



**JEDO**  
**Quarterly Report**  

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**2024 Q3**

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# New 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 29 active projects in various industry sectors: 12 advanced manufacturing, five aviation and aerospace, three data center, nine food/logistics/office.

**29** NEW ACTIVE PROJECTS



Manufacturing

**12**



Aviation & Aerospace

**5**



Data Center/Tech

**3**



Food/Logistics/Office

**9**

## Site Visits

YTD GO Topeka has hosted 4 site visits for companies that reviewed the RFP's submitted for their projects and determined the location worthy of getting boots on the ground. Topeka and Shawnee County still remain short-listed for those projects and one has even moved forward with NDAs and an LOI to start doing feasibility tests to determine viability of the property. We are hopeful that the projects will continue to move forward.

## New Business · Retention & Expansion · Small Business · Women & Minority · Choose Topeka YTD as of 6/30/24

<b>178</b> New Projects	<b>105</b> Completed Projects	<b>59</b> Active Projects
<b>590</b> New Jobs	<b>1228</b> Retained Jobs	<b>765</b> Training Investment (number of people impacted)
<b>289</b> Outreach/Assisted (number of companies/ individuals)	<b>\$138,260,889</b> Capital Investment	



# Business Retention and Attraction

## Approvals

- Project Finish Line & Project Brick  
Total Capital Investment = \$57M
- New Jobs = 313
- Economic Impact over 10 years = \$1.2B
- Companies will be announced at the next JEDO meeting on December 11th.

## Totals From PTMW & Moore >

- Capital Investment = \$78.2M
- New Jobs = 242
- Economic Impact over 10 years = \$1.5B

## PTMW Grows in Topeka

Previously referred to as “Project Queen Bee,” the expansion is expected to result in 182 new jobs, with salaries ranging from \$80,000 to \$120,000. PTMW is expected to make a capital investment of \$47.2 million in the project and has a projected local economic impact of \$1.3 billion over 10 years, the expansion is expected to result in a 1,782% return on investment for the community.

PTMW, Inc. is a service company providing original equipment manufacturing solutions and products. Primarily, PTMW, Inc. provides prefabricated metal enclosures for use in critical infrastructure systems including rail and transit, power delivery and generation, data center, and energy storage. They are centrally located in Topeka with an 825,000 square foot manufacturing space and more than 350 team members. They are a Women’s Business Enterprise recognized throughout North American, certified by KDOC and the national WBENC.

## Moore Digital Expands in Shawnee County

Southwest Publishing & Mailing, a long-standing Topeka-based business, which has been providing printing services and direct mail production to customers for more than 50 years, has rebranded its local facility as Moore Digital Print & Mail Center – Topeka. Previously referred to as “Project Oriole,” the expansion is expected to result in 60 new jobs, with Moore planning to make a capital investment of \$31 million in the project. With a projected local economic impact of \$240 million over 10 years, the expansion is expected to result in a 246% return on investment for the community.

Moore is a data-driven constituent experience management (CXM) company that accelerates growth for its customers by delivering integrated supporter experiences across all platforms, channels, and devices. Moore leverages its technological strength and unparalleled industry expertise to provide a full platform of communications, data, digital, media, production, and response management solutions.



# Innovation & Entrepreneurship

## Governor's Kansas Ag Summit

The Governor's Ag Summit was held at the K-State Alumni Center on August 21st with representatives from GO Topeka and Plug and Play in attendance. This year's summit focused on Global Markets and International Trade with the Under Secretary of Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs, Alexis M. Taylor as the featured speaker in the morning. Panel discussions were also held on Crops, Agricultural Business and Animal Agriculture with panelists representing organizations and counties from throughout the state.



## Animal Health Corridor Summit

Boundless, was the theme for this year's Animal Health Corridor Summit which was held at the Midland Theater in Kansas City on August 26th and 27th. The Summit features 1:1 Business Partnering meetings, presentations on trends from Industry leaders, Emerging Company presentations/pitches and sessions on what entrepreneurs need to know about inventing, angel investors and Do's and Dont's from the investors viewpoint. Stephanie Moran, SVP of Innovation was in attendance along with our Plug and Play partners and other community leaders.

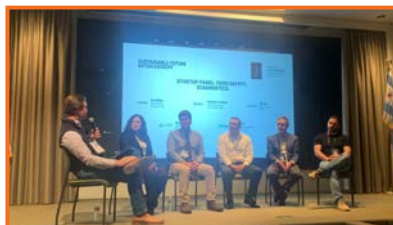
## BioKansas Innovation Festival

BioKansas held its Innovation Festival in Kansas City on August 16th. The event featured a STEAM Gallery with cutting edge research posters from regional students and technology inspired art from local artists. The event also featured a variety of panel discussions related to the BioSciences, NSF Engines and Tech Hubs, Innovation in Agriculture and an Economic Development Panel discussing entrepreneurial and innovation strategies for economic prosperity. Representatives from Manhattan, Lawrence, Department of Commerce and Gener8tor and Stephanie Moran, SVP of Innovation for GO Topeka comprised the panel.



## Plug and Play Batch Kickoff

Plug and Play's Sustainable Future Pod held it's Batch Kickoff in Chicago on September 17th. This included startups in Ag Tech, Animal Health, Food & Beverage and New Materials and Packaging. The startups participated in lightning panels which were grouped by technology focus areas to help the audience get to know our founders and their tech. This format was well received by the corporate partners and funders as a great format for introducing startups. Between sessions and after the event, audience members had a chance to network with the startups as well as the representatives on the corporate panel. Our Animal Health and Ag Tech cohorts feature 25 startups from 8 different states and 9 countries including Canada, Switzerland, Spain, Argentina, Australia, Germany, Israel and Portugal.



# Equity and Opportunity

## Resource Partner Group

The Resource Partner Group met again this quarter and together we went over the SourceFinder Navigator, which is a resource “map” that will guide entrepreneurs through the process of finding resources that can help them in their journey. We also brainstormed ways that we can collaborate more effectively. This group is also looking forward to the upcoming Entrepreneur Empowerment Fair in November.

## Washburn University Pitch Contest

Israel Sanchez also attended Washburn University’s Pitch Competition. The event was a great success with over 100 students competing, which is a record number of participants. Finalists will compete for \$25,000 in prize money on November 7th. The student entrepreneurs had many wonderful and innovative ideas, cementing the aspirational notion that the future is bright and in good hands.

## US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Conference

Israel Sanchez attended this year’s United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce conference, which was hosted in Kansas City. Each year, the National Conference attendees engage in policy-driven interactive discussions with America’s business trailblazers, members of Congress, and other partners. The focus this year was, “Game on: The Health, Economics and Trajectory of Hispanic Business.”

## Kansas Inclusion Summit

This year’s Kansas Inclusion Summit was a success. It featured inspiring keynote speakers, engaging breakout sessions, an interactive townhall, and ample networking opportunities. The keynote speakers were Tamara Ghandour and Eric Ellis. Ghandour’s presentation was titled “Unlocking Human Capital: Innovate & Win Together.” Ellis’ presentation was titled “7 Proven Methods of Overcoming DEI Opposition.” Attendees left the event with glowing reviews of both presentations and were particularly impressed with how practical Mr. Ellis’ keynote was in their daily lives and professional settings.



# Small Business Incentive Program

## Incentive Types

**Construction**

**20**

**Marketing**

**15**

**Architecture  
& Design**

**6**

**Equipment**

**35**

**Proof of Concept**

**1**

**Professional  
Services**

**4**

**Global Markets**

**1**

PREAPPROVAL  
2024

**82**

Incentives  
Totaling

**\$434,310**

LIFE OF PROGRAM

**758**

Incentives  
Totaling

**\$3,360,782**

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

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPLICATIONS IN PROCESS

**16**

Minority Owned

**28**

Women Owned

**0**

Veteran Owned

**0**

Disabled Owned

**0**

SBA 8(a)- Certified





# Small Business

## Fall Women's Forum

The recent Women's Forum, themed "Investing in Her," was a resounding success, bringing together women from various career stages to focus on growth, resilience, and adaptability. Bobbi Smith from Envista kicked off the event with an engaging session on overcoming life's obstacles and navigating tough career questions, offering attendees practical insights and interactive discussions. Kelly Sievers from Women's Capital Connection followed with a powerful session on investing in women, guiding participants through identifying their talents and passions and aligning them with career opportunities. The event concluded with an inspiring panel discussion, featuring diverse women leaders who shared their unique career journeys, providing valuable perspectives for all attendees. It was a fantastic opportunity for connection, learning, and empowerment! Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Envista Credit Union.



## Small Business Council Chair for 2025

We are excited to introduce Amanda Lewis Thompson as the 2025 Chair of the Small Business Council. As the President and Owner of Coldwell Banker American Home, Amanda brings a wealth of experience and leadership to this role. Having actively served on various committees and task forces, she is passionate about supporting the Topeka small business community. Amanda looks forward to contributing her expertise and energy to fostering growth and success for local businesses throughout her term.

## Small Business Council Training Series

The recent Small Business Council training, Building Business Value: Strategies for Growth and Transition, led by Stephanie Willis, was an invaluable session for our local business community. As an Advanced Certified Exit Planner and Certified Growth Advisor, Stephanie Willis shared her expertise on business strategy, development, and financial planning, drawing from both her corporate leadership experience and personal success as a business owner. Participants gained valuable insights into building value and wealth, with a focus on practical strategies for growth and transition. Her passion for helping small business owners thrive was evident, and we are grateful for her impactful contribution to this event.

Our next Small Business Council Training will take place on and will be led by Juliet Abdel, President of the Greater Topeka Partnership Chamber. "Legislative Outlook: Key Issues for Small Businesses." This session will provide insights for the local business community. She will discuss upcoming legislative session and focus on the key issues affecting small businesses and how they can navigate the evolving landscape. She will also recap the latest election results, analyze their impact at local, regional, and national levels.

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SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL TRAINING SERIES  
LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK  
**KEY ISSUES FOR  
SMALL BUSINESS**

DEC 12th 9-10AM  
Greater Topeka Partnership  
St. Francis Community Room  
719 S. Kansas Ave. Topeka, KS 66603  
REGISTER AT [QRCO.DE/SBCCOCT10](https://qrc0.de/sbccoct10)

JULIET ABDEL

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20  
25



# SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS



**Nominations  
open Nov. 1, 2024**



# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

**S**mall businesses are the heart of our city, driving innovation, creating jobs, and fostering a sense of community. They embody resilience, creativity, and the entrepreneurial spirit that makes our local economy thrive. By nominating a small business for the 2025 Small Business Awards, you're recognizing their hard work, dedication, and impact. Whether they've introduced groundbreaking solutions or brought people together through their services, your nomination can help shine a light on their achievements and inspire others. Let's celebrate the businesses that make our city unique and vibrant!



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# Forge Young Talent



## Forge On Boards

Forge officially launched a new program called Forge on Boards designed to pair young professionals with organizations interested in YP board members with the goal of growing YP representation on community boards. Forge also hosted a panel discussion for the program where interested YPs could learn what it takes to be a good board member, tips and tricks about getting the most out of board service, and how to find the right board to serve on.

## ForgeFest

Forge hosted another amazing rooftop party for their end of summer concert, ForgeFest. 150+ young professionals enjoyed amazing weather, great music, cold drinks, and tasty food all on a rooftop in downtown Topeka. This one-of-a-kind event is designed to provide an opportunity for young professionals and new Washburn students to experience Topeka like few get to and to showcase the vibrant nature of our community.

# Workforce & Talent

## 2024 Q3 Workforce Data

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

**98,420**  
TOPEKA

**138,728**  
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 2,283,213  
US 268,860,000

**Labor Force Participation**

**66,131**  
TOPEKA

**95,790**  
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 1,518,918  
US 168,559,000

**Employment**

**63,486**  
TOPEKA

**92,134**  
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 1,463,138  
US 161,521,333

**Jobs**

**85,588**  
TOPEKA

**99,927**  
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 1,419,561  
US 153,189,386

\*As of Q1. New update releases on Nov. 24

**Average Wages**

**\$58,037**  
TOPEKA

**\$58,025**  
SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS \$58,883  
US \$72,773

\*As of Q1. New update releases on Nov. 24

**Labor Force Participation Rate**

**67.19%** TOPEKA

**69.00%** SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 66.53%  
US 62.69%

**Employment-Population Ratio**

**64.51%** TOPEKA

**66.40%** SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 64.08%  
US 60.08%

**Unemployment Rate**

**4.0%** TOPEKA

**3.8%** SHAWNEE COUNTY

KS 3.7%  
US 4.2%

\*Total Civilian Non-institutionalized Population

# Choose Topeka 2.0 Relocation Incentive

# \$322,472

IN TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDS

\$282,472 EMPLOYER MATCH FUNDS

\$30,000 BOOMERANG FUNDS

\$10,000 TRANSITIONING SERVICEMEMBER FUNDS

# 76

APPROVED  
FAMILIES

# 39

RENTING

# 37

PURCHASED  
HOMES

# 20

# OF STATES  
MOVED FROM

# 68

EMPLOYER  
MATCHED

# 6

BOOMERANG

# 30

UNIQUE  
EMPLOYER  
SUBMITTALS

# 12,000+

PROFILES  
CREATED ON  
SKILLFIT

# 2

TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS

## ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

# \$85,649

TOTAL AVERAGE SALARY

\$95,196 EMPLOYER MATCH

\$76,103 BOOMERANG & MILITARY

# 16.3x

\$1,517,992

RETURN ON INVESTMENT  
IN YEAR 1

# 83.7x

\$7,816,782

RETURN ON INVESTMENT  
AFTER 5 YEARS

## \*INTERESTING FACT\*

Topeka is now a pilot community for the statewide boomerang talent attraction program launching this summer. We expect to see an increase in boomerangs moving back to Topeka.

## 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. In 2023 we secured the New York Post, Wall Street Journal, NBC News, Telemundo, Telemadrid, and more. This totals an earned media value of \$14M since 2019.





## Discovery Kindergarten Report

### Preparing Every Child for Success

Starting school is a significant milestone, and in Shawnee County, many children face this challenge without the benefit of formal preschool education. To address this gap and support the community's goal of ensuring every child is ready for school by age five, the Kansas Children's Discovery Center provides a comprehensive program for incoming kindergarten students and their caregivers at no cost to the families. Thanks to the generous and ongoing support of the Greater Topeka Partnership, young learners in Topeka and Shawnee County are now better equipped to begin their educational journey with confidence.

### Comprehensive School Readiness: One-Stop Sessions for Maximum Impact

This year, we took our school readiness efforts to the next level by combining our Kindergarten Fair with the Camp Kindergarten sessions, creating a single, all-encompassing event. With the help of our community partners—including the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Kansas Ballet Academy, USD 345, USD 450, USD 437, USD 501, and the Lions Club—families had the opportunity to explore the Discovery Center and access all the tools and resources needed for a successful start to kindergarten. The Topeka Shawnee County Public Library even provided each participating family with a copy of "Kindergarten Here I Come," ensuring that every child had the tools to succeed.



### Program Highlights

- **Simulated Classroom:** Each session featured a classroom setup with picture books, personalized name tags, and decor, creating a welcoming environment led by real kindergarten teachers who engaged with children and caregivers throughout the process. Children participated in circle time, calendar lessons, story time and more!
- **Activity Stations:** Children developed motor skills and creativity through activities such as zipping, buttoning, sculpting, sensory alphabet-letter searches, and pattern-making.
- **Kansas Ballet Academy:** Representatives attended every session, leading movement and dancing activities, allowing the families to learn about the development of gross motor skills.
- **Kindergarten Information:** Families received a "swag bag" filled with valuable information about kindergarten readiness, skills development and community resources for families and entering kindergarteners.



- **School Bus Practice:** A school bus was on-site at each session, allowing children to practice boarding and exiting safely.
- **Free Vision Screenings:** Vision screenings were offered to all participants at no cost.
- **Exhibit Access:** Guests had access to the Kansas Children's Discovery Center exhibits, enhancing the educational and fun aspects of the experience.

### Zip Code

Starting school is a significant milestone, especially for many children in Shawnee County who may not have had the benefit of formal preschool education. This year, we are particularly proud of the incredible diversity represented in our program, with families joining us from 22 different zip codes. From the heart of Topeka's 66614 and 66604 areas, which contribute 21 and 18 children respectively, to smaller communities like 66542 and 66618, each bringing 2 and 10 children, this wide-ranging participation reflects the program's success in reaching young learners across our region. By uniting these diverse communities, we are helping ensure that every child in Topeka and Shawnee County is ready to begin their educational journey with confidence. The full breakdown is shown below.

### Impact & Community Response

Last year we had over 120 registrations over the four sessions. This year did show growth with over 130 registrations across the five sessions. With the help of 51 dedicated volunteers, we welcomed 133 children and caregivers who experienced the Discovery Kindergarten program. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. One parent shared, "I loved that there were actual kindergarten teachers there so kids and adults could ask questions. I also enjoyed the mock classroom so students could see what it would be like in actual kindergarten." Another caregiver noted how the experience has become a vital tool in preparing their child, saying, "We can use his experience to talk about kindergarten in preparation for the big day. For example, 'Remember when you sat on the carpet square?' 'Show me how you stand/walk in line.'"

We are excited to see these young learners take the next step in their educational journey. The skills and experiences they gained during this program have set them on the path to success, and we look forward to seeing them thrive as they begin kindergarten soon!



As we look forward to the future, we are filled with pride and anticipation for the success of these young learners. The skills and experiences gained through the Discovery Kindergarten program have helped to ensure kids are well-prepared to thrive in their first year of school. This program's impact extends beyond the children; it strengthens our entire community by bringing families together, fostering confidence, and laying the groundwork for lifelong learning.

We extend our deepest gratitude for your generous and ongoing support, which has made this essential initiative possible. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for every child in Shawnee County, one step at a time.

# In The News

## TRINA GOSS

We are incredibly proud of our very own Trina Goss for her remarkable achievements! Recently, Trina graduated from the prestigious Oklahoma University Economic Development Institute, a premier program that shapes leaders in economic development. Adding to her accomplishments, Trina was honored with the Outstanding Service Award from KansasWorks through the Kansas Department of Commerce. Her dedication and hard work are inspiring, and we celebrate her contributions and success!



Trina Goss received the Outstanding Service Award from KansasWorks through the Kansas Department of Commerce. This was given to one person from each of the five workforce boards service areas across Kansas for the contributions they make to their local board. Our board is Heartland Works, which serves a 17 county region implementing workforce programs authorized through the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Trina Goss Graduated from Oklahoma University Economic Development Institute. OU Economic Development Institute (EDI) is the premier economic development program in the nation, with more than 50 years of experience providing professional economic developers with up-to-date knowledge and tools necessary to succeed in today's constantly-changing environment.

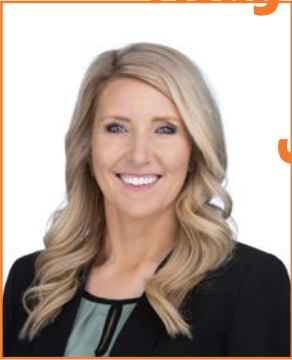




# GO Topeka Staff

**Molly**

**Howey**



President,  
GO Topeka

**Stephanie**

**Moran**



SVP  
of Innovation

**Trina**

**Goss**



Director, Business &  
Talent Initiatives

**Rhett**

**Flood**



Executive Director of  
Forge Young Talent

**Ashley**

**Lehman**



Director of Business  
Development

**Israel**

**Sanchez**



Director of Equity &  
Business Development

**Stephanie**

**Norwood**



Director of  
Entrepreneurship  
& Small Business

**Erin**

**Young**



Marketing  
Project Manager

**Manuel**

**Castro**



Executive  
Coordinator

**Michelle**

**DeWeese**



Executive  
Coordinator

**Matt**

**Pivarnik**



CEO, Greater Topeka  
Partnership





HERE.  
GREAT  
GROWS  
SMO

**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](http://GoTopeka.com)**



# 2024 Go Topeka Board of Directors

## Elected Directors

Scott Hunsicker	Kansas Financial Resources
Chris Faulk	McElroy Electric, Inc.
Jim Klausman	Midwest Health
Cassandra Taylor	HTK Architects
Jacob Wamego	Prairie Band, LLC
Doug Wolff	Security Benefit
Jeff Martin	Evergy
Paul Bossert	Premier Staffing
Martha Piland	MB Piland
Sara Girard	Central National Bank
Manny Herron	Haus Property Partners
Dr. Rob Kenagy	Stormont Vail Health
Kevin Rake	HME, Inc.
Travis Morris	Summit Materials
Troy Simoneau	Kansas Gas Service
Dr. Sam Al-Murrani	Bimini
Daina Williams	L&J Building Maintenance
Scott Campbell	The University of Kansas Health System St. Francis
Kurt Kuta	CoreFirst Bank & Trust
Shane Hillmer	Southwest Publishing
Calla Haggard	Community Bank
Joe Caldwell	Bartlett & West
Tammy Dishman	Capitol Federal

## Directors Appointed at Large

Michael Odupitan	Omni Circle
Dr. Kevin Hahn	Tri-Source Pharma
Linessa Frazier	American Century Investments
Marvin Spees	Capital City Oil
Neal Spencer	Ernest-Spencer
Ashley Bettis	PTMW, Inc
Joe Hishmeh	Fellowship Bible Church

## Directors By Virtue of Position Held

Michael Padilla	City of Topeka, Mayor
Kevin Cook	Shawnee County Commissioner
Rich Eckert	Shawnee County Counselor
Neil Dobler	City Council Member
Curtis Sneden	MTAA
Marshall Meek	Washburn University
Richard Nienstedt	City of Topeka, City Manager
Lt. Col. Chris Hill	190th Refueling Wing



# go topeka

A Greater Topeka Partnership Organization

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



Accredited Economic Development Organization



Prepared for JEDO  
Joint Economic Development Organization