

JEDO Quarterly Report

Q1
2023

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Choose
Topeka



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In The Press



Glenda Washington, recognized with International Award

The Partnership is proud to announce that Glenda Washington, Chief Equity and Opportunity Officer for the Greater Topeka Partnership, was recognized by iChange Nations™ with the iCHANGE NATIONS™ GLOBAL LIFE OF IMPACT AWARD.

Previous award winners include His Majesty King Oyo Nyimba, Toro Kingdom in Uganda, Dr. Ben Shelly former President of the Navajo Nation, and Wolde Giorgis former President of Ethiopia, among others.

Glenda Washington puts all she has into small businesses

Helping develop small businesses has always been a passion for Glenda Washington.

The Greater Topeka Partnership's chief equity and opportunity officer has pioneered her way through the business realm. She was honored earlier this month for her years of guiding others.

Washington was awarded the Global Life of Impact Award from iChangeNations.

Washington said receiving the award meant validation of the work she has done in the community.

"It means that your work is not in vain and that you have put forth all effort that you possibly could to help grow a community," Washington said.

Long history of helping businesses development in communities Whether it be a business pitch contest, small business meetings, forums and more, Washington has been the face of numerous development efforts for the betterment of businesses in Topeka and Shawnee County. She received a bachelor of science in workforce, education and development from Southern Illinois University, a bachelor of science in business management and a master's in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

Washington said she has received "probably over 50 or 60 awards" in her professional career, but they all were centered around small business development. They include the UNF Small Business Development Center Advocate of the Year and Jacksonville MED Week Advocate of the Year awards.

Receiving the award during Women's History Month shows 'power of a woman'. Though Washington was amazed about being honored for her success through Ichange Nations, she said receiving it during Women's History Month was perfect timing.

"It's always good to see people embrace the power of a woman. The things that she does. And then she goes home and does a whole ton more," Washington said. "And what she brings to the economy and how she grows her home while she grows her business."



Washington grew up in Statesboro, Georgia, during the 1960s as the second child of 11 children. She watched her grandmother leave home each day to do domestic work.

She told The Capital-Journal it was an everyday occasion for her grandmother to go off to work, come back home at lunch and go to another job later that evening. But her grandmother's work ethic encouraged her and modeled for her on "how you make ends meet."

Washington said she's honored to be able to help the community.

"I don't take it for granted, but I just continue to work," she said. "I don't say, 'It's another job or another day.' I say that I'm just honored to be able to say that I'm working in this position to help small businesses."

The Ichange Nations award recognized Washington for her "tireless efforts to better the lives of others" and her "willingness to sacrifice her time and resources that creates a positive impact as well as a shift in society."

She said she encourages others to give it their all and put everything into it.

"Look for opportunities to be a resource and opportunities to give back to the community," Washington said. "Don't think your job is your job and then you go home. You're going to have to give back something else besides just your job."

Molly Howey inducted into Ingram's 25th Class of 40 Under Forty

Molly Howey, 39, is all about learning new things, gaining new perspectives—and bringing new businesses to Topeka and the Shawnee County area. She's the president of Go Topeka, the county's economic development effort, working her way to that role over the course of 12 years. Her work has paid off for the region in the form of more than 1,500 new jobs and billions of dollars in capital investment.

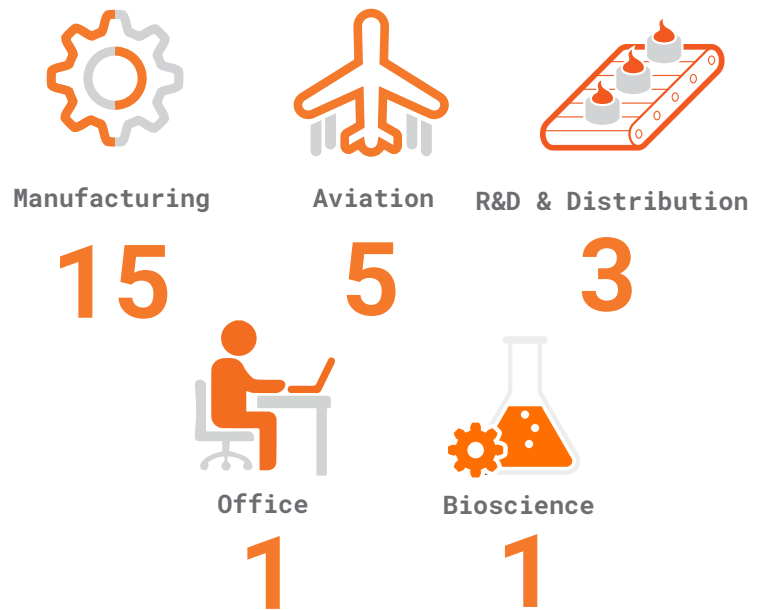
She has also led efforts to create a partnership with Plug and Play, a Silicon Valley-based innovation platform that brings dozens of startup companies to Topeka each year for a business-accelerator program. "We have also funded hundreds of small businesses through our small business incentives program that puts over \$300,000 in the hands of small, local businesses each year to fill gaps and remove growth barriers," says Howey. "Being a community leader, I get to help create opportunities for our citizens and see the changes happen before my eyes, which is amazing! I am involved in my community and my industry as a mentor across the nation, as well," and her efforts have been rewarded with multiple awards at the local, state, and even national levels. "I'm a native Kansan and love my home state, but I also love to travel," says the mother of three. She, husband Johnny, and their three kids spend a lot of time at lakes and listening to live music whenever they can. She also says, "I have a heart for people with special needs and serve on the board for TARC, a major resource for that community in Topeka."



Business Attraction

GO Topeka works continuously to bring awareness of the business assets in Topeka and Shawnee County to site selectors and companies looking to relocate or expand. Currently, the new business attraction portfolio holds 25 active projects in various industry sectors: 18 manufacturing, distribution and R&D, five aviation, one general office, and one bioscience.

25
**ACTIVE
PROJECTS**



HARRIS FABRICATION EXPANSION IN TOPEKA PROJECTED TO MAKE \$175M ECONOMIC IMPACT

Topeka and Shawnee County's Joint Economic Development Organization (JEDO) board approved an incentive agreement that will aid in the expansion of Harris Fabrication, an existing manufacturing business in Topeka that provides world-class metal fabrication services.

Previously referred to as "Project Koolaid," this expansion is expected to result in an estimated economic impact locally of \$175 million over 10 years, with Harris Fabrication preparing to make a \$2.1 million capital investment. The expansion will create up to 30 new full-time jobs with an average salary of \$48,000, plus benefits. The JEDO incentive for this project, to be paid out as performance metrics are met, is up to \$190,000, resulting in a 117% return on investment for the community.

"We are dedicated to giving our people state-of-the-art equipment and facilities," said Andrew Harris, president of Harris Fabrication. "This incentive will help us continue that through our new high-bay building and all the equipment in it. Thank you to GO Topeka and JEDO for supporting the manufacturing industry. Our company is looking forward to many more years with the capital city in our corner, supporting us along the way."

Project Press Releases

"Harris Fabrication is driven to make our employees better through training, high-quality equipment, and first-class facilities," added business partner Brian Green. "We are excited that our partnership with GO Topeka and JEDO will help us move forward with all of these goals in mind. We look forward to many more years in the capital city and want to be part of a strong, vibrant Topeka that betters all of our lives!"

"Harris Fabrication has become known in our community for exceptional work and customer service," said Bill Riphahn, Shawnee County Commission chair. "I'm proud JEDO has the opportunity to support their growth and look forward to seeing their legacy of excellence continue for years to come."

"It's a win for Topeka when a local company chooses to further invest in our community through a business-expansion project," said Topeka Mayor Mike Padilla. "Not only will the growth of Harris Fabrication result in positive economic returns for this community, but the project will provide new job opportunities and further prosperity for families that call the capital city, 'home.'"

"Harris Fabrication is one of the local companies helping put Topeka/Shawnee County on the map as a hub for manufacturing," said Molly Howey, president of GO Topeka. "When they were first considering expansion, the company started working with GO Topeka on the small-business side to see if small-business incentives might be a good fit. It quickly became clear the ambitious scope of their project would be better suited to traditional expansion incentives. It's exciting to see Harris Fabrication

going that route, as they grow right here at home. I have no doubt their innovative approach to business will continue to positively impact this community."



HERE.
GREAT
go topeka
SMOOR

PRESS RELEASE

February 8, 2023

Harris Fabrication
Expansion in Topeka

Capital Investment:
\$2.1M

New Jobs:
30

Projected:
Economic Impact - \$175M
Return On Investment - 117%

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

The Topeka Social Entrepreneurship Engagement Project

GO Topeka, working in conjunction with the Washburn Small Business Development Center, Washburn School of Business, Topeka Community Foundation, Omni Circle Group and Shawnee Startups, received a \$10,000 grant from NetWorked Community Solutions to create The Topeka Social Entrepreneurship Engagement Project. TSEEP-related events are taking place in February and March, including a community bus tour, training and resources for social entrepreneurship, and a public lecture by renowned speaker and social entrepreneur James Rhee, of Red Helicopter.

Spring Propeller Journey Launches

The Spring Journey of Propeller launched in April! Propeller is GO Topeka's mentorship network to support and grow entrepreneurs in our ecosystem. Propeller is designed to allow for maximum flexibility and helps spur organic connections between entrepreneurs and people with valuable experience. Participants are each connected with up to three others, with special guests invited to networking sessions. Propeller's advisory committee include Scott Gales of Architect One, Chris McGee of Endeavor Private Wealth, and Susie Pryor of the Kansas SBDC. To get involved as a mentor or mentee, please contact Stephanie.Norwood@TopekaPartnership.com

For more information, visit
GoTopeka.com/propeller

Plug and Play Topeka Announces Batch-Five Startups for Spring Accelerator Program

Plug and Play Topeka has announced 11 startups were recently selected for the fifth batch of its Animal Health accelerator program. This program aims to bring global innovation to the heartland by facilitating opportunities for business development and mentorship, as well as spurring pilots and initiating proof of concepts between the selected startups and the program's three founding partners, Cargill, Evergy and Hill's Pet Nutrition.

The startups, chosen by partners of the program, span five countries and represent a broad range of new innovations focused on things like supply chain, sustainability, anti-waste, new materials, and pet health and wellness.

"We are excited to see such diverse startups that showcase how comprehensive the animal health industry is," said Lindsay Lebahn, senior program manager for Plug and Play Topeka. "Our goal is to help these emerging companies gain valuable resources, mentorship, and partnerships, which can ultimately bring their innovative ideas to market and make a real impact in the animal health industry."

"Cargill is proud to support the Plug and Play Topeka Animal Health accelerator," said Eric Flanagan, director of emerging products and solutions for Cargill's North American Protein business. "The startups selected represent some exciting and innovative technologies that have the potential to enhance our work across the food supply chain and make an impact on the animal health corridor."

"We've been impressed by the depth of the startups going through Topeka's Plug and Play accelerator," said Jeff Martin, vice president customer operations for Evergy. "The latest cohort represents a range of cutting-edge innovations, and we're eager to see how their products advance through this program."

"We are already seeing the difference being made by innovative startups going through the Plug and Play program," said Dave Baloga, vice president of science and technology for Hill's Pet Nutrition. "The latest batch is full of potential, and we look forward to helping advance some of the exciting ideas they bring to the table."

"These startups are developing exciting new technologies and products that will enhance the animal health industry," said Stephanie Moran, senior vice president of innovation for GO Topeka. "We are



excited to introduce them to the resources and support available to them in Topeka and hope that they will consider our community for their growth needs as they continue to develop.”

Click each of the company names below to learn more about the 11 startups participating in the program:

Animoscope — Animoscope offers veterinary advice to all dog and cat owners.

Aquapak — Aquapak Polymers is focusing on bringing multi-functional plastics into a circular economy.

Curbicus — Curbicus provides a clean, compostable solution to dog waste for modern pet parents.

FaunaLabs — FaunaLabs helps optimize animal health and welfare by delivering valuable insights to enable carers (owners, farm managers and veterinarians) with scalable fur-penetrating sensors and AI-driven predictive medicine.

Okeanos — Okeanos can replace the majority of plastic in packaging with stone; meet Made From Stone™, nature’s solution to plastic pollution.

Pastoral — Pastoral financially incentivizes livestock farmers to be more environmentally sustainable, providing the tools and data required to transition to low-GHG regenerative farming while generating valuable carbon credits and carbon accounting data. We turn livestock farmers into Carbon Farmers.

PeelON — PeelON, innovating the way we pack.

Prevera — Prevera provides a solution that specializes in protecting waters and foods.

Titan Bioplastics — Titan Bioplastics develops functional, sustainable materials for a wide variety of industries and applications.

Treetop Biopak — Treetop Biopak provides sustainable packaging solutions for industry, with a focus on compostable materials.

Völur — Völur is optimizing the meat industry by reducing waste and making it more sustainable.



JA Holds Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge

Junior Achievement, in partnership with Network Kansas, hosted a Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge on Feb. 2 at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center at Washburn University.

Middle and high school students submitted their entrepreneurial ideas, competing for prize money in the areas of a written business plan, 4-minute pitch, and tabletop trade show. Community leaders and entrepreneurship advocates served as judges, including GO Topeka’s Stephanie Moran, Plug and Play’s Lindsay Lebahn, members of the Innovation Advisory Board and local entrepreneurs.

Plug and Play Expo Coming to Topeka

Plug and Play and GO Topeka are teaming up to bring the first Animal Health & Ag Tech Summit to the capital city in June 2023! Plug and Play is building a world-class animal health ecosystem by pairing Silicon Valley technology with the Kansas region’s state-of-the-art industry R&D, workforces, and animal health companies. They are also creating the world’s most effective ag tech platform to find and develop new applications in automation, analytics, sustainability, and supply chain. Save the date and join us to discover the latest trends in the Animal Health and Ag Tech industries! There will be networking, demo tables, pitches, panels, and keynote speakers. The summit will take place June 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Townsite Avenue Ballroom. To learn more and register, visit

GoTopeka.com/plug-and-play-expo

Small Business Incentive Program

Incentive Types

Construction

8

Marketing

7

Architecture
& Design

4

Equipment

9

Proof of Concept

1

PREAPPROVAL
2023

29

Incentives
Totaling

\$132,708

LIFE OF PROGRAM

605

Incentives
Totaling

\$2,522,233

*Some companies may have been awarded more than one incentive.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPLICATIONS IN PROCESS

5

Minority Owned

6

Women Owned

1

Veteran Owned

1

Disabled Owned

1

SBA 8(a)- Certified

Starting a small biz comes with struggle; this Topeka grants program helps cut the risk

A focused small business incentive program is helping Capital City entrepreneurs grow their businesses more quickly and saving them money during the startup process. When his family settled in Topeka in late 2021 after a couple years living in a motorhome, veteran video producer Thomas Hicks knew he needed to rebuild his equipment arsenal in order to serve his new customer base.

So Hicks, founder and executive producer of Story Factory, applied for and received a \$5,000 matching equipment grant from Go Topeka in the first quarter of 2022, putting the money toward new lights, stands, a

tripod, and a second camera, among other items.

Had the small business incentive program through Go Topeka not been available, Hicks said, he would have been forced to put all the expenses on a credit card and pay off the interest over a longer period of time.

"It just would have been an additional \$5,000 of struggle, because when you're trying to start a small business, \$5,000 is a lot of extra cash," Hicks said. Beyond the cost savings, Hicks said having the proper equipment gave Story Factory the added credibility needed to impress its clients.

"There's this perception from clients that when you show up with four or five cases of high-quality gear, and you have a couple of high-end cameras, it tells your client that they're important and this project is for real," Hicks said. "That confidence that you get from having the proper equipment has value in itself."



Small Business Awards

42nd Annual Small Business Awards Finalists



GO Topeka announced 23 local businesses as finalists for recognition at Topeka and Shawnee County's 42nd annual Small Business Awards. Finalists were selected to receive awards in the following nine award categories and will learn the

winner of each category at the awards on May 2nd: Small Business Exporter Award, Young Entrepreneur Award, Micro Enterprise Award, Emerging Innovation Venture Award, Women-Owned Small Business Award, Minority-Owned Small Business Award, Veteran-Owned Small Business Award, Small Business Manufacturer Award, and Top City Small Business of the Year.

The following companies have been chosen as finalists:

Amused Gallery, DeAna Morrison
Axe and Ale, Chelsea Huston & Ashlee Spring
Bimini Pet Health, Sam Al-Murrani
Chavez Inc., Dan Chavez
Chef LaMona, LaMona Schley
Civium Architecture & Planning, David Heit
Counter Craft LLC, Andrew & Kristy Richards
Customskin Medspa at His and Her Salon & Day Spa, Trisha Williams
Cut Right Lawn Care LLC, Matt Bleier
Dialogue Coffee House, Caitlyn Halsey
Distingué Gentleman, Theodis Williams
Giant Communications, Austin Taylor
Inspire & Company Candles, Ebony White
Linens by Marlen, Marlen Oliveros
Miller Precision, Dustin Miller
Onyx Salon & Wellness Spa, Heather Graves
Owl's Nest Topeka, Lyndsey McKinnon
Phoenix Marketing Group, Seth Stevens
Plains Craft Covered Wagons, Dennis Steinman
Ricks Advanced Dermatology & Radiance Medical Spa, Matthew Ricks
Senne & Company, Matthew McGivern
Supersonic Music/Tree House Drums, Derek Sharp
Yes! Athletics, Deb North

To be eligible for an award, small businesses had to be located within Shawnee County and have 100 or fewer employees, including the owner(s). Evaluation included review of each business' vision, staying power, growth, innovativeness, response to adversity and community engagement.

Equity and Opportunity

Collaborations

Social Entrepreneurship Survey

The GTP's Equity and Opportunity Office is working with partners at Washburn's SBDC, The Omni Circle, Shawnee Startups to conduct a community survey to determine retail and other service gaps in the LMI Community. Once the survey results have been received, these partners will work with potential business owners and local authorities to assist with plans for filling the gaps identified.

Unity Breakfast

GO Topeka hosted a unity breakfast during diversity month. The breakfast included words from Representative Tobias Schlingensiepen and Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau, education, art, and dance. The event brought together 100 individuals from across the community.

WISE Women

GO Topeka is working to introduce a program called WISE Women. The goal of the WISE Women Mentorship program is to increase female representation and introduce young women to the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The Partnership staff will be working with USD 501 staff and students to build a successful program. Several local companies and corporations have volunteered to serve as mentors.

Becoming Athena Leadership Training



Becoming Athena Leadership Training offers a deep dive into the Eight Principles of Enlightened Leadership. Sixteen women are experiencing Athena Leadership training. They are actively participating in week six of an eight-week program focusing on Living Authentically, Learning Constantly, Building Relationships, Fostering Collaboration, Acting Courageously, Advocating Fiercely, Giving Back and Celebrating.

The training is aiding in developing the catalytic skills needed to transform our community. The participants took an assessment to aid them in better understanding their leadership type.

Topeka Athena Award

Congratulations to Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek, the inaugural Athena Award recipient. The Athena Award was introduced in 1982. The award is given to a professional woman who leads by example and creates opportunities for other women. The award showcases inspiring examples of leadership in our community.



Doing Business with the City Lunch and Learn

The Greater Topeka Partnership and the City of Topeka have scheduled a Lunch and Learn entitled "How to Do Business with the City of Topeka." The Lunch and Learn, aimed specifically at black and Hispanic owned businesses, will offer hands on experience that will cover how to navigate the City's procurement system and view upcoming opportunities. The workshop will take place on May 11, 11:30 AM – 1PM, 719 S Kansas Avenue, Suite 110, 6th Floor, at the Greater Topeka Partnership.

First Opportunity Loan Fund Dashboard

The First Opportunity Fund Loan is a loan program that provides small businesses with access to funding for a variety of purposes, including equipment purchases, working capital, and real estate acquisition. The program started in 2009 and has since provided approximately \$11 million in loans to small businesses in Topeka and Shawnee County. Direct access to finance is a critical piece of the business ownership puzzle. The First Opportunity Loan Fund continues to support businesses located in economically distressed communities.

First Opportunity Loan Fund current loan portfolio:

\$443,340

Active Loan Amount

\$220,000

Pending Loan Requests

7

Active Loan Clients

4

Pending Loan Clients

Upcoming Event



DEI SUMMIT:
CHANGING MINDSETS, SHIFTING CULTURES



Forge Young Talent

Events

This year Forge is focused on quality over quantity, and we are seeing positive results paying off. Our first event of the year was Forge 101 in partnership with Washburn University. At this event we had some brief programming about Forge and WSGA. We also held a short networking workshop and then hosted a network bingo. During networking Bingo, Forge had “networking facilitators” placed within the crowd to help facilitate conversations between the students and other attendees. We had over 100 students and Forge members in attendance, building relationships and professional networks. In addition to Forge 101 we hosted a successful Trivia night with 50+ Forge members, a Yoga and mimosa event, Live Your Dream Symposium, and several volunteer opportunities.



Initiatives

In the first quarter Forge has been working on several different initiatives including our college recruiting initiative, TopCity Interns, Employee Engagement opportunities with local employers, and completing the transition to our new internal structure. In addition to this we have had several successful events and have increased our membership, engagement, and attendance.

College Recruiting Initiative

One of Forge’s goals for 2023 was to stand up a recruiting program to help spread the word of not only Forge but of Topeka and its attractions, night life, business opportunities and other young professional amenities. In the first quarter, Forge attended 2 different college recruiting fairs. One in partnership with Choose Topeka and the other in Partnership with GO Topeka Innovation and Small Business. At this event we were able to “sell” different aspects of Topeka, as well as share information about Forge, our business ecosystem, and other resources in hopes of attracting talent from outside the area.

Increase in membership, engagement, and attendance



In the first quarter Forge has seen just over 60 new members join. This is on track to meet our goal of 250 new members for 2023. If we continue this pace and hit our goals, Forge will have welcomed nearly 450 new members in the past 2 years. This growth in new members has also contributed to increased engagement on our social media platforms and with our enews, as well as increased attendance at our events. Our enews open rate has climbed and is hovering around 40%-45% open rate which is a nearly 10% increase year over year.

TopCity Interns

In the first quarter of 2023, TopCity Interns convened their kickoff meeting and began planning for the summer program. This year our preliminary numbers suggest that we will have close to 250 interns and more than 20 different companies. Our kickoff event will be June 1 at the Topeka Zoo. A full detailed version of the summer schedule will be available shortly.



Workforce & Talent

2023 Q1 Workforce Data

**Total Working
Age Population**
(16 YEARS AND OVER)

102,152
TOPEKA

142,152
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 2,273,792
US 266,115,000

**Labor Force
Participation**

63,413
TOPEKA

91,814
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 1,512,081
US 166,010,000

Employment

61,194
TOPEKA

88,808
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 1,466,191
US 159,715,000

Jobs

86,910
TOPEKA

102,521
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 1,506,172
US 161,552,255

**Average
Wages**

\$54,297
TOPEKA

\$54,269
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS \$56,211
US \$68,838

**Labor Force
Participation
Rate**

62.16% TOPEKA

64.6% SHAWNEE
COUNTY

KS 66.50%
US 62.38%

**Employment-
Population Ratio**

59.98% TOPEKA

62.50% SHAWNEE
COUNTY

KS 64.48%
US 60.02%

**Unemployment
Rate**

3.5% TOPEKA

3.3% SHAWNEE
COUNTY

KS 3.0%
US 3.8%

*Total Civilian Non-institutionalized Population



Talent Attraction

CHOOSE TOPEKA 2.0 GETS FUNDING APPROVAL

The GO Topeka Board of Directors and Joint Economic Development Organization board approved funding on Feb. 7 and 8, respectively, for Choose Topeka 2.0 — the next installment in the Choose Topeka talent attraction initiative. The Choose Topeka Relocation Program has been successful in many ways since the employer match option was announced in December 2019, with a remote worker option following in September 2020. In its first three years, the



program has seen employers submit 73 employees for the incentive, and 26 remote workers have participated in the program. In total, 99 applicants — a mix of individuals and families — have relocated to Shawnee County through Choose Topeka, and both rounds of funding have been fully utilized, totaling \$600,000.

After a program review, and based on recommendations from the Momentum 2027 steering committee, an enhanced Choose Topeka 2.0 model has been developed for implementation through Momentum 2027. The refreshed

program will include a stronger focus on supporting Shawnee County business workforce needs, expanded breadth of target markets, boomerang applicants, transitioning soldiers, a wraparound immersion program and other enhancements. An employer-match option will remain part of the program, with applicants needing to meet the following criteria to be eligible for incentives:

- Move to Topeka for full time employment position
- Purchase/rent a home (primary residence) within Shawnee County
- Employer participation in matching funds
- Eligible to work in the United States
- NEW: Also available to newly graduating Washburn students as a sign-on bonus
- NEW: Must complete Choose Topeka survey after one year
- NEW: Must participate in a Choose Topeka immersion program

Incentive options have also been added for boomerang candidates and soldiers transitioning to civilian life. The submission form for the employer match option is currently available at [ChooseTopeka.com](https://choosetopeka.com), and the application for boomerangs and transitioning soldiers is coming soon!



Choose Topeka 2.0 Relocation Incentive

\$42,500

IN TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDS FROM
THE EMPLOYER MATCHING FUNDS

6

RENTING

4

PURCHASED
HOMES

7

OF STATES
MOVED FROM

6

UNIQUE EMPLOYER
SUBMITTALS

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

\$63,620

AVERAGE SALARY

14.7^x

\$669,125
RETURN ON INVESTMENT
IN YEAR 1

75.7^x

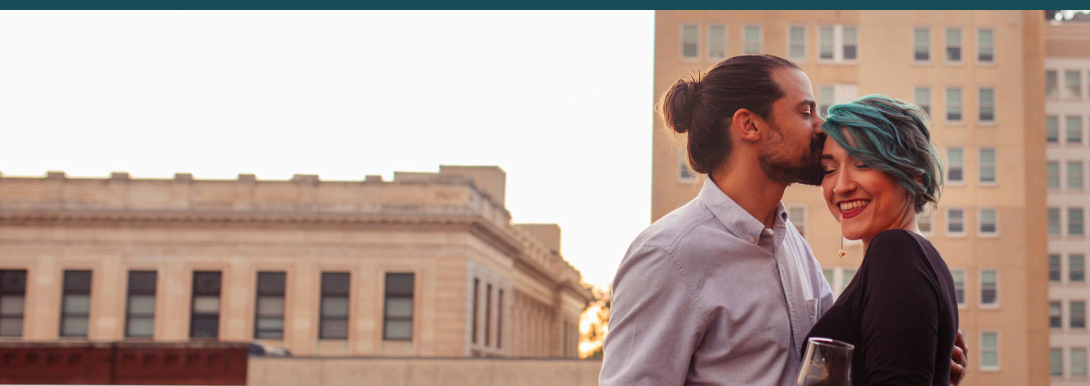
\$3,431,279
RETURN ON INVESTMENT
AFTER 5 YEARS

INTERESTING FACT

One of the participating employers relocated their business from Colorado to Topeka, and moved three of their key team members to Shawnee County utilizing the Choose Topeka Program.

CHOOSE IN THE NEWS

GO Topeka uses several public relation tools and have cultivated relationships with regional and national media to help maintain brand awareness through earned media. Overall, 86+ pieces of coverage were read by approximately 4.9M people and generated over 52,000 social media shares. This totals an earned media value of \$400,000.



GO Topeka Staff

Molly

Howey



President of
Economic Development

Glenda

Washington



Chief Equity &
Opportunity Officer

Stephanie

Moran



SVP of Innovation

Trina

Goss



Director, Business &
Talent Initiatives

Stephanie

Norwood



Director of
Entrepreneurship
& Small Business

Patrick

Altendor



Economic Advisor

Rhett

Flood



Executive Director of
Forge Young Talent

Ashley

Lehman



Director of Business
Development

Elle

Browne



Executive
Coordinator

Matt

Pivarnik



CEO, Greater Topeka
Partnership



Meet **STEPHANIE NORWOOD**

DIRECTOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SMALL BUSINESS

The Greater Topeka Partnership and GO Topeka are pleased to announce Stephanie Norwood has been named GO Topeka's Director of Entrepreneurship and Small Business. Norwood steps into the role after serving for more than three years as The Partnership's Director of Events.

Norwood succeeds Laurie Pieper, who recently accepted the position of Assistant State Director for Kansas' Small Business Development Center.

Norwood was hired for the role following a competitive application and interview process. She is in the process of transitioning into the position and will serve on GO Topeka's innovation and entrepreneurship team.

"Stephanie was the perfect candidate for this position," said Stephanie Moran, GO Topeka's senior vice president of innovation. "Her experience organizing incredible events and programming for the community set her apart, and I know she'll do amazing things for Topeka and Shawnee County small businesses."

"Stephanie has organized some of the most amazing events for Topeka, many of which have directly supported our small businesses in the process," said Tobias Harvey, chair of the Topeka/Shawnee County Small Business Council. "Her expertise in event coordination and programming will be a valuable asset for our community and small businesses in the area. I and the other Small Business Council members look forward to working alongside her."

"Stephanie has proven herself as a leader on the GTP team, and I'm excited to see her flex those leadership skills in this new role," said Molly Howey, president of GO Topeka. "We work hard at The Partnership to provide professional development opportunities for our team members, so they can grow within our organization and beyond. Stephanie has consistently capitalized on those opportunities, and I'm proud of her achievements."



“I’m honored to accept this position and look forward to connecting more deeply with some of the area’s innovative thinkers and business leaders,” Norwood said. “It’s exciting to be part of the GO Topeka team helping our business community grow and thrive. ”



HERE. GREAT GROWS

Positioned as an industry leader, the new GO Topeka will strive to innovate, collaborate and boldly move Topeka and Shawnee County into the future.

Great. Grows. Here.

Visit GoTopeka.com



2023 Go Topeka Board of Directors

Elected Directors

Linda Briden	Sunflower Association of Realtors
Kevin Rake	HME, Inc
Sara Girard	Central National Bank
Dr. Bob Kenagy	Stormont Vail Health
Martha Piland	MB Piland
Marsha Pope	Topeka Community Foundation
Marvin Spees	Capital City Oil
Tammy Dishman	Capitol Federal Foundation
Dan Foltz	KBS Constructors
Calla Haggard	Community Bank
Shane Hillmer	Southwest Publishing
Kurt Kuta	CoreFirst Bank & Trust
Jeff Russell	Reser's Fine Food
Daina Williams	L&J Building Maintenance
Dr. Sam Al-Murrani	Strategic Business Consultant
Scott Hunsicker	Kansas Financial Resources
Cassandra Taylor	HTK Architects
Doug Wolff	Security Benefit
Jim Klausman	Midwest Health
Jacob Wamego	Prairie Band, LLC
Jeff Martin	Evergy
Chris Faulk	McElroy Electric, Inc.
Paul Bossert	Premier Staffing
Manny Herron	Haus Property Partners
Travis Morris	Summit Materials

Directors Appointed at Large

Michael Odupitan	Omni Circle
Brittany Crabtree	Topeka Collegiate
Marsha Pope	Topeka Community Foundation
Dr. Kevin Hahn	BioTopeka
Linessa Frazier	American Century Investments
Marvin Spees	Capital City Oil
Neal Spencer	Ernest-Spencer

Directors By Virtue of Position Held

Michael Padilla	City of Topeka, Mayor
TBD	Shawnee County Commissioner
TBD	City of Topeka, Council Member
Eric Johnson	MTAA
Stephen Wade	City of Topeka, City Manager
Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek	Washburn University
Carlos Vasquez	DEI Council Chair



A Greater Topeka Partnership Organization

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



Accredited Economic Development Organization



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Joint Economic Development Organization