



JEDO
Quarterly Report
—
2025 Q4

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2025 GO Topeka Board of Directors



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Small Business



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GO Topeka
Staff



New Business Attraction

Existing Business:

At the December JEDO meeting, two projects were approved:

- PROJECT TEAM
 - Capital Investment of \$20.5M
 - ROI 30%
 - Economic Impact of \$30.9M over 10 years

- PROJECT VULCAN
 - \$1.6M in capital investment
 - ROI 415%
 - Economic Impact of \$71M over 10 years

21

NEW ACTIVE PROJECTS



Adv. Manufacturing

7



Aviation & Aerospace

2



Data Center/Tech

8



Other

4

New Business · Retention & Expansion Small Business · Economic Mobility Choose Topeka Q4 2025

As of 12/31/25

184 New Projects	54 Completed Projects	130 Active Projects
169 New Jobs	646 Retained Jobs	1069 Training Investment (number of people impacted)
377 Outreach/Assisted (number of companies/ individuals)	\$99,292,712 Capital Investment	



Innovation & Entrepreneurship

WWW.LINKTOPEKA.COM

YOU'RE INVITED

go topeka **link** innovation labs

RIBBON CUTTING

FEBRUARY 9, 2026
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
220 SE 6TH ST

LINK YOUR VISION BUILD YOUR FUTURE LAUNCH YOUR SUCCESS

The graphic also includes three small images showing the interior of the Link Innovation Labs facility, including a meeting room, a common area, and a kitchen area.

Link Innovation Labs Ribbon Cutting

Link Innovation Labs is in its final stages of construction and preparing to open as Topeka's newest hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration. This \$15 million, 17,000-square-foot facility will offer flexible lab and office space, coworking areas, conference rooms, and a dedicated pitch and event space in the heart of Topeka's Innovation District. Leasing and sponsorship efforts are underway as interest continues to grow among startups, researchers, and industry partners. The official ribbon cutting is scheduled for February 9, 2026, marking a major milestone in strengthening Topeka's innovation ecosystem and supporting future business growth.



Small Business Incentive Program

Incentive Types

Construction

22

Marketing

27

Architecture & Design

7

Equipment

39

Proof of Concept

0

Professional Services

1

Global Markets

0

Autumn Window Approvals

The Autumn 2025 window closed with 30 incentives awarded to 18 companies, totaling \$152,825 in reimbursements. These projects represent an estimated \$740k+ capital investment into our local economy.

PREAPPROVAL
2025

98

INCENTIVES
TOTALING

\$606,575

LIFE OF PROGRAM

881

INCENTIVES
TOTALING

\$4,146,257

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

DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPLICATIONS IN PROCESS

19

Minority Owned

29

Women Owned

6

Veteran Owned

2

Disabled Owned

0

SBA 8(a)- Certified



Small Business

Suscess Strategy Rountables

- o Discussing Imposter Syndrome – With Fatima Perez-Luthi of The Grind Coaching & Consulting

Attendees engaged in open dialogue, gaining reassurance from shared experiences and relatable stories of overcoming self-doubt. The discussion equipped participants with practical tools to reframe negative self-talk, embrace their strengths, and approach entrepreneurship with renewed confidence.

SBC Insights Training

- o SBC Insights Training: Building a Positive Work Culture with Desiree LaForge of Mize CPAs

Participants left with actionable steps to immediately implement within their organizations, from refining onboarding processes to enhancing employee engagement initiatives. The session reinforced that intentional leadership, paired with clear communication and consistent follow-through, directly contributes to higher morale and long-term workplace success.

- o Sales Tax for Retail and Construction

In partnership with the Kansas Department of Revenue, this workshop demystified sales and use tax for retail and construction industries. Separate trainings offered in-depth knowledge and support on evolving tax laws and procedures. Participants appreciated the direct access to KDOR staff and the opportunity for Q&A.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the discussion. As workplaces continue to evolve, these insights will help businesses create stronger, more connected teams. Find out next training session and other events here!

Shawnee County Youth Pitch Contest

In early December, we had the incredible opportunity to watch and help judge the next generation of entrepreneurs shine at the Shawnee County eCommunity Youth Pitch Contest! Congratulations to all the winners who took home cash prizes and to every student who had the courage to stand up and pitch.

Economic Mobility

To date, \$486,525 has been awarded to local organizations and individuals.

Shop Small Campaign (Bags + Guide)

November kicked off our season of shopping small and supporting local with members of the Small Business Council traversing the city to drop off shop small bags ahead of the holiday shopping rush. We also issued our Shop Small Guide, giving a variety of local gift ideas tailored to womever you were shopping for. Gift guide can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/holidayguide25>

Washburn Pitch Contest

GO Topeka sponsored and assisted in judging the Washburn University Pitch Contest and awarded the top winners with cash prizes.

Congrats to Devin Fritzsich, winner of the 2025 Pitch Competition for his pitch on Beyond the Stone QR code memorial. Sydney Achilles took 2nd pnce for Tidy Ventures professional organizing. Sloan Stockton earned 3rd place with Air Grid drone marketplace. Annie Wright and Kinsley Johnson came in 4th with Night Owl Coffee truck. Jordy and Jordana De La Torre's Los Gemelotes Mexican street corn took 5th place.



Workforce & Talent

2025 Q4 Workforce Data

*Data includes the most recent data available for 2025

Total Working Age Population (16 YEARS AND OVER)	139,385 SHAWNEE COUNTY	2,315,399 KANSAS	272,855,229 UNITED STATES
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Labor Force Participation	91,693 SHAWNEE COUNTY	1,574,442 KANSAS	171,217,119 UNITED STATES
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Employment	88,108 SHAWNEE COUNTY	1,517,249 KANSAS	163,893,585 UNITED STATES
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Jobs	108,384 SHAWNEE COUNTY	1,634,376 KANSAS	174,436,325 UNITED STATES
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Average Wages	62,244 SHAWNEE COUNTY	60,788 KANSAS	74,672 UNITED STATES
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Labor Force Participation Rate

65.54% SHAWNEE COUNTY

68.00% KANSAS

62.80% UNITED STATES

Employment-Population Ratio

63.21% SHAWNEE COUNTY

65.52% KANSAS

60.06% UNITED STATES

Unemployment Rate

3.70% SHAWNEE COUNTY

3.60% KANSAS

4.30% UNITED STATES

*Total Civilian Non-institutionalized Population

Choose Topeka 2.0 Relocation Incentive

\$374,529

IN TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDS

\$324,529 EMPLOYER MATCH FUNDS

\$35,000 BOOMERANG FUNDS

\$15,000 TRANSITIONING SERVICEMEMBER FUNDS

Economic Impact Analysis

\$95,897

TOTAL AVERAGE SALARY

\$98,519 EMPLOYER MATCH

\$88,033 BOOMERANG & MILITARY

89

APPROVED
FAMILIES

46

RENTING

43

PURCHASED
HOMES

79

EMPLOYER
MATCHED

3

TRANSITIONING
SERVICE
MEMBERS

7

BOOMERANG

132%

RETURN ON INVESTMENT
AFTER 3 YEARS

\$42.8M

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT
AFTER 1 YEAR

38

UNIQUE
EMPLOYER
SUBMITTALS

23

OF STATES
MOVED FROM

14,000+

PROFILES
CREATED ON
SKILLFIT



Workforce & Talent

TopCity FAME Is Announced

GO Topeka is helping launch TopCity FAME (Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education), an employer-led workforce pathway designed to prepare students and adults for in-demand careers in advanced manufacturing. The program blends paid, hands-on work experience with classroom instruction through a partnership with Washburn University and Washburn Tech, allowing participants to earn a credential while building real-world skills aligned with employer needs. A community launch event is scheduled for February 3, 2026, where students, parents, career-changers, and community leaders can learn how the program works, meet participating employers, and explore how TopCity FAME strengthens the local workforce pipeline and supports long-term talent development in Topeka and Shawnee County.



Made for Manufacturing

National Manufacturing Day was on Oct 3 — a day to celebrate the critical role manufacturing plays not only in our local economy, but in driving innovation, progress, and prosperity across our country and around the world.

Here in Topeka, we marked the day with GO Topeka's Made for Manufacturing! Over 400 area high school students explored career pathways with local manufacturing companies, enjoyed lunch together, and learned about the launch of the TopCity FAME chapter and opportunities through Washburn Tech.

This event highlighted the power of manufacturing to shape futures and inspire the next generation of skilled professionals. Together, we're building awareness of just how essential manufacturing is — in Topeka, in Kansas, and across the globe.



GO Topeka Staff

Rhiannon

Friedman



President,
GO Topeka

Stephanie

Moran



SVP of Innovation

Trina

Goss



Director, Business &
Talent Initiatives

Rhett

Flood



Executive Director of
Forge Young Talent

Ashley

Lehman



VP of Business
Development

Stephanie

Norwood



VP of
Entrepreneurship
& Small Business

Manuel

Castro



Small Business
Resource Manager

Erin

Young



Sr. Marketing &
Communications
Account Manager

Analisa

Chavez-Munoz



Executive
Coordinator

Staff Updates

Analisa Chavez-Munoz was hired on as GO Topeka's Executive Coordinator

Manuel Castro was promoted to Small Business Resource Manager

Stephanie Norwood was promoted to VP of Entrepreneurship & Small Business

HERE. GREAT
SMOOTH
GROWS



GO Topeka leverages the community's unique strengths to foster county-wide economic growth opportunities for businesses and residents.

Great. Grows. Here.

Visit GoTopeka.com



2025 GO Topeka Board of Directors

Elected Directors

Neal Spencer	Ernest-Spencer Metal Fabrication
Joe Caldwell	Bartlett & West
Calla Haggard	Community Bank
Travis Morris	Summit Materials
Daina Williams	L&J Building Maintenance
Jeff Martin	Evergy
Sara Girard	Central National Bank
Martha Bartlett Piland	MB Piland Advertising & Marketing
Darin Stephens	Stone & Story Real Estate Group, LLC
Manny Herron	Haus Property Partners
Kevin Rake	HME, Inc.
Robert Kenagy	Stormont Vail Health
Troy Simoneau	Kansas Gas Service-A Division of ONE Gas Inc.
Sam Al-Murrani	LifeTech Sciences LLC
Scott Campbell	The University of Kansas Health System St. Francis
Kurt Kuta	CoreFirst Bank & Trust
Shane Hillmer	Southwest Publishing and Mailing Corp
Michelle Whitehead	Capitol Federal
Chris Faulk	McElroy Electric
Marvin Spees	Capital City Oil
Cassandra Taylor	HTK Architects
Jacob Wamego	Prairie Band, LLC
Sherry Hunsicker	S Hunsicker Investments
Josh Gorrell	Electronic Life

Directors Appointed at Large

Michael Odupitan	Omni Circle Group
Dan Chavez	Chavez Restoration & Cleaning
Ryan McMichael	Walmart Fulfillment Center
Dr. Kevin Hahn	Ardiah Group
Megan Bottenberg	Cox Communications
Joe Hishmeh	Fellowship Bible Church
Jim Klausman	Midwest Health
Dawn McWilliams	The Boys and Girls Club of Topeka

Directors By Virtue of Position Held

Michael Padilla	Mayor of Topeka
Kevin Cook	Shawnee County Commissioner
Aaron Mays	Shawnee County Commissioner
Rich Eckert	Shawnee County Counselor
Neil Dobler	City Council Member
Curtis Sneden	MTAA
Robert Perez	Topeka City Manager
Marshall Meek	Washburn University
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