



# GO TOPEKA QUARTERLY REPORT

THIRD QUARTER  
2020

 785-234-2644

 [GOTOpeka.com](http://GOTOpeka.com)

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**GO TOPEKA**

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Topeka, KS 66603

**LEFT AND BELOW PHOTO:**

**LEFT PHOTOS:**

**TOP:** Custom Dredge Works stands along GO Topeka staff and the JEDO committee after the approval of incentives to expand operations and increase the number of jobs at the company.

**BOTTOM:** Crossroads Fountain at Every Plaza during a light display. The fountain and light show is synchronized with music.

**BOTTOM PHOTO:**

A shot of the Cargill plant in Topeka, KS. Cargill has agreed to be a founding partner for the new Plug and Play Topeka Animal Health & Ag Tech Accelerator.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY MOMENTUM SCORECARD	
6	BUSINESS ATTRACTION	
7	HOST PROGRAM	
8	BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION	
10	WOMEN & MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	
11	KANSAS PTAC	
12	INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP	
14	WORKFORCE & TALENT	
15	INCLUDED & SCHOLARSHIPS SOTO & NETO	
16	CHOOSE TOPEKA	
17	FORGE YOUNG TALENT	
18	UPCOMING EVENTS	

## 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 01-30-2020



## DEVELOP HOMEGROWN TALENT

### GRADUATION RATE

STATE OF KANSAS  
**87.3%**

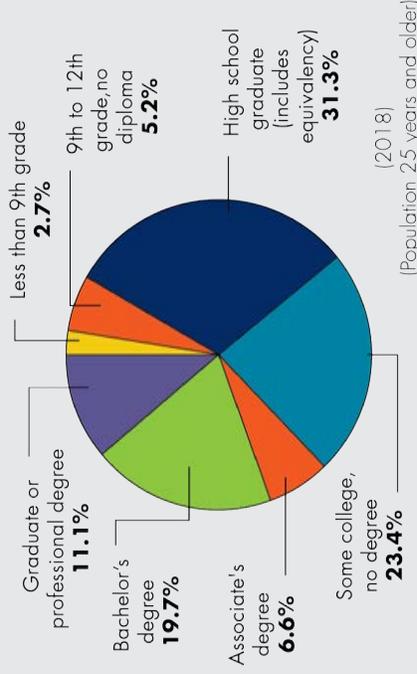
SHAWNEE COUNTY  
**88.2%**

Four-year adjusted cohort formula (all Schools 2018-2019) (1)

### STUDENT-LEVEL METRICS (2019)



### EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



### CERTIFICATES EARNED

**1,403**

(less than a 2-year degree) (2019)



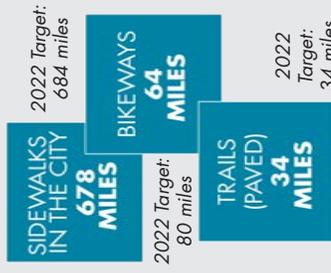
## CREATE VIBRANT & ATTRACTIVE PLACES

### LIVABILITY

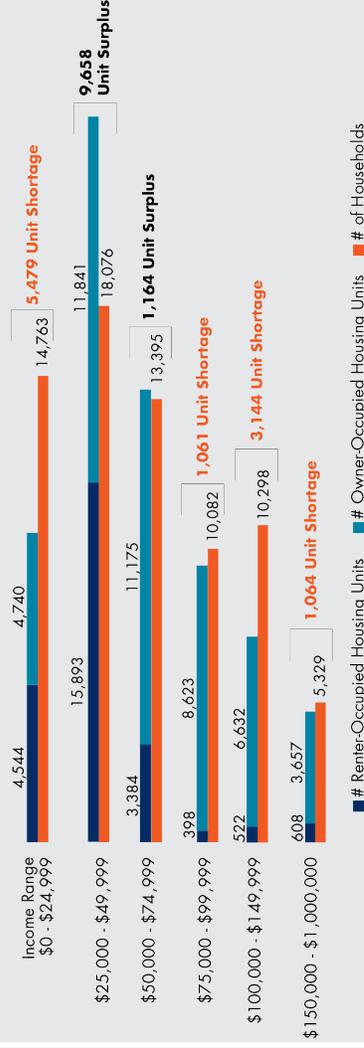
This score rates the overall livability of Shawnee County on a scale from 0 to 100. It is based on the average score of seven livability categories—housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity—which also range from 0 to 100.



### PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLINESS (2019)



### AFFORDABLE HOUSING (2018)



\*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 (2019)

**550,672** PEOPLE

Total attendance of the following Shawnee County Attractions:  
 Topeka Zoo, KS Children's Discovery Center, IPAC, 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



## GROW A DIVERSE ECONOMY

### SHARE OF EMPLOYMENT AT NEW BUSINESSES

**7,517 OR 9.65%**  
PEOPLE WORK AT A NEW BUSINESS

(New business is any that has been open less than five years)(2018 Q4) (8)

2022 Target: 7,093 people

### ANNUAL MEDIAN WAGE IN TOPEKA

**\$37,620**

(2019 MSA) (6)

2022 Target: \$39,000



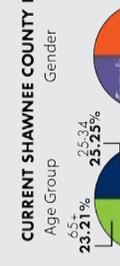
## COLLABORATE FOR STRONG COMMUNITY

### NON-PROFIT BOARD DIVERSITY (2018)

Age Group



Gender



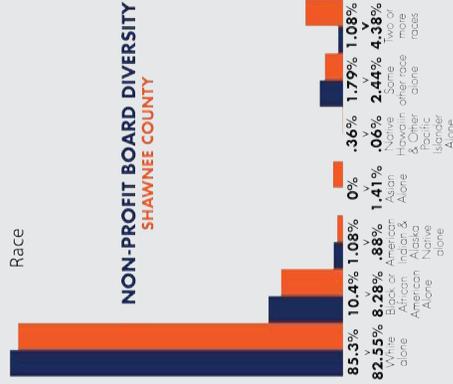
Ethnicity



Age Group



Ethnicity



### NON-PROFIT BOARD DIVERSITY SHAWNEE COUNTY

### PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH (2020)

**3.6** POOR PHYSICAL HEALTH DAYS

**3.8** POOR MENTAL HEALTH DAYS

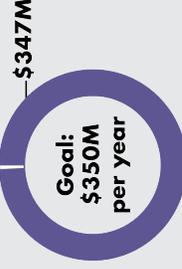
Average number of physically/mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted)

2022 Target: 3.2 Mental (9)

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE (2020)

**7.1**  
WITHIN 1 YEAR, PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS (9)

### PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT (2019)



2022 Target: \$350M

(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.

### TOTAL PRIVATE JOBS

**73,611**

(Mar 2020)

(Private = Non-Government Jobs) (5)

2022 Target: 79,000 jobs

## GLOBAL METRICS

### GDP OF DOLLARS (10)

**\$11.322 BILLION**  
IN 2018

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.

**\$10.655 BILLION**  
IN 2017

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

### POVERTY RATE IN SHAWNEE COUNTY (2018)

**13.9%**  
TOTAL POVERTY RATE

(11)

**17.5%**  
CHILD POVERTY RATE

2022 Target: 10%

### STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCHES

**52.02%**

(1)

2022 Target: 48%

### NUMBER OF PEOPLE WORKING, BUT NOT LIVING IN SHAWNEE COUNTY (2017)

**39,185 OR 39%**

2022 Target: 33%

### PER CAPITA INCOME IN SHAWNEE COUNTY (2018)

**\$46,861**

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 Occupational 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



# BUSINESS ATTRACTION



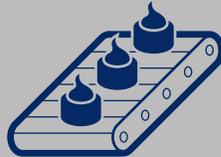
Grow a  
Diverse  
Economy

Although 2020 has been challenging for some areas of business, GO Topeka continues to work strategically to attract new businesses and jobs to Topeka and Shawnee County. This quarter we have seen a record number of projects with a total of 10 in Q3 and a year-to-date total of 37 projects with 33 in the pipeline. GO Topeka has also hosted seven site visits in 2020.

## 10 NEW PROJECTS IN Q3



MANUFACTURING  
**3**



FOOD  
PROCESSING  
**3**



TECH  
**2**

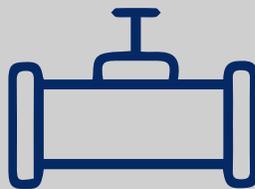


DISTRIBUTION  
**1**



OFFICE  
**1**

## 37 PROJECTS YTD



TOTAL PROJECTS  
IN THE PIPELINE  
**33**



YEAR TO DATE  
SITE VISITS  
**7**



# HOST

Helping Others Support Topeka



**\$1,191,500**

Distributed to **356**  
Shawnee County  
businesses



Supported over

**2,600**

furloughed workers,  
totaling over

**\$617,000**

in impact relief

Created to provide emergency recovery and relief to Shawnee County small businesses, the HOST Relief Program has provided more than \$1M in funding toward local economic recovery in the last three months.

The Greater Topeka Partnership and GO Topeka shared how its HOST Relief Program has taken the lead to support local economic recovery by providing relief funds to Shawnee County small businesses. Since the program's kickoff in late March 2020, a total of \$1,191,500 has been distributed to 356 small businesses through HOST private donation or public grants in the last six months. HOST, or Helping Others Support Topeka, was created to provide emergency and recovery funding for local businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to providing up-to-date figures on the recovery impact of the relief program, HOST announced a special gift card donation to Shawnee County first responders.





Grow a  
Diverse  
Economy

# BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

## 4 ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

## 10 YEAR TO DATE

In the third quarter of 2020, GO Topeka worked with four existing companies, looking to grow and expand in our community. Project Vita and Project Vertical received funding approval during the September JEDO Meeting and Project Oyster and Project Prince announced and had agreements approved.



### PROJECT VITA

This project is a life sciences company that will be adding 7 new jobs over the next five years with an average wage of \$85K annually plus benefits, along with a capital investment of \$1.5M in facility improvement expenditures and equipment purchases. The approved incentive of \$76,500 provides a total (10Y) economic impact of \$40.5M, along with a return on investment of 396%.



### PROJECT VERTICAL

A manufacturing company, this project will invest \$6.6M in capital investment and add up to 40 new jobs with an average wage of \$43K annually plus benefits. The approved incentive of \$234,000 will provide a total (10Y) economic impact of \$200M, along with a return on investment of 780%.



### MIDWEST METALS/CUSTOM DREDGE WORKS (PROJECT OYSTER)

Midwest Metals/Custom Dredge Works will produce up to 17 new full-time jobs, with average wages of \$43K plus benefits. Capital investment from this expansion will be \$3.5M with a total economic impact over the next 10 years of \$69M, with an approved, performance-based incentive of \$96,000.

“We are grateful to GO Topeka and JEDO for considering us for this incentive,” said Levi Brecheisen, project manager, Custom Dredge Works. “Our expansion includes the development of five new buildings, these will house a sand-blasting and paint department as well as a dredge assembly department. With this project, we hope to see an increase in employment, production and quality and safety.”

All economic impact numbers are based on a 10 year calculation. All proposed incentives are performance-based, to be paid out as earned and details of the agreement will be outlined via a formal contract with the company and presented to JEDO for approval at a later meeting.





## **HILL'S PET NUTRITION (PROJECT PRINCE)**

Hill's Pet Nutrition will hire 33 new full-time positions with average wages of \$56K plus benefits and a capital investment of \$31.4M over the next five years. The total economic impact over the next 10 years is expected to be \$495M, with an approved incentive of \$341,000.

"Today, the Hill's Topeka Plant produces over 200 million pounds of Hill's Prescription Diet and Science Diet pet food - a number that continues to grow. These products serve both canine and feline companion animals," said Corey Murrey, plant director, Hill's Pet Nutrition. "This growth is what is driving the capacity expansion in our plant. Over the next several years, we'll be making a significant investment in the Topeka site."

"Hill's is a homegrown Topeka business that has become a global leader in the field of animal health science," said Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla. "This project not only promises state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, but also 33 new and specialized jobs and a substantial economic impact over time."

"I'm thrilled to see this expansion take place," Shawnee County Commissioner Kevin Cook, JEDO chair. "Hill's is playing a vital role in the health of pets all over the world, and we have the work that's being done right here in Shawnee County to thank for that."

# WOMEN & MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Grow a Diverse Economy



Collaborate for a Strong Community

## FASTTRAC NEW VENTURE



STUDENTS GRADUATED

Through Q2 of 2020

9

LIFE OF PROGRAM

757

## FIRST OPPORTUNITY FUND

\$50,000

1 LOAN AWARDED

1 LINE OF CREDIT FOR \$50,000



3

### NOTABLE NEW BUSINESSES

ROUND TABLE BOOKSTORE

FLAVOR WAGON, LLC

NOTO ESCAPES

4

### NOTABLE EXISTING BUSINESSES

TOPEKA PLUMBING EXCAVATING, LLC

A HOME IMPROVEMENT GALLERY

FIRE ME UP CERAMICS

ALL STAR SEAMLESS GUTTERING, LLC

## SMALL BUSINESS INCENTIVES



INCENTIVES ISSUED, AMOUNT



INCENTIVES ISSUED, #

Through Q3 OF 2020

\$312,869

83

LIFE OF PROGRAM

\$1.42M

434

14

NEW BUSINESS

50

EXISTING BUSINESS

Some companies may have been awarded more than one incentive.

## INCENTIVE TYPES



CONSTRUCTION

22



MARKETING

33



ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

3



TRAINING

2



EQUIPMENT

34

## JOBS IMPACTED

141

FULL TIME

99

PART-TIME

240

TOTAL



# KANSAS PTAC

(PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER)  
FEBRUARY 1, 2020 - OCTOBER 23, 2020



NEW  
CLIENTS

**75**

94%  
of Goal



COUNSELING  
HOURS

**406**

78%  
of Goal



EVENTS HELD IN  
SHAWNEE COUNTY

**7**

117%  
of Goal



**1,035**  
CONTRACT  
AWARDS

"This Procurement Technical Assistance Center is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the Defense Logistics Agency. It is funded additionally by Wichita State University, Pittsburg State University, GO Topeka, and Johnson County Community College."

## TOTAL CONTRACT AWARDS FOR KS PTAC SUB-CENTER TOPEKA

*(Service area covers 32 counties in NE KS)*

**\$ 119,147,473 =** FEDERAL  
**\$ 80,500 =** STATE & LOCAL  
**\$ 3,795,932 =** SUBCONTRACTS

**\$ 123,023,905 TOTAL AWARDS**

## SHAWNEE COUNTY BUSINESSES HAVE RECEIVED:

**31**

CONTRACT AWARDS  
FOR A VALUE OF

**\$1,579,764** OUT OF THE TOTAL AWARDS AMOUNT  
SHOWN ABOVE

## SOCIOECONOMIC STATS ON FEDERAL CONTRACT AWARDS

SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS **141**

WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS **113**

HUBZone **33**

SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS **38**

## RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)

FOR EVERY \$1 JEDO INVESTS, PTAC GENERATES

**\$1,845**

*(JEDO was requested to invest \$66,689 in the KS PTAC program this year, a reduction by 4.73% from the previous year due to the program match commitment set by the Defense Logistics Agency. This is the number that is used to base the ROI number on.)*



# INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Topeka celebrates the launch of Plug and Play Topeka this October. The animal health / ag tech focused accelerator program officially kicked off with the inaugural Selection Day, featuring ten early- and mid-stage startups from numerous U.S. states, Australia, Spain, the U.K. and Sweden pitching to an audience of corporate executives, venture capitalists and media at the fast-paced online demo day on October 21. Presenting companies have developed a variety of innovative products for the animal health and ag tech industry. These include smart health and GPS tracking software for dogs, smart ear tags for livestock and a universal pet identification microchip.

With this Selection Day, we begin the first chapter of Plug and Play Topeka. Forging ahead alongside our influential and invaluable founding partners, Cargill, Hill's Pet Nutrition and Evergy, we are setting our sights on becoming a hub of innovation of the Midwest. The program aims to bring innovative startups from around the world to Kansas every six months, building upon the region's fast-growing and robust animal health industry. The startups will go through three-month "accelerator" programs aimed at helping the businesses get off the ground. There is a 70 percent average success rate for companies that go through a Plug and Play accelerator program, measured in follow-on capital raised. Startups selected for the program receive benefits including office space, mentorship, business development, pitch polishing, and potential investment.

Presenting companies included:

- **CERES TAG:** (Queensland, Australia) smart ear tags for livestock
- **RAPiD GENOMICS:** (Gainesville, FL) DNA genotyping and genetic analysis company
- **ANDES AG:** (Emeryville, CA) harnessing the power of microbes to develop novel seeds for a regenerative agriculture revolution
- **PEEVA:** (Buffalo, NY) universal pet identification and central database microchip company
- **WAGGIT:** (Boulder, CO) smart health and GPS tracking for dogs
- **VOLTA GREENTECH:** (Stockholm, Sweden) battling global warming by reducing methane emissions from cows
- **PITPAT:** (Cambridge, U.K.) dog activity monitor and fitness tracker company
- **BOND PET FOODS:** (Boulder, CO) biotechnology company creating animal-free and protein-rich pet food
- **PROAGNI:** (New South Wales, Australia) sheep and cattle nutrition products that are antibiotic and ionophore free
- **DINBEAT:** (Barcelona, Spain) wearable technology to monitor pet health in real time

"As the animal health, agtech and bioscience industries come together, it is the ideal time to create this incredible innovation platform in Topeka," said Saeed Amidi, CEO and founder at Plug and Play. "With our wide grasp of technologies and solutions across different industries, we are very excited to explore and foster the animal health and ag tech ecosystem here in Topeka."

At the event it was announced that Evergy, an energy company serving more than 1.6 million customers across Kansas and Missouri, joins Hill's Pet Nutrition and Cargill as the founding partners in the new Plug and Play Topeka program. Evergy will be a great asset to have as Plug and Play's focus in Topeka will support innovation as the world shifts toward sustainable food production and consumption. Evergy already is a leader in clean energy, with more than 50 percent of the energy it provides coming from carbon-free sources. "With such rapid gains in new technologies, it's vital for Topeka and the other communities Evergy serves to have innovative resources that create opportunities for businesses to evolve with those changes," said Jeff Martin, Evergy's Vice President of Customer and Community Operations. "Evergy's partnership with Plug and Play is a great way to combine our strengths for the community's benefit. Whether at home, at work or in agriculture, how we use energy is changing and we look forward to helping startups take advantage of those resources and grow their ideas."



Cargill Protein had been first to announce its commitment to be a founding anchor partner back in July. The Wichita-based company has made significant investments in innovation throughout Kansas over the last decade and looks forward to collaborate and help shape the future of agriculture for our State. Cargill's 155,000 employees across 70 countries work relentlessly to achieve our purpose of nourishing the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way. Every day, they connect farmers with markets, customers with ingredients, and people and animals with the food they need to thrive. Cargill combines 155 years of experience with new technologies and insights to serve as a trusted partner for food, agriculture, financial and industrial customers in more than 125 countries, building a stronger, sustainable future for agriculture.



Finally, the program would not have been launched had it not been for the support by Hill's Pet Nutrition both in their strong community involvement in Topeka and their active role in the KC Animal Health Corridor organization. We are proud to count Hill's among the three original founding members of Plug and Play Topeka. "Plug and Play will provide a paradigm shift to research and development. Hill's has a rich innovation pipeline and welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with startups to accelerate the delivery of breakthrough innovation for pet nutrition," said Dave Baloga, Vice President of Science and Technology at Hill's Pet Nutrition.

## ANIMAL HEALTH VIRTUAL SUMMIT PARTICIPATION

For many years, GO Topeka has been actively participating in the annual animal health industry flagship event, the Animal Health Investment Forum in Kansas City. This year, the event was different, but not only because the conference was entirely virtual. It was also the first time that "Plug and Play Topeka" is jointly participated as a bronze sponsor. The event gave us the opportunity to forge even more relationships with industry players that will be important in the success of the Topeka program.

## INNOVATION CAMPUS VIABILITY ASSESSMENT

To support Topeka's growth as a hub of innovation powered by Plug and Play, GO Topeka kicked off two viability assessments for the future Topeka Innovation Campus in July. Two nationally recognized real estate developers, Clark Enersen/MAG Partners and BioRealty/CRB have been contracted to lead the assessments. They are in the process of interviewing many community stakeholders, potential anchor tenants and entrepreneurs to determine advantages and disadvantages of different sites, size of buildings and partnerships. The original two site options of Kanza Science and Research Park and the River Area South have been expanded to include additional options throughout Topeka. The assessment findings are expected to be presented before the end of the year.



Develop  
Homegrown  
Talent

# WORKFORCE & TALENT

## 2020 Q3 NUMBERS

### TOTAL POPULATION\*

**123,927** in Topeka  
**174,799** in SNCO

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**2,236,583** in Kansas  
**260,558,000** in USA

### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

**63,479** in Topeka  
**91,098** in SNCO

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**1,504,799** in Kansas  
**160,804,000** in USA

### EMPLOYMENT

**58,437** in Topeka  
**84,614** in SNCO

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**1,393,551** in Kansas  
**146,504,000** in USA

### JOBS

**76,995** in Topeka  
**90,220** in SNCO

Topeka down **6.9%** from last year  
SNCO down **6.4%** from last year  
**1,291,923** in Kansas  
**131,574,398** in USA

### AVERAGE WAGES

**\$46,963** in Topeka  
**\$46,899** in SNCO

Topeka up **1.6%** from last year  
SNCO up **1.6%** from last year  
**\$48,964** in Kansas  
**\$60,492** in USA

### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

**51.22%** in Topeka  
**52.12%** in SNCO

**67.28%** in Kansas  
**61.72%** in USA

### EMPLOYMENT-POPULATION RATIO

**47.15%** in Topeka  
**48.41%** in SNCO

**62.31%** in Kansas  
**56.23%** in USA

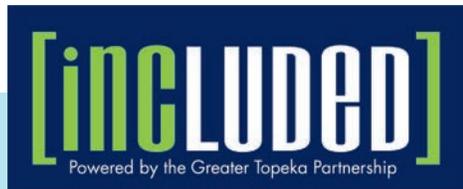
### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

**7.9%** in Topeka  
**7.1%** in SNCO

**7.4%** in Kansas  
**8.9%** in USA

\*Total Civilian Non-institutionalized  
Population





**i[ncluded]** hosted Racism 101 in August via zoom. Over 50 attendees participated in the online presentation and conversation facilitated by Kathleen Marker, YWCA CEO and Marty Hillard, community activist and YWCA Advocacy committee member. Together we explored the four levels of racism, how they stand alone, and how they interact with each other.

# WASHBURN TECH JEDO SCHOLARSHIPS

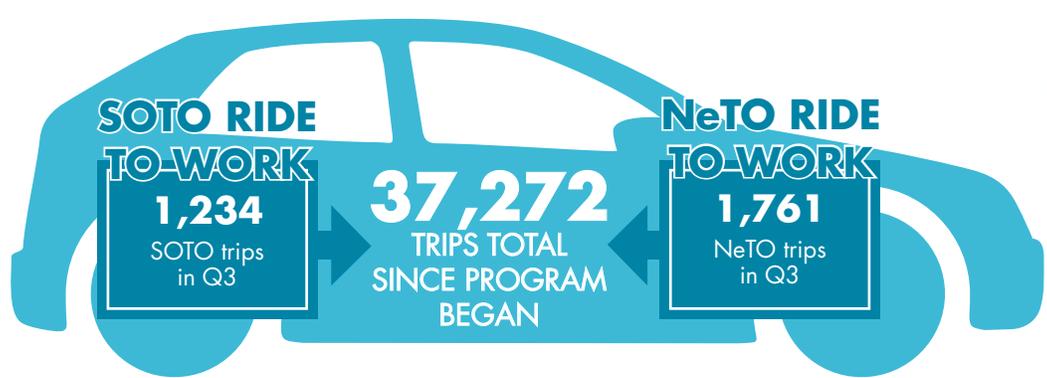
FALL SEMESTER, 2020



**38**  
Students Assisted



**\$18,300**  
in Scholarships Awarded



**CaRE PROGRAM** 413  
extended waived fares due to pandemic  
CaRE bus passes used program to date

17  
CaRE bus passes used YTD



# CHOOSE TOPEKA RELOCATION INCENTIVE

**4,200+**  
Submissions YTD  
with resumes or questions

**30**  
Remote worker submissions to date  
reviews begin in 4th QTR

**1,800+**  
Calls YTD  
(from candidates & employers)

**\$141,250**  
in Matching JEDO funds YTD

## REMOTE WORK OPTION OF UP TO \$10K TO MOVE TO THE CAPITAL

The Choose Topeka Relocation Initiative, which would allow candidates working remotely to receive an incentive up to \$10,000 to move to Topeka/Shawnee County. The official approval for this initiative came at the Joint Economic Development Organization's (JEDO) September 9, 2020 meeting.

Based upon verified salary, potential candidates for this initiative may receive up to \$10,000 for a home purchase or rehab; and up to \$5,000 toward a minimum one-year lease, both for primary residence only. Funding comes from current allocations for the traditional relocation program approved in December 2019 and is an added remote worker option. Guidance within the remote option still includes documentation verifying proof of prior residency, rental or agreement/home purchase and proof of salary/benefits package, in addition to including guidance for remote workers with a limit of one relocation incentive per household, a minimum three-month waiting period for incentive, and the employer providing remote employment must be located outside of Shawnee County.

"Topeka is only one of a few cities in the entire country to offer this type of incentive to relocate remote workers. I think this alone shows how local organizations like GO Topeka work to activate new talent and promote the Topeka & Shawnee County community," said Dan Foltz, GO Topeka Board chair. "Communities, such as ours, that invest in talent ultimately reap the benefits of a robust and specialized workforce as well as a stronger, more intentional community."

"To those remote workers looking at this program with interest, let me be the first to say we're happy to welcome you to our vibrant, growing community and we're excited to provide you with the resources to help you start your best life here in Topeka," said Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla.

Those interested in the Choose Topeka Relocation Initiative should email [ChooseTopeka@TopekaPartnership.com](mailto:ChooseTopeka@TopekaPartnership.com) for more information. To learn more about the Choose Topeka talent recruitment initiative, visit [ChooseTopeka.com](http://ChooseTopeka.com).

To remain cautious, Forge continued to offer all Q3 events either virtually or outdoors, where social distancing guidelines could be adhered to. However, this did not slow down the young talent here in Topeka! Herds have gotten creative in their approach to continue providing exciting events, meaningful initiatives, and informational content for the Forge demographic.

## FORGE MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Forge hosted its first ever movie event at the beautiful new Evergy Plaza downtown! Several Forge herds joined forces to provide the community with a free showing of Akeelah and the Bee on the impressive 60-foot screen. Donations were accepted and delivered to the YWCA's Center for Safety & Empowerment.



Forge members made a presence at the 2020 United Way Day of Caring event here in Topeka. Inspire Herd volunteers joined hundreds of others to help pack BackSnacks for the upcoming school year at Harvesters. This initiative provides a weekly backpack filled with nutritious child-friendly food for schoolchildren to take home over weekends.



## HEALTH MATTERS

All September long, Forge provided free, virtual yoga classes for members. Registration was as easy as a few clicks, and attendees were sent a zoom link to the yoga session(s) of their choice. Those who participated were able to exercise both their body and mind, from the comfort and safety of their own home.

The Health Herd also did a social media campaign for National Mental Illness Awareness Week and partnered with Valeo Behavioral Health Care to spotlight the importance of mental health and advocacy. This campaign reached nearly 2,000 people on Facebook alone and provided resources and tips each day of the week.

## FORGING TOPEKA LEADERS

Forge is proud to have worked with Scott Human Resources on an inaugural Leadership 101 Academy. This four-part virtual leadership series taught principles and overarching themes based on the course's reading material: How Successful People Think, by John Maxwell.

All participants had the opportunity to earn a Certificate of Leadership from Scott Academy after successfully completing the Leadership 101 series. Due to the fantastic turnout for this course, the Leadership Herd has plans to offer a second-annual Leadership 102 Academy in 2021.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## NOVEMBER

- 5 Shawnee County Business Continuity Program Replay
- 12 Economic Outlook Conference
- 19 Small Business Council Roundtables
- 28 Small Business Saturday

## DECEMBER

- 4 Miracle on Kansas Ave.
- 9 JEDO Meeting

## JANUARY

- 11 Welcome Legislators Meeting

## FEBRUARY



# 2020 GO TOPEKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dan Foltz	Chair
Robert Kenagy	Chair Elect
Kurt Kuta	Immediate Past Chair
Marsha Pope	Secretary
Scott Anderson	Treasurer
Treena Mason	Non-Officer Member
Martha Piland	Non-Officer Member
Stephen Wade	Non-Officer Member

## ELECTED DIRECTORS (TERM EXPIRING 2022)

Scott Anderson  
Steve Anderson  
Robert Kenagy  
Martha Piland  
Marsha Pope  
Marvin Spees  
Renita Harris  
Abbey Frye

## ELECTED DIRECTORS (TERM EXPIRING 2020)

Doug Wolff  
Andrea Engstrom  
Allen Moore  
Dan Foltz  
Stephen Wade  
Daina Williams  
Tammy Dishman

## DIRECTORS APPOINTED AT-LARGE

Kurt Kuta  
Madan Rattan  
Shane Hillmer  
Jeff Russell  
Cassandra Taylor  
Jacob Wamego  
Diana Ramirez  
Calla Haggard

## ELECTED DIRECTORS (TERM EXPIRING 2021)

Don Beatty  
Linda Briden  
Wade Jueneman  
Jim Klausman  
Treena Mason  
Terry Bassham  
Shane Sommars  
Kevin Hahn

## DIRECTORS BY VIRTUE OF POSITION HELD

Mayor Michelle De La Isla  
County Commissioner Aaron Mays  
Council Member Mike Padilla  
Eric Johnson, MTAA  
Brent Trout, City Manager  
Dr. Jerry Farley, Washburn University  
Delmar White





A Greater Topeka Partnership Organization



Prepared for JEDO  
Joint Economic Development Organization