It’s a reminder of why we do what we do, and a motivation to keep doing it.”

Lopez also sees Guadalupe Centers as a key player in Kansas City’s broader civic future, particularly as the Latino community continues to grow. “Our region is welcoming, innovative, and collaborative,” he says. “As the fastest-growing population in the country, Latinos will continue shaping Kansas City – through education, employment, government, and business.”

His call to action for the business community is clear: “Partnering with Guadalupe Centers and supporting the Latino community isn’t just the right thing to do, it makes a whole lot of business sense.”

With Beto Lopez at the helm, Guadalupe Centers is honoring its past, meeting the needs of the present, and boldly stepping into the future, ensuring that the next 100 years are just as impactful as the last. ▀



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# RAISING THE CURRENT:

## Kansas City Rides the Momentum of Women's Sports



**K**ansas City made a splash on March 5, 2025, as the KC Chamber hosted the inaugural KC Current Kickoff Luncheon, and let's just say, the energy was electric. From the moment the doors opened, it was clear this wasn't your average midweek meal. Business leaders, civic champions, and diehard fans came together not just to talk shop, but to rally behind a team that's rewriting the playbook on women's sports and redefining Kansas City pride.

KC Current General Manager Caitlin Carducci captured the moment perfectly: "The energy at the KC Current Kickoff Luncheon was absolutely electric. Seeing the community come together to support our team was truly inspiring. It's moments like these that highlight the incredible impact of women's sports on our region."

One attendee summed it up best: "This was

hands down one of the best KC Chamber events I've attended in the past 15 years. The energy in the room, the interaction with the players and coaches, and the sense of pride for what the Current represents, it was all incredibly powerful. Events like this show that women's sports aren't just having a moment, they're building a movement, and Kansas City is leading the way."

Held as a high-energy sendoff for the 2025 season, the luncheon was part pep rally, part power move. Players and coaches gave fans a behind-the-scenes look at their goals for the year ahead, while civic and business leaders underscored the team's broader influence – on the field, in the community, and across the region. With homegrown swagger and championship-level ambition, the KC Current is charging forward and showing what's possible when a city



wholeheartedly invests in women's sports.

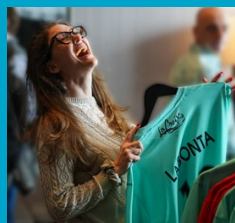
Club President Raven Jemison reflected on the deeper meaning: "It's awesome to be the president of a club making history, but it's even more amazing to be a part of what we're building here in Kansas City."

And what they're building is nothing short of transformational. The Kansas City Current's home at CPKC Stadium – the first stadium in the world purpose-built for a women's professional team – has become the anchor of a bold, multi-phase redevelopment along the Missouri Riverfront. As reported by The Kansas City Star the \$1 billion privately-financed project includes more than 400 new residential units, 48,000 square feet of retail and dining space, and over two acres of public gathering areas, including a town square and a riverfront promenade.

That impact isn't going unnoticed elsewhere. In Denver, a significant development is underway with the announcement of a new stadium dedicated to the city's National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) expansion team, set to open in 2028. This initiative was inspired by the momentum seen in Kansas City, underscoring a broader national trend where investments in women's sports are driving urban revitalization and setting new standards for professional athletic facilities.

Nationally, the KC Current are trailblazing a powerful momentum shift. The NWSL shattered attendance records in 2024, and the Current led the charge, selling out every single home game. But the excitement isn't just about the numbers. It's about the culture. One built on grit, joy, and belonging – a team-first, city-proud mentality that's capturing hearts and turning heads across the country and around the world.

Now that the KC Current have kicked off their 2025 season, Kansas City isn't just along for the ride, we're rowing in rhythm. The Current is strong, the energy is rising, and this town is already touting it's teal. 🏴‍☠️







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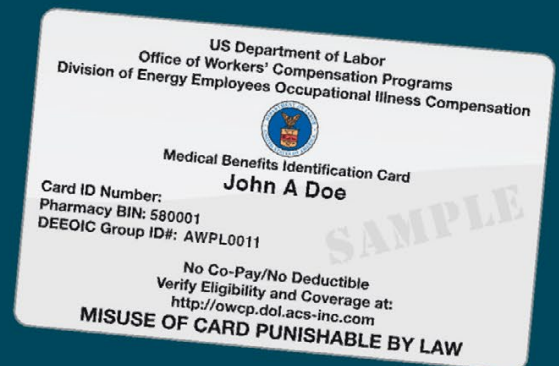
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# TAKING FLIGHT:



## The State of Aviation Showcases Kansas City's Soaring Potential

*KC Chamber event brings together aviation leaders to chart the region's future in the skies.*


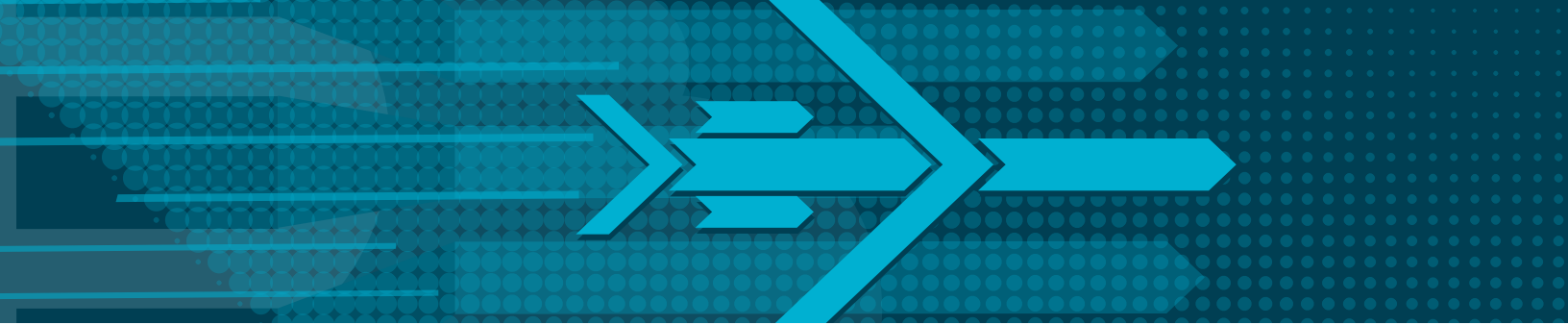
**K**ansas City's aviation industry is climbing to new heights and the business community is on board for the journey. That momentum was front and center Thursday, April 17, at the KC Chamber's *The State of Aviation*, where experts and stakeholders gathered to explore the trends, technologies, and opportunities shaping the future of air travel across the region.

Held in the KC Chamber Board Room at historic Union Station, the event brought together leaders in commercial aviation, private flight, logistics, workforce development, and infrastructure. From nonstop international routes to

cutting-edge aerospace research, the morning confirmed one thing: Kansas City's air advantage is real and growing.

The Chamber was honored to welcome keynote speaker Dr. John Tomblin, Executive Director of the National Institute for Aviation Research and Senior Vice President for Industry & Defense Programs at Wichita State University. A national leader in aerospace innovation, Dr. Tomblin delivered a compelling address on emerging technologies, workforce readiness, and how our region can plug into a rapidly evolving global ecosystem.





“Wichita is the number one aviation manufacturing center in the nation – not by chance, but by generations of innovation, craftsmanship, and commitment. From commercial jets to defense systems, no one builds a plane without Kansas. Our state, and especially Wichita, is at the heart of global aviation and we’re just getting started,” Tomblin said.

That leadership matters as global demand for air travel rises, pushing manufacturers to ramp up production and meet a lofty goal of 100 new aircraft per month.

Following the keynote, KC Chamber President & CEO Joe Reardon moderated a dynamic panel discussion featuring aviation leaders from across the region. Together, they shared perspectives on how air travel is evolving and what that means for Kansas City’s growth and connectivity.

Justin Meyer, Deputy Director of Aviation for the City of Kansas City, MO, spoke about the public’s strong response to the new KCI terminal and preparations for FIFA World Cup 26™. “We’re looking at how to optimize travel during what’s already a peak season,” he said. “It’s about working with the right partners to bring the right ideas to life, especially when it comes to expanding key routes.”

Melissa Cooper, the City’s Director of Aviation, emphasized the growing role of business aviation and regional airports. She also noted a major financial shift: “The old terminals earned about \$5.50 per passenger. The new single terminal has already surpassed \$15, which helps offset carrier costs and support long-term sustainability.”

Bryan Johnson, Executive Director of the Johnson County Airport Commission, high-

*“It’s about  
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Justin Meyer  
Deputy Director of Aviation for the  
City of Kansas City, MO

lighted regional collaboration. “Aviation’s true strength in Kansas City lies in our regionalism,” he said. “Smaller airports support everything from pilot training to logistics and their strategic distribution boosts mobility and opportunity.”

From the airline perspective, Kyle Brown, Director of National Sales at Southwest Airlines, reinforced Kansas City’s importance. “This is a key market for Southwest,” he said. “And thanks to feedback from influencers and passengers, we’re adapting how we serve the region to meet evolving expectations.”

Whether you’re in logistics, manufacturing, tourism, or tech, aviation touches nearly every sector in the region. And at this year’s *The State of Aviation*, the message was clear: Kansas City is ready for more. ▀



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**Travis Salat**

(866) 265-5479

[www.price4limo.com/locations/misouri/charter-bus-kansas-city](http://www.price4limo.com/locations/misouri/charter-bus-kansas-city)

## Project More Happy

**Jessica Lyonford**

[www.jessicalyonford.com](http://www.jessicalyonford.com)

## Q39

**John Beddall**

(816) 255-3753

[www.q39kc.com](http://www.q39kc.com)

## Sam's Club

**Emily Moll**

(816) 452-0005

[www.samsclub.com/club/kansas-city-mo-sams-club/8207](http://www.samsclub.com/club/kansas-city-mo-sams-club/8207)

## SAVE, Inc.

**Patrick McLaughlin**

(816) 531-8340

[www.saveinckc.org](http://www.saveinckc.org)

## Segura Marketing

**Nicholas Segura**

(816) 728-2596

[www.segura.marketing](http://www.segura.marketing)

## Selena Smith Coaching and Consulting

**Selena Smith**

(816) 267-1097

[www.selenasmithcoaching.me](http://www.selenasmithcoaching.me)

## Shamrock Trading Corporation

**Lauren Kurl-Bates**

[www.shamrocktradingcorp.com](http://www.shamrocktradingcorp.com)

## Show Me KC Schools

**Sheyvette Dinkens**

(816) 535-0656

[www.showmekcschools.org](http://www.showmekcschools.org)

## Stahla Services, LLC

**Grant Stahla**

(844) 900-3190

[www.stahla.com](http://www.stahla.com)

## Storytaylor

**JQ Sirls**

[www.storytaylor.com](http://www.storytaylor.com)

## Sweet Peaches Cobblers

**Denisha Jones**

(816) 582-7306

[www.sweetpeachescobblers.com](http://www.sweetpeachescobblers.com)

## T'ähä Mexican Kitchen

**Fidel Gomez**

(816) 548-1965

[www.tahamexicankitchen.com](http://www.tahamexicankitchen.com)

## Taylor Made Photo KC

**Sydney Taylor**

(913) 227-9598

[www.taylormadephotokc.com](http://www.taylormadephotokc.com)

## TeraCrunch

**Tapan Bhatt**

[www.teracrunch.com](http://www.teracrunch.com)

## The Ashton on the Plaza

**Lori Carter**

(816) 839-6060

[www.theashtonontheplaza.com](http://www.theashtonontheplaza.com)

## The BeVel Grooming Lounge

**Casie Murff**

(816) 255-4412

[www.thebevelkc.com](http://www.thebevelkc.com)

## The Binder Firm

**Kelisen Molloy-Binder**

(816) 866-8264

[www.thebinderfirm.com](http://www.thebinderfirm.com)

## The Layne Project, Inc.

**Trina Nudson**

(913) 829-3711

[www.mychildadvocate.com](http://www.mychildadvocate.com)

[www.thelayneproject.com](http://www.thelayneproject.com)

## The Office Revolution

**Beth Collins**

[www.office-revolution.com](http://www.office-revolution.com)

## Thrive Restaurant Group

**Stacy Glazer**

(316) 683-2611

[www.thriverestaurantgroup.com](http://www.thriverestaurantgroup.com)

## ThrottleNet

**Jeremiah Jeffers**

(866) 805-3060

[www.throttlenet.com](http://www.throttlenet.com)

## Uncornered

**Mark Culliton**

[www.uncornered.org](http://www.uncornered.org)

## Valley Companies

**Sara Gilbert**

(800) 657-6936

[www.valleycompanies.com](http://www.valleycompanies.com)

## Verizon

**Joshua Miller**

[www.verizon.com](http://www.verizon.com)

## Vine Street Brewing Co.

**Annie McGinnis**

(913) 548-2863

[www.vinestbrewing.com](http://www.vinestbrewing.com)

## Woodside

**Tara Zahner**

(913) 831-0034

[www.clubwoodside.com](http://www.clubwoodside.com)

## World Builders Academy

**Pan Leung**

(816) 718-0063

[www.worldbuildersacademy.com](http://www.worldbuildersacademy.com)

## Your Healing Touch

**India Stewart**

(404) 707-1628

[www.yourhealingtouch86.com](http://www.yourhealingtouch86.com)

# PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE & LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

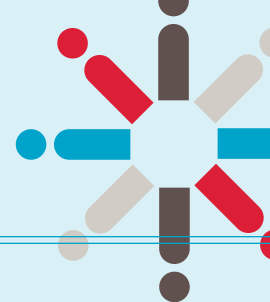
The following companies recently joined or renewed their commitment to the KC Chamber's President's Circle.

Advantage Tech	Enterprise Bank & Trust	Campus, managed by Honeywell	Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.
AdventHealth	Ernst & Young LLP	FM&T	Slalom
Aetna	Evergy	Kansas City University	Spencer Fane LLP
AGA Productions	FairWave Coffee Collective	Kansas State University	Stinson LLP
American Cancer Society KC/WMO Region	First Interstate Bank	KC Health Collaborative	Tension Corporation
American Century Investments	FleishmanHillard	Kessinger/Hunter & Company, L.C.	TeraCrunch
Americo Life, Inc.	Forvis Mazars	KPMG LLP	The Builders, a chapter of the AGC
Andrews McMeel Universal	Foulston Siefkin LLP	Lathrop GPM LLP	The Miller Group
Aon PLC	Garmin International, Inc.	Lewis and Clark Information	The Transition Academy
Arvest Bank	GEHA - Government Employees Health Association	Exchange	The University of Kansas
Ash Grove Cement Company	Grant Thornton LLP	LINC	The University of Kansas Health System
Bank Midwest	HCA Midwest Health	Lockton Companies, LLC	TREKK Design Group, LLC
Bank of America	Health Forward Foundation	Loews Kansas City Hotel	Turner Construction Company
BlueScope Buildings North America	Heartland Coca-Cola Bottling Company	MarksNelson, a Springline company	U.S. Bank
BNSF Railway Co.	Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City	Mazuma Credit Union	UMB Financial Corporation
BOK Financial	HNTB Companies	Metropolitan Community College	Union Pacific Railroad
Canadian Pacific Kansas City	Husch Blackwell LLP	Oracle	University Health
CBRE	JE Dunn Construction Company	Panasonic North America	University of Missouri-Kansas City
Cerris	Kansas City Current	PNC Bank	VanTrust Real Estate, LLC
City of Kansas City, Missouri	Kansas City Life Insurance Company	Prospect Business Association	Vibrant Health
Dentons US LLP	Kansas City National Security	REACH Healthcare Foundation	
EAG Advertising & Marketing		Saint Luke's Health System	
ECCO Select Corporation		Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C.	

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

Amazon	CrossFirst Bank	Restaurants	The Binder Firm
ArtsKC - Regional Arts Council	Crux KC LLC	Lamar Johnson Collaborative	The Hope Center
AT&T, Inc.	DD Ranch Leawood	Langley Recycling, Inc.	The National WWI Museum and Memorial
Avila University	DeMarche	Lead Bank	The Porter House KC
Bardavon Health Innovations	DEMADO	Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology	The Roasterie, Inc.
BarkleyOKRP	Donnelly College	Liquid Mobile	Thrive Restaurant Group
Benedictine College	Easterseals Midwest	Made in KC	ThrottleNet
Bennett Packaging of Kansas City, Inc	Easterseals Midwest - Vivion Rd.	Mid-Continent Public Library	Tico Productions LLC / Tico Sports
Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Kansas City Homes	Executive Hills, Inc.	MRIGlobal	T-Mobile Center
BHC	Ford Motor Company	Origin Hotel Kansas City	Tnemec Company, Inc.
Big O Tires	Full Employment Council, Inc.	Palmer Square Capital Management	TranSystems Corporation
BioNexus KC	G&A Partners	Paris Brothers Inc.	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-K.C. District
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City	Gates Bar-B-Q	Park University	Unbound
Capital One Café	Great Wolf Lodge	Plexpod	United Way of Greater Kansas City, Inc.
Cargill, Inc.	Greater Kansas City Community Foundation	Populous	Valley Companies
Cascade Hotel   Aloft Hotel - on the Country Club Plaza	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Risk Strategies Company	Veracity Consulting, Inc.
Central Exchange	High Aspirations, Inc.	Rockhurst University	Verizon
Chase	Hoefer Welker	Shamrock Trading Corporation	Wagner Logistics
Colliers International/Kansas City	IMA, Inc.	Shawnee Mission School District	WSP USA Inc.
Comprehensive Mental Health Services	IT Solutions	Stifel Nicolaus & Co.	Wyandot Behavioral Health Network
Cooling & Herbers, P.C.	JVM Realty	Stowers Institute for Medical Research	YMCA of Greater Kansas City
Coperion Process Solutions	Kansas City Area Development Council	Stryten Energy KCMO	
	Kansas City Mavericks	Talon Concrete & Aggregates LLC	
	KMO Burger, LLC dba Whataburger	Temp-Con, LLC	

# ► MILESTONES



The following companies recently celebrated membership milestones.

## 5 years

Athletico Physical Therapy - Kansas City Westport  
Center for Disability Inclusion  
EarlystART  
Financial Advisory Service, Inc.  
Gates Bar-B-Q  
Gates Bar-B-Q: 13th & Emanuel Cleaver  
Gates Bar-B-Q: Brooklyn Ave.  
Gates Bar-B-Q: Independence  
Gates Bar-B-Q: Leawood  
Gates Bar-B-Q: Main St.  
Great Jobs KC  
Heart to Heart International  
Mars Petcare  
Milhaus  
MINDDRIVE  
Newhouse Shelter  
Prospect Business Association  
Rising Construction Services, INC  
RoKC Climbing Yoga and Fitness, Olathe  
The Battle Within  
The Strawberry Swing  
Van Meter  
Vibrant Health

## 10 years

Allen County Regional Hospital  
Bestway International INC.  
Carroll County Memorial Hospital  
Center School District  
Char Bar  
Circle Sideways  
City of Gardner  
Cookies By Design  
Cooling & Herbers, P.C.  
Courtyard Kansas City Downtown/Convention Center  
CrossFirst Bank  
Curry Real Estate Services  
DD Ranch Leawood  
DeMarche  
Healing House, Inc  
IBC Carpentry  
Lead Bank  
Missouri Western State University Career Development Center  
North American Savings Bank  
Onspring Technologies LLC  
PB&J Restaurants  
Residence Inn Kansas City Downtown/Convention Center  
Saint Luke's Home Care and Hospice  
SMACNA-Kansas City  
Swell Spark LLC  
Tom's Town Distilling Co.  
Topgolf  
Veracity Consulting, Inc.  
Welcome House  
Yaeger Architecture, Inc.

## 15 years

Arvest Bank  
Bristol Seafood + Steak + Social  
Donnelly College  
Environmental Works, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City  
KC Tech Council  
LJS Graphics  
Saint Luke's Bishop Spencer Place  
Think Big Partners  
Tradebot Systems, Inc.

## 20 years

Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.  
Century Business Technologies  
ECCO Select Corporation  
Health Forward Foundation  
Kansas State University  
Martin Marietta  
OUTFRONT Media  
Quaff Bar & Grill

## 25 years

AmWINS Brokerage of the Midwest  
Bishop-McCann  
Cumulus Media Partners Kansas City  
Grandma's Office Catering  
McCormick & Schmick's  
McGilley Midtown Chapel  
North Kansas City Schools  
The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City  
The University of Kansas Health System  
VPR Creative Group

## 30 years

Aetna  
Bally's Kansas City  
Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri  
Worlds of Fun

## 35 years

AdventHealth  
Belton Regional Medical Center/HCA Midwest Health  
Boulevard Brewing Co.  
Cass Regional Medical Center  
Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater Kansas City  
Junior Achievement of Greater Kansas City  
KCUR 89.3 and 91.9 Classical KC  
Lafayette Regional Health Center/HCA Midwest Health  
Lee's Summit Medical Center/HCA Midwest Health  
Saint Luke's Northland Hospital - Barry Road Campus  
Show-Me Live Event Production  
University Health Lakewood Medical Center

## 40 years

Colliers International/Kansas City  
Community Builders of Kansas City  
Oracle  
The Pembroke Hill School  
The Scarbrough Group

## 45 years

Ash Grove Materials Corp. Fordyce  
Concrete/Century Concrete  
Kansas City Regional Association of Realtors

## 50+ years

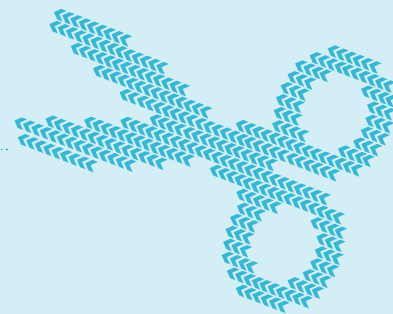
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (50)  
Amy's Hallmark, Crown Center (51)  
A.L. Huber General Contractor (52)  
Delden Manufacturing Company (52)  
MRIGlobal (52)  
Celebrity China & Crystal (53)  
TransSystems Corporation (55)  
Avila University (56)  
Crown Center (57)  
Lockton Companies, LLC (57)  
Saint Luke's Health System (57)  
Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City (57)  
JE Dunn Construction Company (58)  
Union Station Kansas City, Inc. (59)  
Metropolitan Community College (60)  
City of Kansas City, Missouri (62)  
Lundmark Advertising + Design (62)  
The Miller Group (63)  
Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. (64)  
American Century Investments (66)  
Kansas City Shippers Association, Inc. (66)  
Nettles Construction Solutions, Inc. (66)  
Wagner Logistics (68)  
Foley Equipment (70)  
Superior Bowen Asphalt Co., LLC (70)  
Tnemec Company, Inc. (72)  
Rockhurst University (74)  
University of Missouri-Kansas City (74)  
Kansas City National Security Campus, managed by Honeywell FM&T (76)  
United Way of Greater Kansas City, Inc. (77)  
HNTB Companies (78)  
Forvis Mazars (79)  
Shelton Travel Service, Inc. (80)  
William Jewell College (80)  
The Builders, a chapter of the AGC (83)  
The Salvation Army (83)  
Kessinger/Hunter & Company, L.C. (84)  
Van Osdol, P.C. (86)

Ernst & Young LLP (98)  
Risk Strategies Company (98)  
Spencer Fane LLP (104)  
AT&T, Inc. (105)  
Stinson LLP (107)  
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Intermodal Operations (108)  
Kansas City Life Insurance Company (108)  
UMB Financial Corporation (108)  
Husch Blackwell LLP (109)  
Lathrop GPM LLP (109)  
Ash Grove Aggregates, Inc. (111)  
Ash Grove Cement Company (111)  
Bank of America (111)  
BNSF Railway Co. (111)  
Canadian Pacific Kansas City (111)  
Country Club Plaza (111)  
Geodis Logistics, LLC (111)  
Kansas City Terminal Railway Co. (111)  
KPMG LLP (111)  
Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P. (111)  
Tension Corporation (111)  
Evergy (125)



# RIBBON CUTTINGS

Highlighting the growth of Greater Kansas City



## Origin Hotel



Congratulations to **Origin Hotel Kansas City** on their grand opening at 1001 Riverfront Drive. It was a great place for an official ribbon cutting. Enjoy a boutique hotel experience there and keep in mind, they're walking distance to CPKC stadium.

## Abundant Life



**Abundant Life Counseling Center** is now open! It's adjacent to the Abundant Life campus in the Crossroads. They help people with emotional and relational health and wellness.

## Creative Emajination



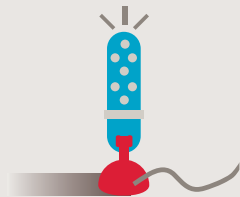
We had a blast celebrating Creative Emajination's first anniversary! **Creative Emajination** provides performing arts programs and services for youth ages 3-17 in the Kansas City area. They help kids dream big!

## Thrivent



**Thrivent** has a new office space in the metro, and the KC Chamber stopped by. They're located at 7509 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, Suite 100. You can reach your financial goals with Thrivent, a Fortune 500 financial services company with a 100+ year history.

# GOOD NEWS



## People

**KC Tech Council** (KCTC) announced the appointment of Bill Graff as the chair of the board of directors. He serves as executive vice president and chief information officer of Clarivate. KCTC also installed Nickollette Cole (vice president of Technology, Small Business and Financial Services at **H&R Block**) and George Brooks (founder and chief executive officer at Crema) as vice chairs, and Neal Schwartz (chief information officer at WellSky) as secretary and nominations chair.

Mariner Kemper, chairman and chief executive officer of **UMB Financial Corporation**, has recently been named BankBeat's 2025 Banker of the Year. Mariner was recognized with this honor as a result of his proven institutional knowledge, historical strength, familial integrity and leadership in facilitating the largest acquisition in company history, among other key achievements. In the award's 36-year history, UMB is the largest bank BankBeat has ever recognized.

**AdventHealth Lenexa City Center**, slated to open in July 2025, has named Rodney Allen II, MBA, vice president and chief financial officer and Teresa Noland, MBA, RN, BSN, NEA-BC, CPPS, CPHQ, vice president and chief nursing officer.

Grant and Erin Stahla, the husband-and-wife team behind **Stahla Services, LLC**, have been featured in *DCR Magazine* for their leadership and innovative solutions in the portable sanitation industry. The article explores their journey from launching the business in 2014 to becoming trusted providers of high-quality restroom and shower trailer rentals across Kansas City and the Midwest.

**HCA Midwest Health** announced that Jeff Ardemagni has assumed the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) role. Ardemagni brings extensive financial leadership and broad business acumen from his nearly 30-year career in healthcare finance and deep knowledge of HCA,

which he has developed through roles in both HCA Healthcare's San Antonio and North Texas divisions.

The **Kansas City Chiefs** announced the hiring of David Higdon as Executive Vice President of Communications. Higdon, who has held communications leadership roles in tennis, golf, NASCAR, and esports, joins the Chiefs as the team continues to expand its brand globally and solidify long-term facility plans for the future of Chiefs Kingdom. In an evolution of the EVP - Communications role, Higdon also will lead the team's Civic Affairs and Community Outreach departments.

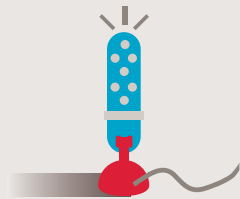
The **American Jazz Museum** announced the addition of six new leaders to its Board of Directors. With the growth, AJM now has 15 board members total and the first two non-local board members in the organization's history. The new board members are: Ashley Jordon, Ph.D., Ava Delsemme, Jon Copaken, Joseph Baldassare, Pierre Yancy, and Scott Smith.

**Park University** announced the promotion of Scott Ferguson to the role of chief financial officer, and the appointment of John Huber as director of corporate development and admissions within the Office of Enrollment Management.

**Foley Equipment** announced that Jaime Elgas is joining the company as Chief People Officer. As CPO, Elgas will oversee HR, recruitment, training and organizational development, as well as administrative support across Foley's 17 locations.

**Parris Communications** has announced Kelly Cooper has been promoted to managing director, a newly created role that will work closely with the firm's CEO and president to lead day-to-day operations. In addition, Parris has strengthened its team by bringing on Kevin Barry, a former journalist, as director of media relations. He'll oversee media relations strategies and will help prepare clients for interviews and public appearances.

# GOOD NEWS



## Miscellaneous

Avion Hospitality, a nationally recognized hotel management company, announced the company has been awarded management of the newly rebranded **Hotel Savoy Kansas City, Tapestry Collection Hotel by Hilton**. The former 21c Kansas City underwent a transformation to become part of Hilton's Tapestry Collection, a curated portfolio of unique and distinctive hotels known for their individuality, charm and boutique experiences.

Kansas City-based filmmaker Kerry Rounds captured the incredible story of **Carter Broadcast** through archival footage, interviews with industry legends and personal stories from listeners and staff, bringing to life the impact of a station that has been a cultural cornerstone of the city for 75 years. **Kansas City PBS** premiered the documentary, *Diamond Jubilee: A 75-Year Celebration of Carter Broadcast*.

In 2024, **Midwest Transplant Network** set a new level of achievement for the number of organs recovered for transplantation, organ donors, eye and tissue donors, and laboratory tests performed in the accomplishment of its mission work. MTN, a not-for-profit organ procurement organization, was privileged to work with donor families to extend their loved one's legacy in providing 1,075 lifesaving organs for transplantation. The 399 donor hero's gifts made it possible for grateful recipients to have a new lease on life. MTN recovered tissues from 1,447 donor heroes.

**Spencer Fane LLP** is pleased to announce The Arts Asylum, a nonprofit that aims to assist new and established artists in all facets of art with the creation and presentation of their art forms, as the recipient of the firm's 2025-2028 charitable grant program in Kansas City. As part of its charitable grant program, Spencer Fane will donate \$50,000, paid in installments over

## LIBERTY LEVEL 2025 INVESTORS





# GOOD NEWS

Continued...

the next three years, to The Arts Asylum to support its mission of ensuring artists have a seat at every table and creating a safe and welcoming environment around their facilities and programming spaces.

**A.L. Huber Construction** announced that the fast-growing 122-year-old firm has become a 100% employee-owned company. The 60-person staff now own shares that will continue to grow in value as the company grows.

**Rockhurst University** athletics announced the addition of pep band to its slate of offerings starting in fall 2026. The new program will provide a unique, scholarship eligible opportunity for current and incoming students interested in expanding or continuing their interest in music and further boost the energy for Hawks fans and players at Rockhurst University basketball and volleyball games and select other athletics events.

**Spectrum Reach**, the advertising sales business of Charter Communications, Inc., today announced the fifth anniversary of its nationwide small business initiative Pay It Forward. With this year's program, Spectrum Reach will invest more than \$3.8 million in free TV advertising for 255 eligible small businesses, part of more than \$50 million invested over the past five years. Small business owners interested in participating in this year's program can apply at [www.spectrumreachpayitforward.com](http://www.spectrumreachpayitforward.com).

**The University of Missouri-Kansas City** reached a historic milestone as Kansas City's first Carnegie R1 institution, a prestigious designation that reflects years of dedication to research, innovation and community collaboration. With this achievement, UMKC joins an elite group of U.S. institutions reshaping the future of discovery and education.

## BRONZE LEVEL 2025 INVESTORS



# GOOD NEWS

Continued...

**SparkWheel** is pleased to announce that the Patterson Family Foundation has awarded a two-year grant of \$121,504 to support rural educators through expanded HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) trainings. This funding will allow SparkWheel to enhance its efforts to provide schools and communities with the knowledge and tools to foster resilience, well-being, and positive student outcomes.

**Enterprise Bank & Trust** has launched the spring semester of Enterprise University, its innovative series of virtual business courses designed to help professionals better their businesses and careers. The live, interactive webinars are available at no cost to attendees, with the semester coursebook and registration available at [enterprisebank.com/eu](http://enterprisebank.com/eu). Classes will take place March 11-May 21.

**KC2026**, the FIFA World Cup 26™ Kansas City Host Committee, signed a lease for 200 buses to be used during the FIFA World Cup 26™. The lease made Kansas City the first of the 16 Host Cities to announce it had procured buses for the tournament. The region's multimodal transportation plan is paramount to realizing the estimated \$653 million in economic impact from the event, connecting people to the region's attractions, retail, and dining, while enabling residents to continue their day-to-day activities.

**Labconco Corporation** is celebrating 100 years of driving science forward. Since 1925, the company has partnered with scientists to create equipment that protects people, preserves discoveries, and expands the boundaries of innovation. Trusted worldwide, their biosafety cabinets, fume hoods, freeze dryers and other equipment solutions have supported breakthroughs in medicine, forensics and environmental science.

## SILVER LEVEL 2025 INVESTORS



managed by **Honeywell FM&T**



UNCOMMONLY INDEPENDENT

**McCOWNGORDON**  
C O N S T R U C T I O N

# GOOD NEWS

Continued...

**HCA Midwest Health** recently announced the launch of a new pre-licensure nurse apprenticeship program designed to train and develop a skilled healthcare workforce to meet the growing demand for qualified professionals in the industry.

**Loews Kansas City Hotel** is welcoming back Local by Loews Hotel partner Sweat Forum for a series of sweat sessions from May to October.

**The Kansas City Business Journal** recognized **North Kansas City Hospital** with the Healthiest Employer Award 2025. The award highlights organizations that are dedicated to promoting health and well being in the workplace.

Can you believe it? The first **Big Biscuit** opened in Independence, MO in 2000. That means they're celebrating 25 years of breakfasts and brunches, and

growing to nearly 30 locations across Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City** was recently recognized for its outstanding customer service with multiple 2024 Call Center Customer Service Industry Awards of Excellence from Service Quality Management (SQM). SQM, a leading survey vendor, evaluates and benchmarks more than 500 customer service centers across North America. The honors included Call Center World Class FCR (First Call Resolution) Certification - Commercial & Federal Employee Program; three Agent of the Year Award finalists; one Supervisor of the Year Award finalist; and the World Class Employee Experience Award.

**Commerce Bank** earned a spot on Forbes' 2025 America's Best Midsize Employers list for the eighth year in a row. Forbes and market research firm Statis-

## GOLD LEVEL 2025 INVESTORS





# GOOD NEWS

Continued...

ta partnered on this annual ranking to survey more than 217,000 U.S.-based employees working at companies that employ more than 1,000 people, deeming those with 1,000 to 5,000 employees midsize. Survey participants were asked to rate their employer on varying factors including salary, work environment, training programs and opportunities to advance, and were also asked if they'd recommend their employer to others. Following comprehensive research and survey evaluations, the top 498 companies were named to the list.

In collaboration with **Kansas City PBS** and generously supported by **Bank of America**, the **KC Symphony** will present Celebration at the Station on the grounds of **Union Station** and the **National WWI Museum and Memorial** on Sunday, May 25.

The largest free Memorial Day weekend concert in the Midwest, Celebration at the Station regularly draws crowds of 50,000 people. This year's celebration will be extra special because it is the 250th anniversary of several branches of the military, including the Army and Navy. The event will be re-broadcast on PBS on May 26 at 7 p.m.

➤ 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 2025 INVESTORS

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

  
**JEDUNN**<sup>®</sup>  
CONSTRUCTION

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 EWING MARION  
**KAUFFMAN**  
FOUNDATION

# PLATINUM LEVEL 2025 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)**

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# 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.

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