



JEDO Q3 REPORT

July - September, 2019

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE





GO TOPEKA

785.234.2644

GOTopeka.com

719 S Kansas Ave. Ste. 100
Topeka, KS 66603

COVER AND LEFT PHOTO:

Cover: Project Purple approval: GO Topeka and Advisors Excel after JEDO approved incentives for an expansion of their Gage Center facilities.

Left: Linda Briden speaking from a local perspective at the 2019 Economic Outlook Conference.

Below: Ralph Hipp interviews David Callanan, Advisors Excel Co-Founder, after the approval of the incentives for their new location.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

4

TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY
VITAL STATS

6

BUSINESS ATTRACTION,
RETENTION & EXPANSION



8

ENTREPRENEURIAL & MINORITY
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



9

PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER



10

INNOVATION &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



11

712 INNOVATIONS



12

FORGE



13

WORKFORCE & TALENT



14

iNCLUDED



15

WASHBURN TECH EAST



16

UPCOMING EVENTS

17

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

18

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KEY

Momentum 2022 focuses on five key elements to make Topeka & Shawnee County a better place to live, work, play and do business.



Develop
Homegrown
Talent



Create Vibrant
& Attractive
Places



Grow a
Diverse
Economy



Promote a
Positive Image



Collaborate
for a Strong
Community

TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY VITAL STATS

Updated 10.23.19



DEVELOP HOMEGROWN TALENT

GRADUATION RATE

STATE OF KANSAS
87.5%

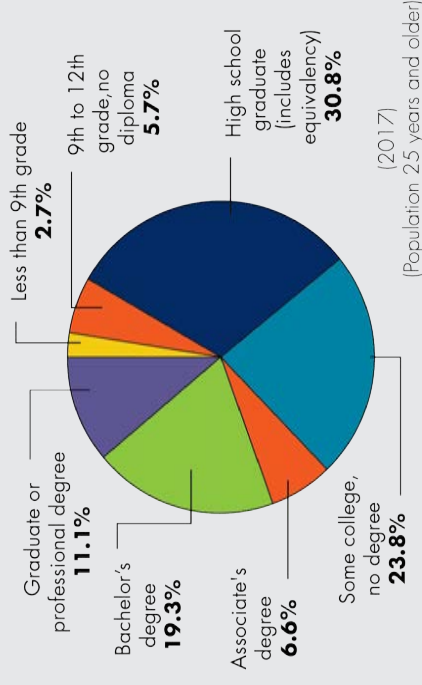
SHAWNEE COUNTY
88.3%

Four-year adjusted cohort formula
(all Schools 2017-2018) (1)

STUDENT-LEVEL METRICS (2018)



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



CERTIFICATES EARNED

1,284

(Less than a 2-year degree)
(2017)



CREATE VIBRANT & ATTRACTIVE PLACES

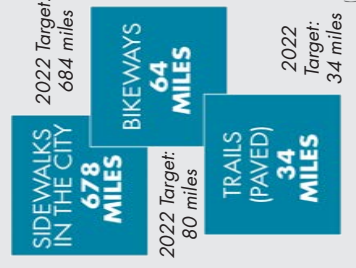
LIVABILITY

This score rates the overall livability of Shawnee County on a scale from 0 to 100. It is based on the average score of seven livability categories—housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity—which also range from 0 to 100.

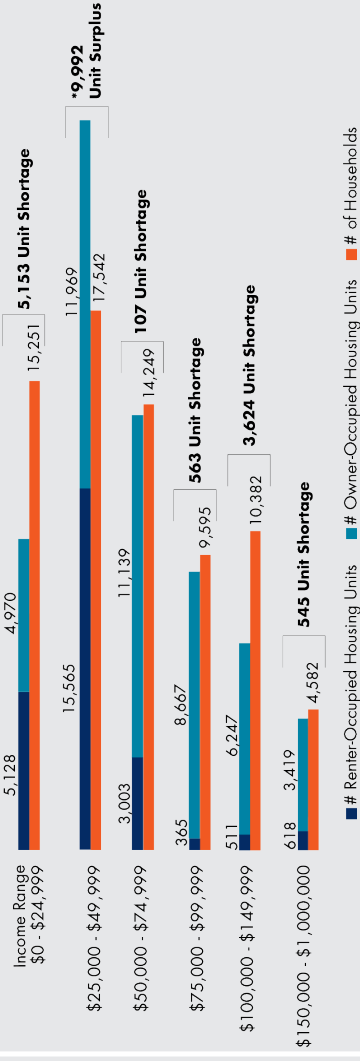


2022 Target: 58 AARP livability index

PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLINESS (2017)



AFFORDABLE HOUSING (2017)



*The analysis does not account for age or quality of housing units, and there is the possibility that upper income households are likely outcompeting lower income households for the same housing units.

ATTENDANCE AT ATTRACTIONS (2018)

716,779
PEOPLE

Total attendance of the following Shawnee County Attractions:
Tapoka Zoo, KS Children's Discovery Center, TPAC, Old Prairie Town, KS State Capitol, TCI, Sunflower Soccer, Mulvane Art Museum, Brown vs Board NHS, Evel Knievel Museum, Museum of KS Nat'l Guard, Combat Air Museum, Jayhawk Theater, Ritchie House, Great Overland Station

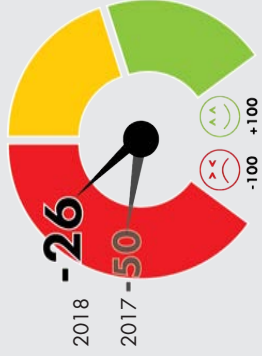
2022 Target: 750,000 people



PROMOTE A POSITIVE IMAGE

NET PROMOTER SCORE (NPS)

An index ranging from -100 to 100 that measures the willingness of customers to recommend a product or experience to others.



2022 Target: 0 NPS

(7)



GROW A DIVERSE ECONOMY

SHARE OF EMPLOYMENT AT NEW BUSINESSES

6,670 OR 8.53%
PEOPLE WORK AT
A NEW BUSINESS

(New business is any that has been open less than five years)(2017 Q4)

2022 Target: 7,093 people

(2018 MSA)

(6)

ANNUAL MEDIAN WAGE IN TOPEKA

\$36,700

2022 Target: \$39,000

GLOBAL METRICS

GDP OF DOLLARS

\$10.491
BILLION
IN 2016

\$10.655
BILLION
IN 2017

Gross domestic product (GDP) is equal to the sum of personal consumption expenditures, gross private domestic investment, net exports of goods and services, and government consumption expenditures and gross investment.

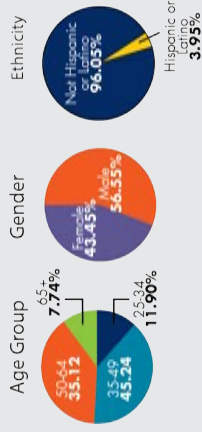
2022 Target: \$11.500 GDP in billions of current dollars



COLLABORATE FOR STRONG COMMUNITY

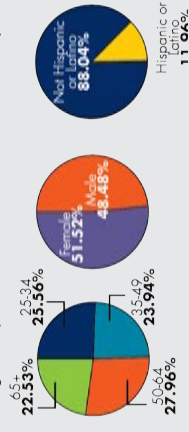
NON-PROFIT BOARD DIVERSITY

(2018)

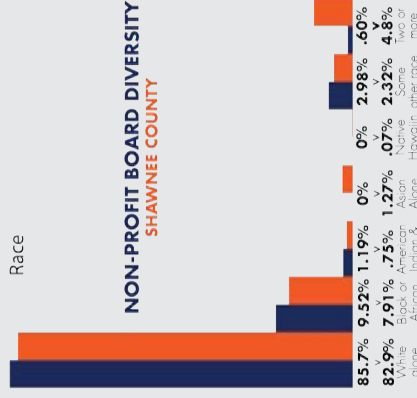


CURRENT SHAWNEE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

(2019)



It is intended that non-profit boards are reflective of the community as a whole. To that end, the graphs above should mirror the graphs at right.



NON-PROFIT BOARD DIVERSITY SHAWNEE COUNTY

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

(2019)



Average number of physically/mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted)

(9)

2022 Target: 2.7 Physical | 3.2 Mental

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

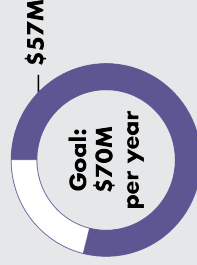
(2019)

7.0
WITHIN 1 YEAR,
PER 1,000
LIVE BIRTHS

(9)

PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

(7)



Capital investment is the amount of money new or current businesses spend to create, expand or improve facilities. For this report, capital investment is captured by GO Topeka during regular communications with companies or when companies work with GO Topeka to receive an incentive for an investment. The numbers are self-reported and exclude the cost of maintenance. GO Topeka makes every attempt to gather this info for all companies in Shawnee County, however some will not be captured due to lack of awareness of the investment.

2022 Target: \$350M

(Private = Non-Government jobs)

(March 2018)

TOTAL PRIVATE JOBS

73,924

2022 Target: 79,000 jobs

POVERTY RATE IN SHAWNEE COUNTY

(2017)

(11)

11.7%
TOTAL POVERTY
RATE

15.3%
CHILD POVERTY
RATE

2022 Target: 10%

STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCHES

51.9%

(1)

2022 Target: 48%

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WORKING, BUT NOT LIVING IN SHAWNEE COUNTY

(2015)

(8)

37,123 OR 36.8%

2022 Target: 33%

PER CAPITA INCOME IN SHAWNEE COUNTY

(2017)

(10)

\$44,834

2022 Target: \$50,000

All metrics refer to Shawnee County unless otherwise stated.
Sources: **1** Kansas State Department of Education, **2** U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, **3** AARP Livability Index, **4** City of Topeka Planning Department, **5** Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, **6** Occupational Employment Statistics, **7** Momentum 2022 Survey, **8** U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, **9** County Health Ranking, **10** Bureau of Economic Analysis, **11** U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

PROVIDED BY





Grow a
Diverse
Economy



ADVISORS EXCEL EXPANDS, EXPECTED ECONOMIC IMPACT OF \$662M

GO Topeka has been working with one of Topeka's largest employers, Advisors Excel, to aid in the expansion of their facilities in Gage Center. The GO Topeka Board of Directors approved the initial incentive in October 2018, with the entire package being approved by the GO Topeka Executive Committee in April 2019 and the JEDO board in May 2019.

Known as "Project Purple," this expansion will bring 220 new full-time jobs over the next five years with an average salary of \$52,000 plus benefits, resulting in a one-time economic impact of \$12.4M from the capital investment and a total economic impact of \$650M over 10 years from the added jobs.

"We've called Topeka home for twenty-plus years now," said Advisors Excel Co-Founder David Callanan. "We live here, raise our families here, and started Advisors Excel here. We're excited about the future of our business and we are just as excited about the future of our city. We appreciate the willingness of JEDO to make this investment helping us grow and expand and we promise that we'll do our best to return that investment in the Topeka community tenfold."

"GO Topeka is excited to come alongside Advisors Excel as they expand their operations in the city. AE provides incredible value to its employees," says Molly Howey, the Greater Topeka Partnership's SVP of Economic Development. "They are a vital contributor to the economic progress Topeka and Shawnee County have enjoyed over the past decade. This expansion is a strategic next step for their organization that the Greater Topeka Partnership is proud to support."

Following GO Topeka's incentive guidelines, Advisors Excel will be receiving up to \$1,490,000 based on the jobs created and capital investments.



**CAPITAL
INVESTMENT**

\$9M

**NEW JOBS TO
BE CREATED**

220



BUSINESS ATTRACTION

GO Topeka has been working strategically to spread the word of the federal opportunity zones and their attractive locations within Topeka. With the news of Project Lightning's incentive funding approval passing through JEDO, the dream of this impactful project locating in Topeka is quickly becoming a reality. As large and exciting projects take advantage of shovel ready sites located in our commerce parks, GO Topeka is enhancing marketing efforts to attract companies to help fill available existing space located across the city and county.



PROJECT
PIPELINE
29



NEW
PROJECTS
IN Q3
10



SITE
VISITS
IN Q3
1

RETENTION & EXPANSION

Currently, we have a total of 10 BRE projects in the pipeline and we continue to serve as a liaison and resource for our existing businesses and talent development partnerships through our Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) program.

When we meet with businesses, we take the opportunity to discuss industry trends and opportunities, workforce demands, what's working for their organization, what's changed, training needs, etc. It's a chance for us to continue to get to know our businesses better and in turn, be able to serve as a stronger advocate and partner for them.



PROJECT
PIPELINE
10



NEW
PROJECTS
IN Q3
4



ON-SITE
VISITS
IN Q3
19

UPDATES

Barbara Stapleton, VP of business retention & talent initiatives, and Freddy Mawyin, research manager, were accepted into Cohort IX of the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation's TPM Academy™ and will complete the academy in the fourth quarter of 2019. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Talent Pipeline Management™ (TPM) initiative is an effort to mobilize the business community to close the skills gap by applying lessons learned from supply chain management to its education and workforce partnerships. The idea is that if employers play an expanded leadership role as "end-customers" of a talent supply chain, they will be more effective at organizing performance-driven partnerships with responsive preferred education and workforce training providers.

The TPM Academy™ is an in-person training for state and local chamber, business association, and economic development agency leaders, as well as employers, to learn the TPM approach to drive partnerships with their education and training providers based on industry need.

Facilitated by the U.S. Chamber Foundation, the TPM Academy™ is supported by a customized curriculum that serves as an employer handbook and gives participants the knowledge, skills and abilities to implement talent supply chain solutions on behalf of their employer collaborative members. In addition, the corresponding TPM web tool activates the six TPM strategies to streamline data collection and visualization for employer partners. Because employer needs vary, the curriculum is a customizable framework for employers to create solutions that directly address the challenges they face in building high-performing talent pipelines.

TPM Academy™ graduates become members of the TPM National Learning Network (NLN), ambassadors of the TPM approach that regularly collaborate to learn from one another's successes and challenges implementing TPM projects, and collectively continue to grow the initiative.



ENTREPRENEURIAL & MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Grow a
Diverse
Economy



Collaborate
for a Strong
Community

SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVES



INCENTIVES
ISSUED



INCENTIVES
ISSUED



TOTAL ECONOMIC
BENEFIT



ROI

Through Q3
OF 2019

\$157,325

77

\$198,578

49%

LIFE OF
PROGRAM

\$1.02M

319

\$1,432,532

55%

FASTTRAC NEW VENTURE



STUDENTS
GRADUATED



ACTIVELY IN
BUSINESS

Through Q3
of 2019

36

8

LIFE OF
PROGRAM

700

171

OTHER PROJECTS

New Incentive Program for Mid-sized Businesses

The Small Business Incentive Program is expanding. In an effort to continue the growth of Shawnee County's small businesses, the Small Business Incentive Program has added a second level that will support mid-sized small business owners. Mid-sized small businesses will be able to take advantage of a separate set of incentives for companies with 10-49 employees. Criteria for this program will be released effective January 2020. With a healthy pipeline of 40 client applications, current disbursements total more than \$82,000 year to date. Overall, the five-year program has yielded a \$2M return on investment.





Grow a
Diverse
Economy

NEW!

NEW
CLIENTS

80

2019

GOAL MET



COUNSELING
HOURS

304

78%

of Goal



EVENTS

8

80%

of Goal

KANSAS PTAC

(PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER)

TOTAL CONTRACT AWARDS FOR KS PTAC SUBCENTER TOPEKA

(Service area covers 26 counties in NE KS)

\$ 2,721,137 = FEDERAL

\$ 150,000 = STATE & LOCAL

\$ 136,042 = SUBCONTRACTS

\$ 3,013,479 TOTAL AWARDS

SOCIOECONOMIC STATS ON FEDERAL CONTRACT AWARDS

SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS **17**

WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS **14**

HUBZone **2**

SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS **3**

SHAWNEE COUNTY WAS AWARDED



VALUE

\$163,656

RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)

FOR EVERY \$1 JEDO INVESTS, PTAC GENERATES

\$43

(This will increase as small businesses win contracts. Last year it grew to a \$347:\$1 return.)



INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Grow a
Diverse
Economy



The third quarter saw the announcement of the partnership with Plug and Play, the world's leading innovation platform and one of the most active venture capital funds in Silicon Valley. The feasibility analysis determined that Topeka is the ideal location for an animal health/ag tech accelerator powered by Plug and Play with reach into the entire Animal Health Corridor. The announcement was covered by news media across the region and created excitement both the corporate partner community as well as the regional ecosystem.

It is our new objective now to translate this game changing opportunity into economic impact for Topeka and Shawnee County. To achieve this, our efforts are centered around the following tasks:

1. Continuously introduce Plug and Play to additional potential key corporate partners. There has been strong interest from local and regional corporations both in animal health/ag tech and in adjacent industries in becoming founding members of the accelerator. A Plug and Play membership allows for direct access to external innovation (introduction to startups with relevant product/services) as well as for the opportunity to influence the strategic direction of the Topeka accelerator program.
2. Prepare for the first cohort of startups to arrive in early 2020. This includes short term office space for Plug and Play staff and cohort startups, identifying potential mentors and service providers and preparing a communication plan/branding strategy to be able to effectively communicate with stakeholders in the ecosystem once a start date is determined.
3. Retention plan. 15-20 startups will be participating in the accelerator per year. The retention task force within the Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) and the Momentum 2022 Entrepreneurship and Innovation Workgroup are focusing on finding ways to entice these startups to choose Topeka/Shawnee County to be their home. Embedding founders and their families in our community by making intentional introductions, creating a wellness package, but also by creating talent pipelines and incentive packages are some of the ideas under consideration. In addition, the space task force continues to develop plans for a downtown innovation center and the innovation campus to provide essential infrastructure in the future.
4. Expand regional reach. The animal health/ag tech accelerator program is intended to plant a lightning rod in Topeka that will create opportunity in the Animal Health Corridor. Creating and fostering relationships with ecosystems in Kansas City, Lawrence, Manhattan, Wichita, etc., is critical to the success of the entire program. To that end, our team is in conversations with K-State, KU, startups, funds, entrepreneurship initiatives, resource providers, research organizations, industry associations and many more stakeholders in the region to make them aware of our efforts and to find ways to collaborate. The goal is to establish Topeka as a hub of innovation by creating wins for critical partners in the corridor.





Grow a
Diverse
Economy

712 INNOVATIONS

COWORK | INCUBATOR

The third quarter saw the kickoff of The Wheelhouse Incubator which is a 12-week program designed to pair mentors with founders. In doing so they will develop an action plan that will help them achieve growth goals and habits for running a successful business.

Founders/owners currently enrolled include: **2 Chefs Catering** (Tricia & Ryan Peterson), **Falk Architects** (Bryan Falk), **Fire Me Up Ceramics & Fine Arts Studio, LLC** (Monette Mark), **Infinite Holdings Group LLC** (Emmanuel Herron), **Kansas Spray Foam, Inc** (Diana & Kevin Brauer), **Noller & Associates Inc. DBA American Family** (Brad Noller), **O'Shea Strengths Coaching** (Kristen O'Shea), **Reden Construction & Property Management** (Reden & Dina Jalosjos), and **Woman on the Move Enterprises LLC** (Monique McDowell).

The Cohort is now in week seven of the 12-week program and deep into research to make decisions and take action to develop their 30-60-90 Day Plan. The Plan provides each business founder/owner an action plan to achieve the growth goal they established in the first week of the class.

The Entrepreneurship Community Building Committee (Cindy Evans & Karl Klein, Co-Chairs) had an excellent first quarterly meeting in August and heard from business owner Bryan Falk, on how he leveraged resources in the entrepreneurial community to grow and expand his business, Katrin Bridges, Senior Vice-President of Innovation, GTP on how the new Topeka Plug N Play Animal Health Corridor Vertical will feed into a Shawnee County Growth Initiative, and Gary Satter about loan opportunities for entrepreneurs from the Shawnee StartUps e-community.

The Innovations & Entrepreneurship Mentor Committee (Tim Clothier, Chair) has been focused on working with each of the 12 business founders in the Incubator and their mentors to refine their decisions and actions. The Cohort I mentors and committee members include Tony Blancas, (Fidelity State Bank), Dr. Shekhar Challa (Kansas Medical Clinic), Tim Clothier (Washburn Tech), Scott Gales (Architect One), Karl Klein (WSBDC), Rick LeJuerne (Washburn University), Scott Nickel (Washburn Tech Culinary Arts), Chris Perry (Capitol Federal Savings), Nick Xidis (Hazel Hill Chocolate), Angel Zimmerman (Zimmerman-Zimmerman, P.A.).



Building Topeka's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Monday, November 18, 2019, 11:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Inspired by the Kauffman Foundation's International ESHIP Summit, the event brings city/county officials, business founders/owners, and entrepreneur service organization representatives together in collaboration to develop resources needed for growth. The half-day event will feature Dell Gines, Senior Community Development Advisor for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and a Certified Economic Developer who focuses on entrepreneurship based economic development in urban and rural communities. We hope to see you on November 18!

MONTHLY EVENTS

CoWork Wednesdays – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

SCORE at 712 Innovations – Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

1MC TOPEKA – 1st Wednesday, 9 – 10 a.m.

Topeka Social Media Club – 4th Wednesday, 12 – 1 p.m.

Wheelhouse Incubator – Cohort - September 2 - November 18

Quarterly Entrepreneur Meetup – December 5 - 5-7 p.m. @ Brew Bank





Forge continues to think outside the box to offer the young talent of Topeka new and enriching opportunities. Whether it's the Diversity and Inclusion Herd celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a sold-out tortilla making class or the Health Herd getting young professionals out on Lake Shawnee for a sunset kayak paddle for the most Instagram-able moments. From Play Herd's beer yoga - you read that right, beer yoga where attendees incorporated their favorite IPA or pale ale into their warrior poses - to Leadership Herd's Strength Finder class, where everyone got to learn what their strengths were and how to use them in very real world scenarios.

Community Partnerships

Young Professionals paid it forward to area children this summer with the help of a local grant from First Presbyterian Church of Topeka and a partnership with the Deer Creek Community Center. Forge's Inspire Herd took 40 kids on a back to school shopping spree at Kohl's. The kids had a blast modeling their clothes on the 'catwalk' and seeing how high they could jump in their new shoes. As a bonus the extra Kohl's cash earned from the Deer Creek Shopping spree was used to start a clothing closet at Pine Ridge Prep. The impact didn't stop there, the next week Inspire Volunteers hosted an "End of Summer Family Cookout" for the kids and their families. Forge volunteers served up hotdogs, brauts, chips and cookies. They also served up some serious fun with a supersoaker fight and water balloon toss.

Forge was lucky enough to host soft openings for two majorly anticipated dining experiences: Spin Pizza and Brew Bank. These sneak peeks serve as a critical recruiting tool for Forge because it allows new members a preview of the hot spots around town only available to Forge.

Forge continued to build on the Washburn/MO2022 internship it hosted last spring to help bridge the gap between Washburn students and Downtown Topeka. In partnership with DTI and Visit Topeka, Forge was able help make lasting first impressions with Washburn students. They were able to collect some awesome custom WU Topeka Flag stickers as well as take their picture in front of the #TopCity sign during welcome week.

The Forge board got the chance to see what a "Day In The Life" at Stormont Vail is like thanks to the Stormont Vail Foundation. Board members got to experience everything from the NICU to the ER/OR to practicing themselves in the simulation bay! To top off the day they got to see one of the best views of the Topeka skyline from the Heli-pad. It was definitely an experience for the record books!



Earlier this year Forge set out to redesign the Topeka flag to help drum up city pride. It can be seen not only flying on top of buildings and in front of houses, but also on t-shirts and license plates. The coolest part is how the Topeka community has embraced and owned our new moniker. Small businesses have created hand-crafted coffee mugs that had a waiting list that was 50 people long, Norsemen incorporated it into their mural, Washburn had custom stickers made and Jay Shielder elementary school incorporated it into their academic plans that concluded with a fieldtrip to downtown Topeka!



Develop
Homegrown
Talent

WORKFORCE & TALENT

2019 Q3 NUMBERS

TOTAL POPULATION*

124,237 in Topeka
175,061 in SNCO

Topeka even from last year
SNCO even from last year

2,843,739 in Kansas
259,431,000 in USA

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

65,626 in Topeka
94,602 in SNCO

Topeka up **1.2%** from last year
SNCO up **1.1%** from last year

1,484,096 in Kansas
164,301,000 in USA

EMPLOYMENT

63,007 in Topeka
91,091 in SNCO

Topeka up **1.3%** from last year
SNCO up **1.3%** from last year

1,433,594 in Kansas
158,226,000 in USA

JOBS

86,404 in Topeka
118,899 in SNCO

Topeka up **.3%** from last year
SNCO up **1.2%** from last year
1,515,515 in Kansas
159,612,033 in USA

AVERAGE WAGES

\$46,543 in Topeka
\$46,444 in SNCO

Topeka up **2.8%** from last year
SNCO up **2.8%** from last year
\$46,907 in Kansas
\$57,025 in USA

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

52.82% in Topeka
54.04% in SNCO

Topeka up **1.2%** from last year
SNCO up **1.1%** from last year
52.19% in Kansas
63.33% in USA

EMPLOYMENT-POPULATION RATIO

50.72% in Topeka
52.03% in SNCO

Topeka up **1.3%** from last year
SNCO up **1.3%** from last year
50.41% in Kansas
60.99% in USA

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

3.1% in Topeka
2.9% in SNCO

Topeka down **7.7%** from last year
SNCO down **9.4%** from last year
2.8% in Kansas
3.7% in USA

*Total Civilian Non-institutionalized
Population





Collaborate
for a Strong
Community

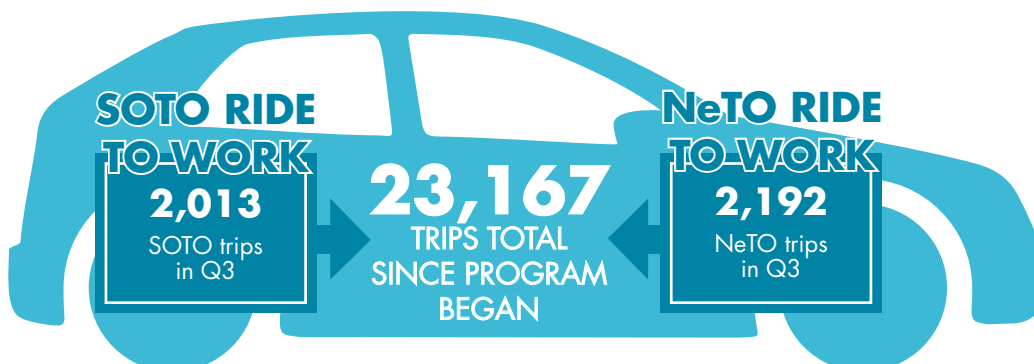


Develop
Homegrown
Talent

In the third quarter of 2019, iINCLUDED had the opportunity to provide exceptional sessions. In July, we hosted "In the Interest of Equity;" a facilitated conversation with Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield about equity by exploring privilege in society through interactive challenges and discussion to uncover bias and encourage awareness.

In August, we had the opportunity to hear from the Greater Topeka Partnership's Bloomberg Harvard Fellow, Rodrigo Dorador, as he shared exceptional insight into what inclusive economic development can look like in a community and beyond.

In September, we were able to honor National Hispanic Heritage Month as we took a look through the lens of our LatinX Community and heard "Community Organizer Perspectives in Social Responsibility" with Ronnie Padilla, Luis Estrada and Graciela Berumen.



CaRE PROGRAM 368

CaRE bus passes
used program to
date

84

CaRE bus passes
used YTD





Develop
Homegrown
Talent

On August 12, classes began at the new facility for Washburn Tech East, and interest in the project, programming and campus remain strong. Barbara Stapleton will have the opportunity in October to speak in Indianapolis regarding the Washburn Tech East Project at the 2019 International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Conference on a panel with fellow Higher Education Advisory Committee members about unlocking higher education as an economic development asset, a part of the talent partnerships track.

She will share how the case was made to establish the campus, how community-wide partnerships were foundationally critical to the success of the project and that adaptability and flexibility were necessary throughout, as well as the benefits of the New Markets Tax Credits to further the success and completion of the project.



Check out their announcement video at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkvimnoC1vU>





UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 6 Financial Services Summit
- 14 Downtown Loft Tour
- 14 Business Unwind
- 21 Women's Forum
- 30 Small Business Saturday
- 30 Miracle on Kansas Ave.

DECEMBER

- 5 Quarterly Entrepreneur Meet Up
- 7 WinterFest
- 11 Power Breakfast
- 11 JEDO Quarterly Meeting
- 14 WinterFest
- 21 WinterFest
- 31 Forge NYE Party
METL
Business Unwind
DTI AfterHours

JANUARY

- 3 TopCity Student Teachers
- 14 Welcome Legislators Breakfast
- 16 GTP Annual Meeting
- 21 Business Unwind
- TBD Politically Speaking

FEBRUARY

- 12 iINCLUDED Monthly Meeting



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Turning Point

On Thursday, September 5 the Greater Topeka Partnership hosted The Turning Point, a Community Living Room Conversation about increasing community pride and engagement in Topeka & Shawnee County. The event was held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel's Maner Conference Center from 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Dr. Ruben West was the guest keynote speaker and acted as facilitator for the event. West is a native Topekan who has achieved national recognition as a speaker, author and trainer, having received a President's Lifetime Achievement Award from President Barak Obama in 2016. The Turning Point finished with a panel discussion comprised of local influencers. Each panelist spoke to the "I am Topeka – Community Pride" voice in Topeka.

Panelists included:

S.J. Hazim – Local organizer and founder of Project Forward

Jenny Torrence – Local entrepreneur, owner of Pinkadilly, Serendipity and NOTO Burrito, and creator/promoter of the "I am Topeka" trend

Taylor Buckley – Founder of the "Topeka Positive Experience" Facebook page

"When you change the way you view and speak about Topeka, you change the opinion of everyone you speak with about Topeka," says Taylor Buckley. "To me, 'I am Topeka' brings a personal touch to living here, and it identifies us all to a common goal – to make Topeka better, daily."

According to SJ Hazim, Topeka has already undergone a transformation. "Topeka is at a place where I've never seen it before," says Hazim. "Leaderships ears are open for new ideas, and hometown pride is higher than I've ever seen it. Anyone with the heart and will can plug in and make magnificent things happen. #Payit4word."

This event was free and open to the public.



GO TOPEKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Kurt Kuta

Chair
CoreFirst Bank & Trust

Dan Foltz

Chair Elect
KBS Constructors, Inc.

Marsha Pope

Secretary
Topeka Community Foundation

Scott Gales

Treasurer
Architect One, Inc. PA

Treena Mason

BCBS

Martha Piland

MB Piland Advertising

Matt Pivarnik

President/CEO
Greater Topeka Partnership

Matt Strathman

Strathman Sales Co.

Stephen Wade

Topeka CapitalJournal

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Terry Bassham

Everygy

Megan Jones

Jones Advisory Group

Madan Rattan

Topeka Investment Group

Doug Wolff

Security Benefit Life

Don Beatty

Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.

Wade Jueneman

McElroy's

Shane Sommars

Briggs Auto

Linda Briden

Sunflower Assoc. of Realtors

Robert Kenagy

Stormont Vail Health

Jacob Wamego

Prairie Band, LLC

Andrea Engstrom

Bajillion Agency

Jim Klausman

Midwest Health

Wendy Wells

U.S. Bank

Kevin Hahn

Tri-Source Pharma, LLC

Allen Moore

Frito-Lay, Inc.

Daina Williams

L&J Building Maintenance

DIRECTORS APPOINTED AT-LARGE

Scott Anderson

Hamm Inc.

Gianfranco Pezzino

Shawnee Co. Health
Agency

Collin Hildebrand

McPherson Contractors

Greg Schwerdt

Schwerdt Design Group

Shane Hillmer

Southwest Publishing &
Mailing Corp.

Marvin Spees

Capital City Oil, Inc.

Keith Warta

Bartlett & West

Steve Anderson

University of Kansas Health

DIRECTORS EX OFFICIO

Michelle De La Isla

Mayor
City of Topeka

Bob Archer

Shawnee County
Commission

Eric Johnson

President
MTAA

Matt Pivarnik

President/CEO
Greater Topeka Partnership

Tony Emerson

City of Topeka

Dr. Jerry Farley

President
Washburn University

Brent Trout

City Manager
City of Topeka







A Greater Topeka Partnership Organization



Prepared for JEDO
Joint Economic Development Organization