

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 104 - NUMBER 4

MAY 2018



City - University Relations

**Economic Impact of Institutes
of Higher Education**

**E-Commerce and
Sales Tax Collection**



A Publication of The League of Kansas Municipalities



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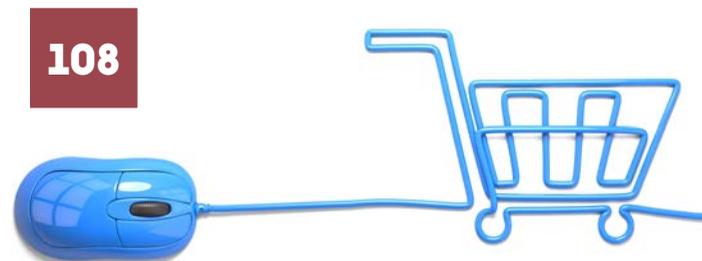
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Pittsburg's Block22 will open this fall and provide student housing, a business accelerator, and food/beverage options all within the heart of the downtown.

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

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The mission of the League shall be to strengthen and advocate for the interests of Kansas municipalities to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities.

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2018 League Events Calendar

MAY

May 6-12 Public Service Week
 May 15 Summer Fun: A Webinar for Cities to Prepare for Summer Activities and Legal Considerations

JUNE

June 8..... CAAK Spring CLE: Lenexa
 June 22 MTI: Personnel Management (Dodge City)
 June 29 MTI: Personnel Management (Emporia)

Visit www.lkm.org/events for MTI and Webinar registration.

Obituaries

David Nygaard, age 70, passed away in April at his home. He was a loved and dedicated father, husband, brother, son, uncle, and highly respected member of his community. David was born in Hastings, Nebraska. He spent his early years in Hastings; his family relocated to Newton in 1962, and David decided to make Newton his home. He always stated he was a “Newtonian by choice.” He graduated from Newton High School and received a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Education from Wichita State University.

David joined the Navy Reserves in 1965 and served in Vietnam. He also served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm on the *U.S.S. St. Louis*. He retired from the Navy as a Force Master Chief. David worked in banking for over 30 years.

David met LaVerna “Bernie” Ott and proposed to her two weeks later. They married in November 1970. They were in a car accident in June of 1971 which altered their path forever, leaving Bernie physically disabled for the remainder of her life. He spent their marriage caring and supporting her with as much normalcy as he could, considering the trying circumstance, while never losing sight of his adoration and love for her. They were married for almost 45 years when she passed away in September of 2015.

David spent over five decades of his life serving his community through various organizations including the Harvey County Bankers, Newton Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Harvey County, Newton Junior Chamber, USD 373 Board of Education, Newton Rotary Club, District 5690 Rotary International, Harvey County Historical Society, Newton Tourism Board, Jaycees, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Wichita State University Alumni Association, Masonic Lodge, Newton County Recreation Commission, and the United Church of Christ. He was elected to the Newton City Commission in 2015, serving as Mayor of Newton at the time of his passing.

David was a tireless community servant. He coached many of his daughter’s sports teams. He was noted for his delivery of thousands of popcorn balls and peppernuts to local businesses around Christmastime. In 1996, David was chosen to carry the Olympic Torch when the flame passed through Newton on its way to Atlanta for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Joe Nygaard, wife LaVerna, and granddaughter Sienna Daniels. Survivors include their two daughters, Nichole (Robert) Daniels of Topeka and Natalie (Cody) Iorger of Manhattan, and several grandchildren and extended family members.

Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius



Finally, I feel I can finally say that spring has arrived and is here to stay. At least, I felt I could say that during some part of my writing of this column. Who knows what tomorrow will bring!

The 2018 legislative session has come to a close, and legislators are returning to their districts to resume being “regular” citizens. We have had a few retirements announced from the House

of Representatives, and I would expect more as we get closer to the June 1 filing deadline. That said, 92 House incumbents have filed to run again so far.

K-12 education funding dominated the 2018 session. Local government was largely untouched, and when we were affected, many of the policy choices were driven by the League in a way that benefitted cities. We attained good results with respect to asset forfeiture, police body cameras, amusement park rides, and several other issues. Look for a complete wrap-up of the legislative session in our June issue.

I am continuously reminded of how important it is to have clear, consistent communication with residents. A few weeks ago, I was listening on the way to work about a challenging incident a (non-Kansas) city had with an off-duty employee making derogatory and threatening remarks to a child and his family at a restaurant. The employee was placed on paid leave, but was subsequently allowed back to work at an in-office job pending an investigation.

The allegations against this employee were significant. The reaction of many in the city was that the employee should be fired immediately. Among other communications, the city received a tweet to this effect. As you know, though, public institutions tend to have more thorough processes for such situations, in order to discourage the arbitrary dismissal of employees. At this juncture, the city had an opportunity to explain the process that had to be followed, as well as why public institutions’ processes tend to differ from the private sector. Instead, someone responded to this tweet in a snarky, demeaning way that alluded to the city having policies that had to be followed, but did not actually explain those policies to everyone.

You can go from (poor) communications to *crisis* communications in an instant. Some of these situations will be thrust upon you and your city hall – that is just the nature of most any organization. The response from the city in this instance, however, fanned the flames of frustration, as it was shared by a

radio station and spread far and wide. Your job is made easier, and your city’s reputation as being responsive, forthcoming, and respectful is maintained the less you shoot yourself in the foot!

Consistent communication — and open lines of communication — is equally important with your city’s business community and other organizations. In this month’s *Kansas Government Journal*, we take a look at the relationships between cities and higher education entities. Whether larger schools like Regents institutions, or smaller ones such as technical colleges or small, private colleges, these schools are significant parts of the cities in which they reside.

Fostering a strong, collaborative relationship can create significant, long-term benefits for the city. Not only are these schools large employers, their presence can attract other companies to the area, and a positive experience with the city can help keep graduates from those schools in those cities. Even if your city does not have a higher education entity, the lessons shared in this month’s magazine can apply to other relationships for your city.

I would like to make you aware of two people deserving of your attention this month. First, former Salina Mayor Karen Graves was honored by having the plaza outside of the Tony’s Pizza Events Center named after her. Ms. Graves was the first female mayor of Salina, and also served on both the League Governing Body and the board of the National League Cities. After being Mayor of Salina, she continued to remain very involved with the city. I was struck by the phrase attributed to Ms. Graves on the plaque

dedicating the plaza. I believe it is something we all can take to our cities: “Anything is possible for Salina if we reach consensus and have a plan of action.”

Another public servant deserving of our admiration is Randy Oliver, who just retired as city manager of Cheney. Randy served Cheney for 45 years, including being the city administrator since 2008! Randy has always been a friendly and engaged face at League conferences, policy committees, and other meetings. Enjoy retirement!

Both Karen and Randy were the epitome of public servants. Some are trailblazers, while others the steady, experienced hands. Both help cities provide services and meet the expectations of residents and businesses

Lastly, I hope all moms out there have a wonderful Mother’s Day, and that everyone with a mom (you know who you are!) properly celebrates them!

As always, please share any questions, concerns, or comments with me at esartorius@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

Consistent communication — and open lines of communication — is equally important with your city’s business community and other organizations.

Connecting Campus to Community

How Kansas Cities are Developing Relationships to Further Town-Gown Collaboration

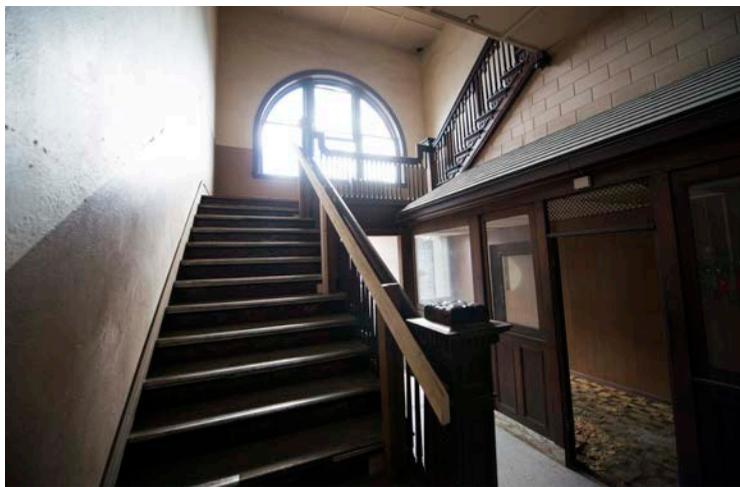
By Megan Gilliland, Communications and Education Manager,
League of Kansas Municipalities

Dozens of Kansas cities are home to an institution of higher education. Whether in the form of a state university, an independent college, a community college, or technical college, the advancement of educational pursuits impacts our residents, the local and state economy, and the vitality of our cities. In this edition of the *Kansas Government Journal*, we're focusing on city-university relations, also known as "town-gown" relations, and how Kansas cities interact, collaborate, and embrace the educational systems that operate within city limits.

According to the Kansas Board of Regents, 243,719 people are enrolled in higher education within the Regents' system at six state universities, one municipal university, 19 community colleges, and six technical colleges. The Kansas Independent College Association reports 25,246 students were enrolled at their 19 independent colleges and universities. Within the Regents' system, about 75% of the enrolled students are residents. For cities that are home to a college or university, this data tells us there is a large population of aspirational people pouring into communities each year. Cities should look for ways to partner with the university, engage with students, and create lasting relationships with faculty, students, and staff.

In the southeast Kansas city of Pittsburg, home of Pittsburg State University, the interest in creating connections between the University and community stakeholders is nearing a crescendo. This fall, Block22 will open in the heart of downtown Pittsburg. Block22 is the transformation, renovation, and re-imagining of four historic, mostly vacant properties in downtown Pittsburg. The four buildings once housed a drug store, mining offices, an opera house, and hotel. Once completed, Block22 will offer students, entrepreneurs, city residents, and businesses a "living-learning community" space where art, commerce, housing, and technology are infused into every square inch of this transformational development.

What makes Block22 vastly different is the inclusion of student housing in a downtown, historic environment. This public-



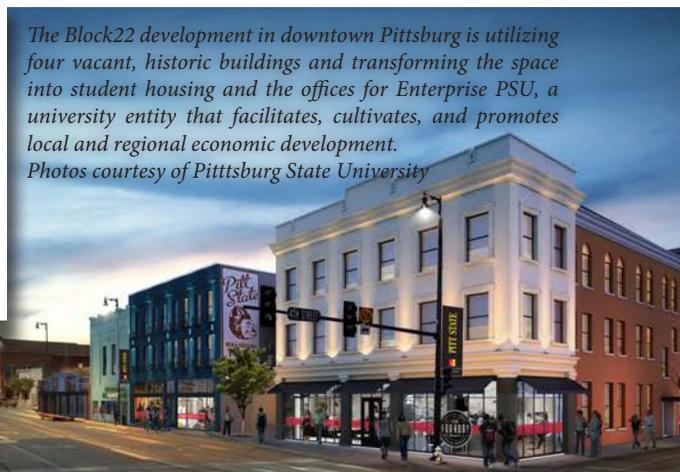
Block22's redevelopment team is making use of historic features, including large windows and architectural details. Photos courtesy of Pittsburg State University

private development includes 100 units of student housing in varying forms from flats to studio apartments. The unique living environment will be a significant recruitment tool for Pittsburg State University. When combined with 16,000 square-feet of innovation space, students will be able to explore their own entrepreneurial ventures. Block22 also boasts a robust co-working space and makerspace. Pittsburg State's Center for Innovation will relocate from campus to Block22 to foster regional small business development. A coffee house, student lounge, and a community meeting room are included in the design.

Block22 is funded through a public-private partnership between Pittsburg State University, the City of Pittsburg, and the Vecino Group, a development/housing specialist based in Springfield, Missouri. The City of Pittsburg has committed

\$1.5 million in funding from its Revolving Loan Fund, Pittsburg State University has committed \$1 million in fundraising and the Vecino Group has secured \$10.05 million in tax credits. The remaining balance of \$5.4 million will be in the form of a loan assumed by the Vecino Group and will be paid through a long-term lease agreement with Pittsburg State University.

"This is a project of the community and the citizens of Pittsburg," said Mat Burton, Principal of the Vincino Group. "We are very proud to be a part of it and we absolutely approach it with a spirit of community and stewardship."



The Block22 development in downtown Pittsburg is utilizing four vacant, historic buildings and transforming the space into student housing and the offices for Enterprise PSU, a university entity that facilitates, cultivates, and promotes local and regional economic development. Photos courtesy of Pittsburg State University

Burton is a Pittsburg State University graduate and grew up in Pittsburg.

The idea for Block22 came about after the city staff attended a Smart Growth America workshop. The collaborative approach which combines the city, university, and community stakeholders isn't new to Pittsburg – the City and University have worked hand-in-hand in many ways over the years, but the city-university relationship has evolved to a new level in the past few years. Together, this approach hopes to spur greater economic opportunity to attract new residents and keep students in Pittsburg after graduation.

“This isn't about any one individual succeeding,” said Shawn Naccarato, Chief Strategy Officer with Pittsburg State University. “This is about us as a community growing, building, and achieving; creating prosperity and opportunity for all.”

The university wants to offer students real-world experience in consulting and business development. The location of Block22 is key; the City offices and Chamber of Commerce offices are located just down the street.

“Our efforts with Block22 are about making connections for our students and the community,” said Sydney Anselmi, Director of Community Engagement at Pittsburg State University. “We offer professional staff services to entrepreneurs including marketing, business planning, and software development. By offering our services to the community, we hope when the business is ready they will launch their business in the Pittsburg community.”

The creation of a business incubator or organization to identify capital, technology transfer, and small business development has occurred at other university communities in Kansas. Incubators can further interest in research at the university as well as identify specialty areas for university staff, researchers and departments. At Pittsburg State, the Kansas Polymer Research Center is an internationally recognized center for chemistry and materials

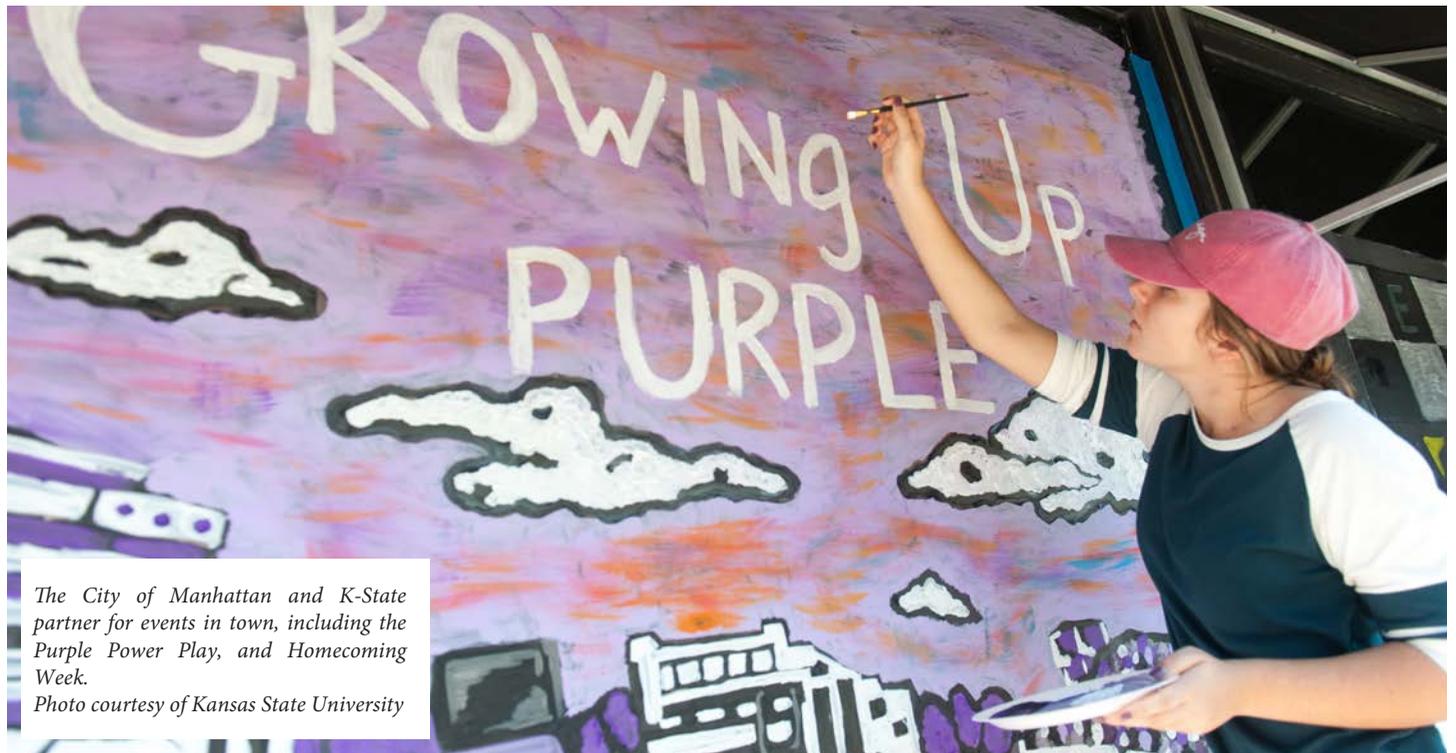


Instead of a traditional groundbreaking, Block22 had a “nail-driving” ceremony instead to launch the redevelopment efforts. Photo courtesy of Pittsburg State University

science with a specialization in vegetable oil-based polymer research and development. Incubators allow partners in industry, state and federal agencies, and producer associations to develop and commercialize university intellectual property.

In Lawrence at The University of Kansas, the Bioscience and Technology Business Center focuses on supporting the bioscience and technology industries in northeastern Kansas. At Wichita State University, the Innovation Campus is home to the National Institute for Aviation Research and is buzzing with public-private partnerships helping to grow the aviation industry and military technology.

At Kansas State University in Manhattan, there are multiple opportunities for commercialization and expansion of research in multiple fields including biosecurity, animal health, food systems, veterinary medicine, and technology. K-State's North Campus



The City of Manhattan and K-State partner for events in town, including the Purple Power Play, and Homecoming Week. Photo courtesy of Kansas State University

Corridor includes the north area of the Manhattan campus and involves City and University resources to enhance the area for future economic development. The corridor encompasses the University's Biosecurity Research Institute, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the K-State Office Park, the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, and numerous other buildings and organizations.

Kansas State University's Knowledge Based Economic Development, or KBED, program recently received the national Award of Excellence for Innovation. KBED was established in 2008 to align the City of Manhattan's strategy for economic development in a way that capitalizes on the University's research strengths and the area's growth opportunities.

Wichita State University is situated in the heart of Kansas' largest city and has always had a close relationship with the City. In fact, in 1963 when Wichita State University applied to become part of the Board of Regents' system, the Kansas Legislature required the City to pass a 1.5-mill property tax levy to join the Regents' system to fund University facilities and projects. Eighty-percent of City voters passed the mill levy. Today, the mill levy provides approximately \$8 million per year to fund University facilities, special projects, including \$4 million per year in scholarships to Sedgwick County residents.

"We have a really strong town-gown relationship," said Andy Schlapp, Executive Director of Operations for Wichita State University. "We work together with the City and County to develop ways to innovate, educate, and inspire the community and our students."

Wichita State's Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR) is one of the entities funded through the County's mill levy. This facility serves as a vital link between

the business and economic development community, Wichita State University, and the Barton School of Business. The CEDBR conducts high-quality, objective research on issues related to the region's current and future economic well-being.

In many cities with higher education, the university/college is the top employer. Schlapp commented one of the reasons Wichita State University is unique is that they are not the largest employer in the Wichita metropolitan area. Wichita State is the 13th largest employer in the metro area which provides many opportunities for students to learn from existing businesses and corporations.

"Kansas State University and the Manhattan community have made it a priority to work together and build trust with each other in planning the future of the university and the community," said Cindy Hollingsworth, Executive Director for K-State's News and Communications Service. "Leaders from both groups share information and address economic development opportunities, student and alumni experiences, quality of life, and student experiences within the community. The community also uses university expertise to help address challenges and concerns."

In 2018, *The Princeton Review* ranked Kansas State University number one for great town-gown relations in the 2018 edition of "The Best 382 Colleges." University and community leaders attend International Town and Gown Association events together and develop taskforce groups to work on ideas developed from the conferences. The university's student body president is also involved in the conference.

"Our taskforce groups address 'fun' aspects of community-University life as well as serious issues like drug and alcohol use," said Hollingsworth.

The Robotics and Automation Lab, part of the 3DEXPERIENCE Center at WSU's National Institute for Aviation Research, is home to a six-robot system designed to assist companies in revolutionizing manufacturing processes. Photo courtesy of Wichita State University



The City and University partner together for other events around town, including the Purple Power Play event and Kansas State University's Homecoming Week. These events are ways to bring students and the residents together and create a shared sense of community.

In western Kansas, Fort Hays State University has a strong partnership with Downtown Hays Development Corporation. Their annual March to Main event brings together students, local businesses, and community sponsors to welcome students back to the City in August as well as explore the retail shopping, dining, and downtown environment. A new public pavilion in downtown Hays will be dedicated this April. The project was coordinated by the Downtown Hays Development Corporation and utilized students from Fort Hays State University's Department of Applied Technology in the construction of the pavilion.

Emporia's downtown is thriving thanks to a partnership between public and private entities. The Black and Gold District was formed as part of a Community Initiative Development process about six years ago and has been a key component in redevelopment which has resulted in additional housing and

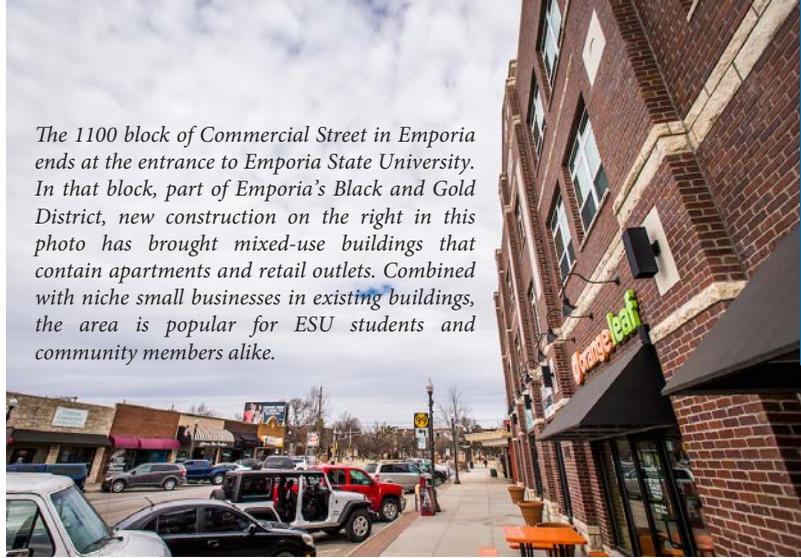


Photo courtesy Emporia State University

"From a service-provider perspective, we're able to use our resources better," said Robert Nugent, Transit Administrator for the City of Lawrence. "From a user perspective, everyone in our community has access to transit and it is very easy for people to access the services they need."

Transportation, specifically multi-modal transportation, is a big issue in Lawrence. Currently, the City and the University are working together to develop a pedestrian-bicycle tunnel under the Iowa and 19th Street intersection. This project will provide two tunnels under the roadway and is funded in part with KDOT grant funds and equal parts of funding from the city and university. Construction is anticipated to begin this summer and be completed in the fall.

"The project will connect an existing shared-use path on the west side of Iowa to a new shared use path on the north side of 19th Street," said David Cronin, City Engineer for the City of Lawrence. "This provides a safe crossing for Iowa Street, which has the highest traffic volume in Lawrence, and connects the main campus to west campus."

Access to recreational facilities for health and wellness is another area where Kansas cities have begun partnering with universities. In Lawrence, the City built Sports Pavilion Lawrence adjacent to Rock Chalk Park, The University of Kansas' track-and-field, soccer, and softball stadium. Sports Pavilion Lawrence is a 181,000-square-foot recreation center which includes eight full-court gyms, an indoor turf field, walking track, and fitness

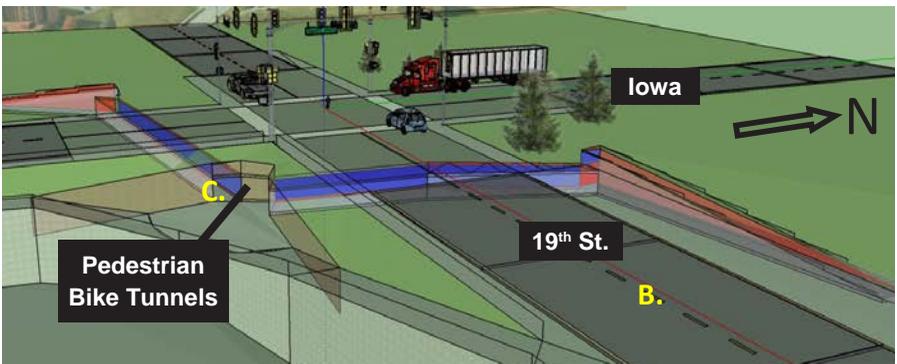
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In Hays, local businesses and the community welcome students back with the annual March to Main event. Photo courtesy of Fort Hays State University

retail opportunities. Through the planning process, several inappropriate land and building uses close to the Emporia State University campus were identified. A local Emporia State University alumnus stepped up to address housing issues in the downtown area and has created several housing and commercial development options just steps from the campus. Between \$10 and \$12 million has been invested in the Black and Gold District, transforming the area into a place where people live, work, and play. Additionally, infrastructure improvements by the City of Emporia have allowed businesses to expand and thrive in the downtown area.

In Lawrence, the City and University of Kansas have operated a coordinated transit system since 2009. As a result of coordination, the overall system has seen combined annual ridership totals reach three million riders consistently for the past few years.



The City of Lawrence and University of Kansas are working together to build a tunnel for bicycle-pedestrian traffic under the busy intersection at 19th and Iowa Streets. Photo courtesy of City of Lawrence.



League Policy Committees Are Now Forming

What is a Policy Committee?

.....

League Policy Committees help to establish the policies that guide the organization's legislative efforts. See below for a detailed description of each committee.

Who Can Join?

.....

Any current city official is eligible to serve on policy committees.

When do Policy Committees Meet?

.....

Policy Committees meet three times annually; August, October in conjunction with the Annual Conference, and January as part of Local Government Day.

2018 Dates

.....

Exact dates for 2018 Policy Committee meetings will be announced this summer.

Utilities & Environment

This committee reviews and recommends League positions on water supply, water quality, water planning, solid waste, air quality, other environmental quality issues, franchise authority, and infrastructure.

Public Officers & Employees

This committee reviews and recommends League positions dealing with a range of employment matters, including KPERS, wage and hour laws, unions, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, etc. This committee also handles League positions relating to public officials, including ethics, elections, and other requirements of holding public office.

Finance & Taxation

This committee reviews and recommends League positions on finance & taxation issues, including local option taxes, property tax lid, tax exemptions, motor vehicle tax, franchise fees, etc.

Legislative Policy

This committee reviews and recommends League positions in all other policy areas and provides general oversight of the policy statement.

Sign up Today!

www.lkm.org/legislative/policycommittees/

Need More Information Call (785) 354-9565

Legal Forum

The World-Wide Tax Loophole

By Matthew R. Bingesser, extern for the League of Kansas Municipalities

The age of the internet is doing more than just broadening our access to information. The worldwide trend toward e-commerce and away from the traditional brick-and-mortar retail stores is impacting the tax collection capabilities of state and local governments. The internet sales tax loophole, a Supreme Court precedent produced in the “floppy disc” era of the world-wide-web, is allowing taxes that are owed by consumers to not be collected.¹ This inability to collect outstanding sales tax revenue is leaving state, county, and city governments with less operating funds to provide needed services.

In 2015, Kansas municipalities lost \$50.7 million in sales tax revenue because of this loophole and, as the American economy continues to migrate to digital platforms, this loss in revenue will only continue to accumulate.² In 2017, e-commerce sales grew 15.5% compared to a similar time period in 2016 and now accounts for approximately 8.4% of total sales in the United States.³ Municipal governments facing this reduction in their tax base have to turn to alternative sources of revenue to ensure a continuance of adequate government services. These alternatives likely include hikes in the property tax levy and higher sales taxes on those who still opt for shopping at their community’s brick and mortar retailers.

The internet sales tax loophole has been challenged by some jurisdictions through the enactment of “Amazon laws,” which are laws requiring large online retailers to collect sales tax regardless of whether the retailer has a physical presence in the state.⁴ These laws are named for the large online marketplace and retailer Amazon, the corporation that is presently responsible for four percent of all retail sales in the United States. “Amazon laws” are not creating a new tax but are instead creating a way to collect sales taxes that are already due to states, cities, and counties.⁵ The primary challenge for these laws is that they have been unable to overcome the physical presence rule, which was formulated by the United States Supreme Court in the 1992 *Quill* decision.⁶ The physical presence rule requires that in order for a state to collect sales tax on retail sales made through the mail or the internet, the

retailer must be located within the state or jurisdiction attempting to collect the tax.⁷ As much as \$34 billion in sales tax revenue is lost each year because of the physical presence rule.⁸

Jurisdictions that have adopted these “Amazon laws” are running into obstacles with the enforceability of an obligation on retailers to collect these taxes due to the constitutional requirement of there being a sufficient connection or nexus to the state.⁹ States can institute a use tax when a retailer does not collect sales tax from online transactions, but in practice these amount to nothing more than a “tax on honesty” as voluntary compliance with these taxes are exceedingly low.¹⁰ In a subsequent ruling, the United States Supreme Court further interpreted the strength of the nexus in instituting the physical presence rule. The Court, citing the Dormant Commerce Clause, decided it was too difficult for mail order companies to compute the wide variety of sales tax rates among the states and even interstate. This decision limited the ability of state and local governments to enforce sales taxes on remote sellers and effectively prevented states from collecting sales tax for retail purchases made using the internet.¹¹

In 2015, the United States Supreme Court again dipped its toes into the internet sales tax debate. In *Direct Marketing Ass’n v. Brohl*, the Court held that a Colorado law requiring online retailers to report the state’s tax requirements to their customers and to the Colorado Department of Revenue was not barred by federal law and was also not inconsistent with the United States Constitution.¹² The distinction between *Quill* and *Direct Marketing Ass’n* is that *Quill* was a case regarding the collection of tax revenue, whereas *Direct Marketing Ass’n* is a case regarding the



collection and distribution of tax information.¹³ A non-binding, but significant aspect to this ruling was that Justice Kennedy left open the possibility of the court revisiting the physical presence requirement in his concurring opinion. Kennedy specifically identified the “serious, continuing injustice faced by Colorado and many other States” of being limited to only sales tax collections from brick-and-mortar stores.¹⁴

The concurring opinion by Justice Kennedy was seen by many states as a welcome sign for a new challenge to the 1992 *Quill* decision that left many state and local governments without a remedy to the changing retail landscape.¹⁵ States seized upon this apparent opening and have taken several tax policy positions that have gone on to be subsequently challenged in court. Altogether around twenty states, through administrative rulemaking or legislation, have adopted new policies challenging the nexus standard created by the physical presence rule.¹⁶ The first of which to be appealed to the United States Supreme Court is *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*,¹⁷ a case challenging a South Dakota statute that required sales tax to be collected on out-of-state retailers that generated sales of at least \$100,000 over the course of 200 or more different transactions completed within the state.¹⁸

The United States Supreme Court will decide the outcome of *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* by the end of the October 2017 term, which will come to a close in June of 2018. The Court’s decision on whether to preserve the physical presence rule, scrap it, or come up with something in-between will have significant effects on state and local governments and may finally put online retailers on the same tax footing as the traditional brick-and-mortar stores. Oral arguments are scheduled to commence in April of 2018 in what will surely be one of the most highly anticipated cases to come down this year.

The United States Supreme Court may not be the last hurdle the internet sales tax has to overcome. There is the possibility that Congress could reinstate the physical presence requirement if the Court overrules the decision in *Quill*. The court of public opinion may also incite further political challenges to the execution of this tax. American adults oppose the collection of the internet sales

tax by a 57 to 39 margin. Opposition among the 18 to 29-year-old demographic is even stronger with only 27% supporting the tax.¹⁹ The debate over the internet sales tax could rage on for years to come with the United States Supreme Court only being the first stop of many as governments adapt to the changing landscape of the American economy.

 **Matthew R. Bingesser** is an extern for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He is a law student at Washburn University School of Law.

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² McKenna Harford, *Kansas House Legislation Attempts to Capture Revenue from Internet Sales*, *The Topeka Capital-Journal* (Apr. 3, 2017), <http://www.cjonline.com/news/local/state-government/2017-04-03/kansas-house-legislation-attempts-capture-revenue-internet>.

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⁶ *Quill Corp. v. N.D.*, 504 U.S. 298 (1992).

⁷ Cody Edwards, *Let’s (Not) Get Physical: States Challenge Physical Presence Sales Tax Nexus Law*, *American Bar Association Section of Taxation* (Nov, 2018), https://www.americanbar.org/groups/taxation/publications/abataxtimes_home/17nov/17nov-pp-edwards-lets-not-get-physical.html#_fin2.

⁸ Pete Williams, *Supreme Court Agrees to Consider Internet Sales Taxes*, The Hill (Jan. 12, 2018), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/supreme-court/supreme-court-agrees-consider-internet-sales-taxes-n837351>.

⁹ *Complete Auto Transit, Inc. v. Brady*, 430 U.S. 274 (1977).

¹⁰ Hayes Holderness, *The Next Tax Reform: Internet Sales Tax*, The Hill (Jan. 17, 2018), <http://thehill.com/opinion/judiciary/369157-the-next-tax-reform-internet-sales-tax>.

¹¹ *Quill Corp.*, 504 U.S. at 298.

¹² *Direct Mktg. Ass’n v. Brohl*, 135 S. Ct. 1124 (2015).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.* at 1134, 1135 (J. Kennedy, concurring).

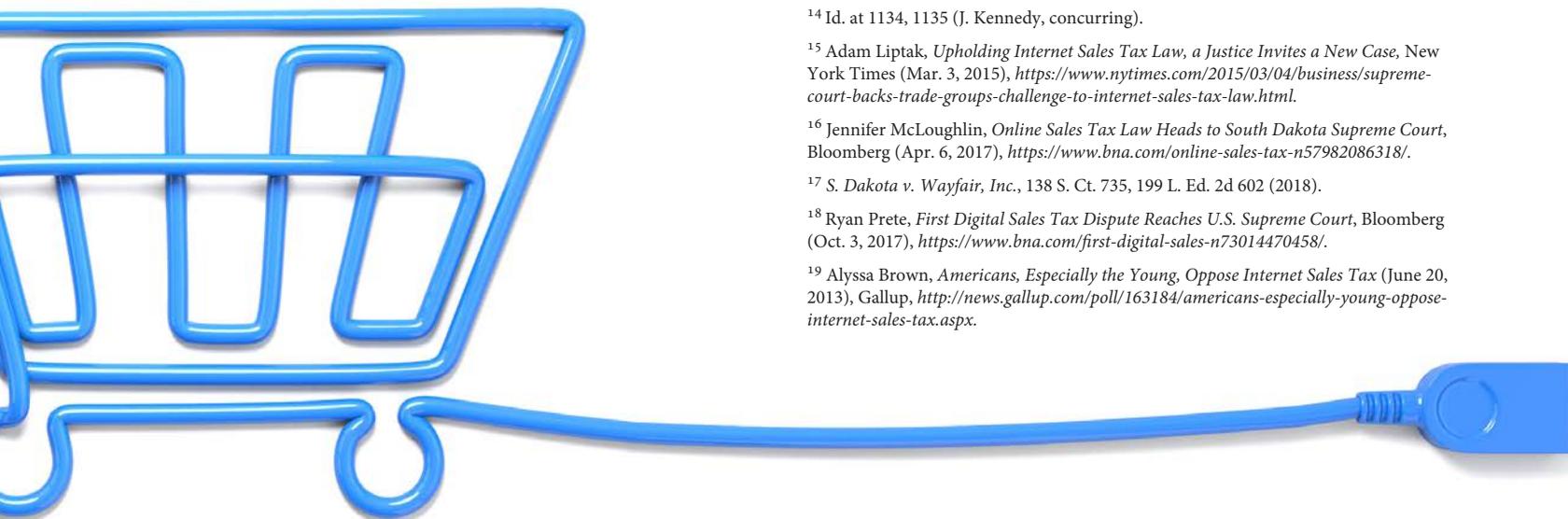
¹⁵ Adam Liptak, *Upholding Internet Sales Tax Law, a Justice Invites a New Case*, *New York Times* (Mar. 3, 2015), <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/04/business/supreme-court-backs-trade-groups-challenge-to-internet-sales-tax-law.html>.

¹⁶ Jennifer McLoughlin, *Online Sales Tax Law Heads to South Dakota Supreme Court*, *Bloomberg* (Apr. 6, 2017), <https://www.bna.com/online-sales-tax-n57982086318/>.

¹⁷ *S. Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*, 138 S. Ct. 735, 199 L. Ed. 2d 602 (2018).

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¹⁹ Alyssa Brown, *Americans, Especially the Young, Oppose Internet Sales Tax* (June 20, 2013), *Gallup*, <http://news.gallup.com/poll/163184/americans-especially-young-oppose-internet-sales-tax.aspx>.





Major Impact

Independent Colleges and Universities Support Kansas Communities

By Matt Lindsey, President, Kansas Independent College Association & Fund

Conversations about higher education in Kansas often focus on Jayhawks and Wildcats. Yet while the major public universities of the state get the lion's share of the headlines and are crucially important to the state's economy, most Kansans may not realize the enormous economic asset that is the state's private non-profit college sector.

Across 19 institutions, in 17 cities, Kansas' non-profit colleges are among the largest employers and largest contributors to economic growth each year. In total, the economic impact of these colleges to the state is nearly one billion dollars each year. That's according to a 2014 study commissioned by the Kansas Independent College

Association (KICA), the statewide association of the nonprofit colleges. Put another way, the amount of economic growth fostered by these colleges is equivalent to having Kansas host the NFL Super Bowl nine times a year. Alternatively, it's similar to creating nearly 22,000 new jobs each year.

Integral to Community

The economic impact of these colleges derives in many respects from how integral they are to their respective communities. Kansas' private non-profit colleges employ more than 4,400 faculty and staff, making them collectively the seventh largest non-governmental employer based in Kansas. These employees

almost all live in Kansas. The salaries the colleges pay them, and the other direct local spending by the colleges on supplies and local services, generates more than \$230 million each year alone.

These employees are often well-educated and highly involved in their communities serving on local boards, with civic organizations, and as mayors, city councils, county commissioners, and school board members. The quality-of-life impacts from having them choose Kansas as home are difficult to quantify.

Integral to Economy

Much of the rest of the colleges' contributions to local economic growth comes from their students who buy food, clothes, entertainment, and often housing and transportation locally while they are in school. With 25,000 students, the private non-profit colleges are a substantial part of the customer base in many Kansas towns. Whether you visit a coffee shop in Ottawa, a burger joint in Salina, or a movie theater in Olathe, you are likely to see Kansas' private college students, generating \$15.6 million a year in income to the economy.

When they graduate, these students take jobs in Kansas. They become teachers, nurses, or business leaders. More than a few of Kansas' city managers are alumni of these institutions. There are more than 270,000 living alumni of these colleges, and nearly half live in Kansas. Because these alums have received a high-quality education, they provide a lifetime of increased income (and thereby spending) to the Kansas economy that exceeds what would have existed without the private colleges.

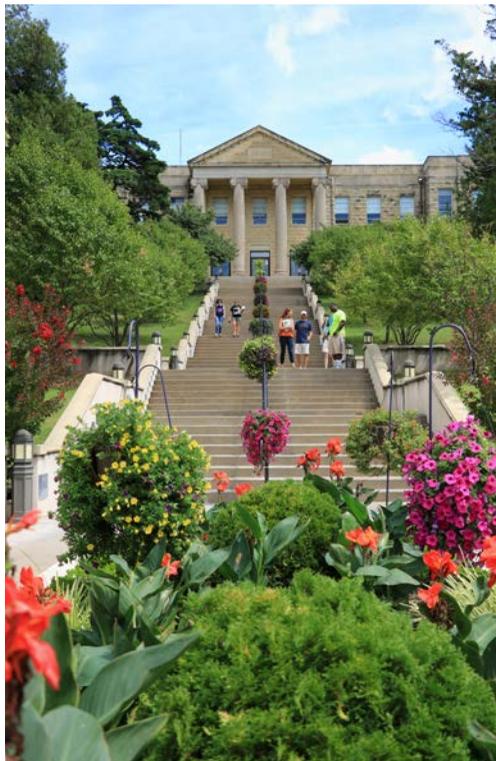
Moreover, it's striking how many residents of these communities came originally to attend the local non-profit college and, while they were in school, they found a place to call home – and stayed. Nearly one-third of the private college students in Kansas come from out of state, and about a third of those stay in Kansas after they graduate. Some towns, like Hillsboro and Hesston, are now noting that out-of-state students who graduated many years ago from the local college are deciding to come back and retire here.

What is the accumulated value of these educated graduates who study here, stay here, and often retire here? KICA's study found that adds \$720 million in new income to Kansas each year.

Vitality of Communities

Private colleges are also major contributors to the visitor economy in Kansas. According to KICA, the private non-profit colleges bring in more than 260,000 non-local visitors each year for athletic events, music and theater performances, commencement ceremonies, and campus tours for prospective students. That is nearly 100,000 more than come to Kansas for the state's outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, and camping.

Whether it's Southwestern College partnering with the Winfield community for the South Kansas Symphony, the long-running performance of Handel's *Messiah* at Lindsborg's Bethany College by the Bethany Oratorio Society, or the role Baker University plays in the Baldwin City Maple Leaf Festival, Kansas' private non-profit colleges care deeply about the connections they have with their place.



Southwestern College in Winfield

The benefits provided by the private non-profit colleges do not stop at income growth, either. Colleges have been demonstrated to have highly positive effects on their local communities in terms of health, safety, and civic engagement. The students who graduate these colleges are less prone to abuse tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, less susceptible to obesity, and less likely to develop severe psychological disorders. They are less likely to commit crimes. They are less likely to rely on federal, state, and local assistance programs like food stamps, public housing, and other public benefits.

These benefits add up for a community. In KICA's study, they add up to nearly almost \$500 million in avoided costs. And because the graduates are more likely to be productively employed and those with college degrees earn significantly more over their lifetime, they pay more in taxes because of the increased income, too, which helps support the rest of the public goods that citizens in Kansas depend upon.

If you are not an alum of one of Kansas' 19 private non-profit colleges, or you don't live close to their campuses, it can be easy to overlook them. Individually, they are significantly smaller, both in enrollment and in budgets, than the state universities that are the metaphorical – and even literal, in one case – “gorillas” of Kansas' higher education ecosystem.

But for city and county leaders looking to foster economic growth, attract a better talent pool for an educated workforce, and promote a vibrant, healthy civic space, the Kansas' private colleges should not be ignored. They are, and always have been, a critical component to Kansas' future.

Editor's Note: View the full summary from KICA at <http://www.kscolleges.org/economic-impact>

 **Matt Lindsey**, is the President of the Kansas Independent College Association & Fund. He can be reached at matt@kscolleges.org

Kansas' Independent Colleges & Universities: Generating Income and Creating Economic Growth for all Kansans

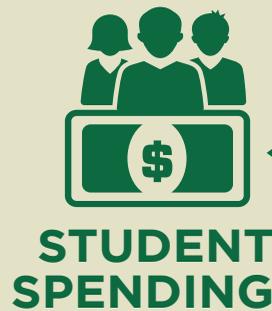
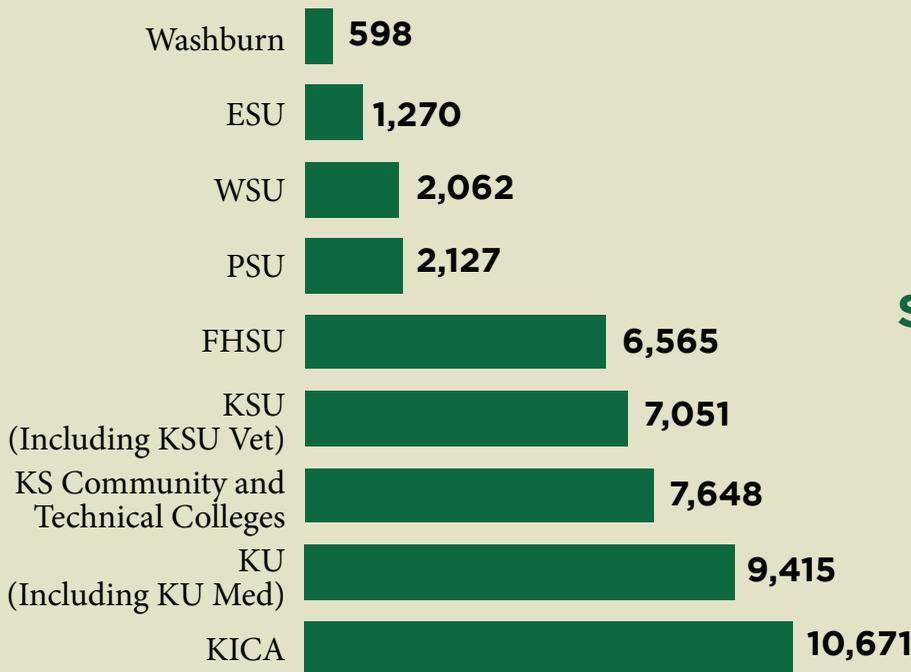
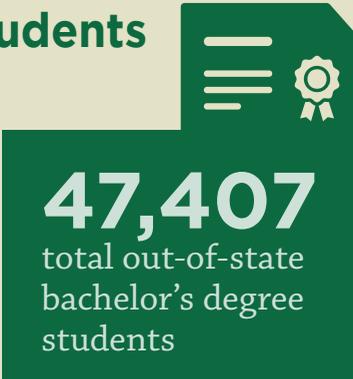
Source: Kansas Independent College Association <http://www.kscollages.org/economic-impact>

To get the same economic growth from operational spending, Kansas would have to annually recruit companies like:

KICA colleges are major purchasers of supplies and services and their thousands of employees spend their income on groceries, housing, and others goods and services sold in Kansas. All of this creates a ripple effect on the state economy, generating even more jobs and income.

Number of out-of-state students

By recruiting a substantial number of students from out-of-state, KICA colleges inject new money into the Kansas economy. These students come to Kansas explicitly to attend a KICA college and buy computers and cheeseburgers and gasoline, generating still more economic growth for Kansas.



\$231M



\$14

VISITOR SPENDING

261,500

Average number of visitors KICA colleges and universities bring to their campuses each year. Compare this to Kansas visitors for...



Fishing:
28,000



Hunting:
112,000



V
V
3

\$630K

The amount per year the **Kansas State Fair** generates in additional net income to the state.



\$14

The amount in addition

Amount per year injected into the Kansas economy from their consumption of goods and services.



\$793
per KICA student



Rosetta Stone (language learning software)

\$237M



DinEquity Inc. (Applebees, IHOP)

\$156M



DST Systems
(business software)

\$143M

OPERATIONS

IM



81M

**KICA
COLLEGES**

\$720M



**STUDENT
PRODUCTIVITY**

14M

DING



s and
r.

In addition to hosting athletic events, concerts, art exhibits, cultural and other events, KICA colleges bring a large number of people to Kansas—these students and their families visit for tours, orientations, and graduations.

Wildlife
Watching:
34,000

4.1M

ount per year **KICA** generates
tional net income to the state .



**Employers want
college graduates with the
broad skills they can get
from studying the liberal arts.**

The greatest impact of KICA's institutions is derived from the education they provide their students. Nearly 100,000 KICA graduates live and work in Kansas today, adding millions in income and increased productivity to businesses and communities throughout the state.

**KICA colleges award more degrees annually
than all but one university in Kansas.**

more than

20%

of the bachelor's degrees

more than

25%

of the master's degrees

6,682



KU*

4,959



*including KU Med

4,861



**Degrees awarded
by college**

3,331



2,942



1,570



PSU

1,284



ESU



25,629
total degrees
awarded

The Class of 2018

By Megan Gilliland, Communications and Education Manager, League of Kansas Municipalities

At the 2018 Governing Body Institute and Kansas Mayors Conference, April 20 and 21 in Topeka, the League honored the graduates for the Municipal Training Institute (MTI). The Municipal Training Institute provides educational opportunities for elected and appointed local government officials. The goal of the institute is to provide an interactive curriculum of specialized instruction that will develop the knowledge and enhance the leadership abilities of those who serve the cities of Kansas. Trainings are held around

the state throughout the year. In 2018, over 250 people have registered for MTI classes. Find our more information and view the requirements for each level at www.lkm.org/mti.

Also during the event, the Kansas Mayors Association honored their 2018 Mayor of the Year recipient. Mayor David Kauffman, City of Hesston, was selected by his peers based on his exemplary leadership in transitioning the city through periods of calm and chaos. Kauffman consistently demonstrated superb leadership skills in unifying his city behind programs and projects that have been divisive in the community for decades.

The two-day Governing Body Institute provided elected and appointed city leaders an opportunity to gather and discuss the challenges facing our cities and how leadership at the local level can better address contemporary issues in local government. Approximately 200 local government officials attended the training.



LEVEL 1

Lou Leone, City Administrator,
City of Kiowa

Diana Garten, Finance Director,
City of Pratt

Becky Berger, City Manager,
City of Atchison (not pictured)

Jami Downing, City Clerk,
City of Stafford (not pictured)



LEVEL 2

Michael Ort, City Administrator,
City of Jetmore

David McDaniel, Mayor,
City of Ellis

Lou Leone, City Administrator,
City of Kiowa



LEVEL 3

Tim Vandall, City Administrator,
City of Lansing

Kendal Francis, City Manager

Campus: Continued

area. The projects have shared infrastructure, including parking facilities.

Pittsburg State University's Plaster Center was built to host indoor track and field events as well as community events. The city invested \$5 million to build the Plaster Center. The facility has successfully hosted Division II and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) events which have had a positive outcome on the local tourism industry.

"The city understood the economic impact of hosting events like the NAIA Division II championships. They could see the larger potential for the community," said Sarah Runyon, Public Information Manager for the City of Pittsburg. "Pittsburg residents can use the Plaster Center for wellness events including Wellness Wednesdays where the track is available for walking and running."

Another university in Kansas has the distinction of being the only municipal university in Kansas – Washburn University in Topeka. When Washburn was founded, it was a private institution but became a public institution with tax support from the City of Topeka. Washburn University works with the City of Topeka in various ways to promote business and industry development.

"We are very supportive of local industry needs and work with local leaders to supply training and skill development," said Patrick Early, Director of Public Relations for Washburn University. "We are the exclusive training partner for the Mars chocolate plant in Topeka."

Washburn University's technical school, Washburn Tech, has more recognized partners than any other community or technical college in the state including major employers in the Topeka such as Hill's Pet Products, Frito-Lay, and Goodyear.

Whether your city is home to a university, community college, independent college, or technical school, the key to successful town-gown relations is building the relationships needed to foster a shared goal of creating a better community for everyone – students, residents, businesses, and university faculty/staff. Cities are constantly seeking ways to retain vibrancy and relevance – what better way to do that than connecting to the next generation of your community?

 **Megan Gilliland** is the Communications and Education Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at mgilliland@lkm.org.

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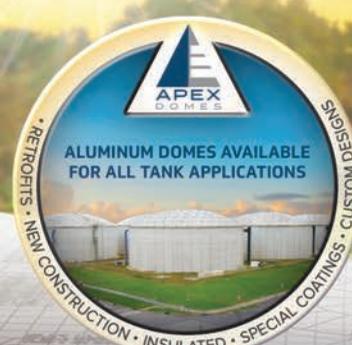
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Best Practices

Town and Gown: Best Practices for Community Liaison and Civic Engagement

By Michael Fox, Member of the Board, International Town and Gown Association

It is a marriage that cannot end in divorce. That is the unique situation of a community that is home to a college or university that must welcome, house, and provide a wide range of services to hundreds or thousands of students in a community for four or more years. This includes a shared responsibility between university and civic officials to actively engage the individual students and student groups in their planning and delivery of these services. *Town and Gown: From Conflict to Cooperation* (Fox 2014) focuses on the shared housing and near-campus neighborhood dynamic as the root solution in addressing town-and-gown issues, yet there are related community liaison initiatives and best practices that need to be highlighted. My experience in university-community relations suggests that engaging students in the dialogue and solutions to the various issues and opportunities of having large concentrations of this group in the community is not the real problem; rather, it is convincing university officials and civic service providers that it is their duty to act, as well as including student voices in the discussions and planning and communications, in an on-going fashion, that remains as the real challenge. The relationship is too important to ignore.

Having an active and engaged town-and-gown committee is the very minimum step communities that house a college or university need to engage in the dialogue to address the opportunities and challenges. The International Town and Gown Association acts as a great resource in this area. While most town-and-gown committees arise out of a crisis or some other episodic type of negative student behavior (think St. Patrick's Day or Homecoming Week-end), the university-community relations model of the 21st century is one of creating a broad community planning and engagement model, with students, local residents, and civic and university officials actively involved. Listed here are some of the best practices that I have encountered in recent years:

- Police services are evolving into a number of successful partnership opportunities in enhancing university-community relations. Having members of the police services, including both high-ranking officials and the many officers working in the neighborhoods across the city, have made some important changes in what has historically been a negative, confrontational, and expensive ordeal of diffusing noisy, rowdy, often dangerous, and illegal

activities when they get out of hand. One of the unspoken issues that seems central to this relationship is the fact that many police officers are very close to the same age as the students they are encountering in these episodic events and it creates a high-level of discomfort for all concerned.

Several university and community police service units now share the responsibility of educating officers and students on the significance of civic behavior, the significance of property damage, and the gravity of criminal charges. Both groups work together to familiarize themselves with the related housing issues, neighborhood fabric, the requirements of related liquor-control regulations, safety issues, and contact during normal circumstances. Just a few examples of new directions for police services include:

- Inviting police on-campus and enjoying mutually enjoyable events such as sporting events, concerts, and guest speakers, etc.
- Police liaison offices on campus and in near-campus neighborhoods, including invitations to student government, student services, and neighborhood association meetings.
- The university offering police officers second-language training or educational opportunities or free use of recreational facilities.
- More regular foot, bicycle, and open-window police patrols in near-campus neighborhoods.
- Involving police officers in start-of-term door-knocker campaigns to educate students and residents alike on the benefits of being a good neighbor and circulation of important civic regulations.

Even if one is not directly connected to the local college or university, it must be acknowledged that the entire community benefits from having it located within the boundaries of the community. Recent research has outlined the significant economic benefits that having a university brings, as well an enormous potential for attracting and retaining these highly educated and talented individuals as part of the economic engine of that place. One need only think of “The Research Triangle” in the Raleigh–Durham–Chapel Hill region of North Carolina, where 12 universities and colleges act as a major economic and research engine, bringing billions of dollars of investment for innovation and technology, engineering and social research, high levels of employment, and a high quality of life. If for no other reason, university administrators and local economic development offices have recognized the emerging role of the university as a partner in local economic development initiatives and the transfer of research and knowledge that will attract talent and investment and assist in the development of a creative economy.





*Kansas State University was recently ranked No. 1 for town-gown relations.
Photo credit: Kansas State University*

Closer to home, the economic development partnership that has been developed between Pittsburg State University, the City of Pittsburg, and the Pittsburg Area Chamber of Commerce appears to be delivering on this type of economic and social partnership model and is showing great promise for that region of the state.

In any analysis of the emerging role of town-and-gown relations across the North American landscape, it must be recognized that one of the most dramatic changes in the relationship has been the development of a common need for research and engagement at the community level. Today, over 80 percent of the population is classified as being urban residents and our cities are now the places where we live, work, study, and create. Our cities are our economic and innovation engines and municipal governments have started to recognize that university faculty, staff, students, and administrators are a powerful combination for the local economy. Even the smallest of college cities has within its borders some of the nation's greatest thinkers and innovators, as well as relatively stable employment, the ability to attract external research funding and investments, and an ability to use the education system as a catalyst for solutions to today's societal problems.

**For more
information
on improving
town-gown
relations, visit
the International
Town & Gown
Association at
www.itga.org.**

More and more local governments are working with individual faculty members, departments, and research laboratories, as well as students, in attracting investments and research projects that assist the local community. Just a few examples of such research and applied knowledge, often completed as part of a student's educational program or a faculty member's research agenda, include:

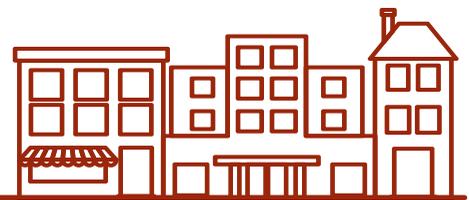
- housing studies, inventories and best practices;
- municipal planning and statistical analysis;
- survey research;
- advisory groups, committees and task forces;
- strategic planning and community development;
- liaison and community legal and mediation services;
- recreation studies and health research and exercise programs; and
- sustainable development research and initiatives.

In community after community with a college or university, one can find a range of active members who are working diligently at solving local problems, including the town-and-gown

Continued page 126

Community Profile

By Megan Gilliland, League of Kansas Municipalities



University Community Relies on Community Partnerships and Passion to Move Forward Together

Pittsburg

There is something special going on in Pittsburg. In addition to the eagerly anticipated Block22 Project in downtown Pittsburg, there are many projects happening in this southeast Kansas city that proclaim a renaissance is underway.

Pittsburg's leadership team is focused on quality of life and improving the services available to all residents. From affordable housing to recreational options, the City is focused on making Pittsburg a community of choice for all ages.

"My job in Pittsburg is more fulfilling than anywhere I have ever worked," said City Manager Daron Hall. "We're working in this community to raise expectations both in terms of what to expect from your community and what to expect from yourself."

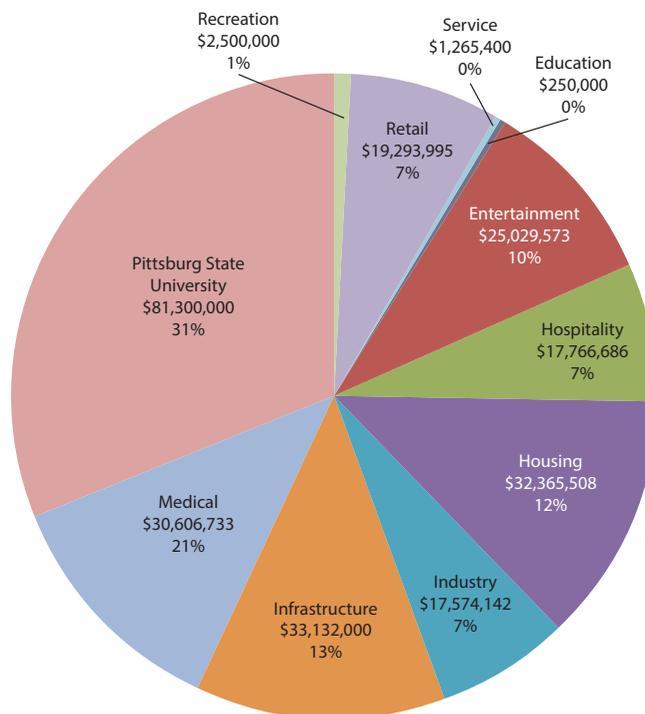
Much of this change in community mindset comes from the strong network of stakeholders who are working to invest and reinvest in Pittsburg. Since 2012, the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce has tracked over \$300 million in investment in the overall community. A large portion of this investment has occurred through Pittsburg State University's continuous efforts to provide exemplary education that is accessible to those seeking higher education.

They've placed high importance on the value of city-university relations and they're investing in their future as a university community.

"Every year you have roughly a quarter of your university population turning over with seniors graduating and incoming freshmen flowing into the community," said Hall.

"We want to integrate those students into our community so they make the decision that Pittsburg is a good place to call home after graduation."

Community Investment Since 2012



Education isn't the only area where the area is seeing investment and reinvestment in the community. The Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce provided the chart on the left to show the amount of investment occurring since 2012. There is a wide variance across the community of investment which is all functioning together to increase the quality of life and economic growth of the City.

"There is no part of this town that is fading," said Hall. "You are not giving up or missing anything by living in Pittsburg."

Hall notes that overall, wages in Pittsburg are trending up slowly for the City and the unemployment ratio is decreasing. The City's bond rating went up, the city has worked hard to ensure the financial reserves are in place to

provide financial stability, and a five-year capital improvement plan and forecast have been developed to aid in planning for the future.

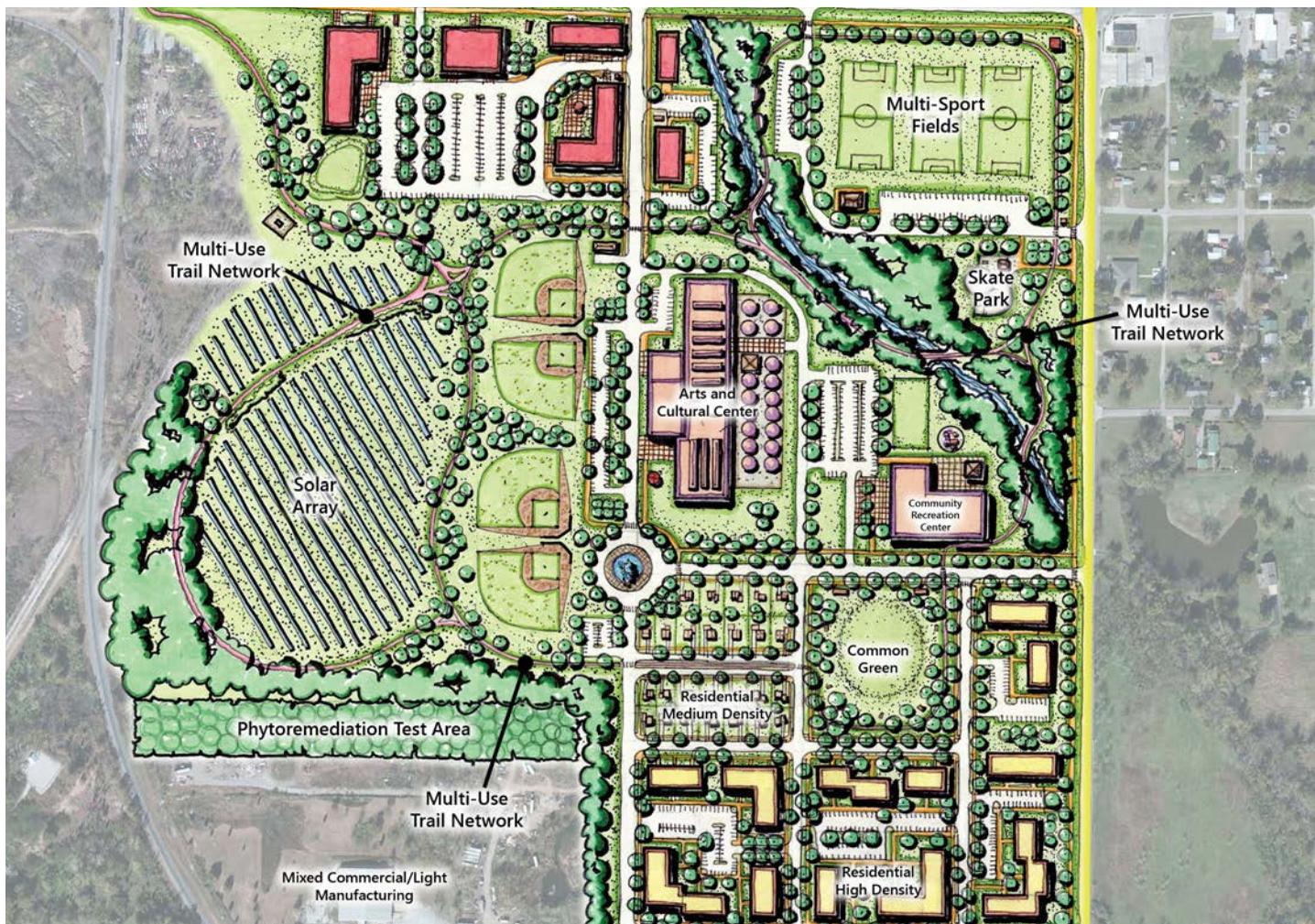


Pittsburg's Miner's Memorial in Immigrant Park pays tribute to the City's mining history.

The City works with Pittsburg State University's Kelce College of Business to produce a quarterly micropolitan area report which provides data illustrating the economic climate in the region.

"One of the biggest challenges in Pittsburg is housing," said Jay Byers, Assistant City Manager. "We have a strong coalition of stakeholders who are working to address these issues."

There are two current residential developments either



The Mid-City Renaissance District redevelopment includes multiple residential densities, retail, office, light industrial, and recreational uses.

under construction or shovel-ready. The Silverback Landing housing development will create 150 new homes just east of Pittsburg State University. Another development, Pittsburg Highlands, on the northern edge of the City will create affordable rental housing. These homes will help families find affordable, quality homes that fit within their budget. After fifteen years, the homes will be sold at market rate, with steep discounts offered based on length of tenancy.

In Pittsburg, there is a lower cost of living but not a lack of amenities. The City is working to connect their trail system through the entire community and redevelop portions of the community that have become vacant or underutilized.

One such redevelopment project is the Mid-City Renaissance District. This project is in the core of the City and covers 386 acres of former industrial development. The City applied for, and received, a Brownfields Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to fund an environmental assessment for the area, which was the former site of Mission Clay pipe construction facility and contains hundreds of thousands of discarded pounds of clay pipe. The Mid-City Renaissance District redevelopment includes multiple residential densities, retail, office, light industrial, and recreational uses.

“The Mid-City project is a transformational project for Pittsburg. Several developers have already expressed interest in the Mid-City project,” said Sarah Runyon, Public Information

Manager for the City of Pittsburg. “The City received a donation of \$50,000 in 2017 toward the creation of a dog park in the project area at Schlanger Park.”

Hall says community partnerships are essential to making the City’s vision for the Mid-City Renaissance District a reality.

“The dog park is a great example of what the community can accomplish when we work together,” says Hall. “Thanks to the generosity of our community partners, we are now one step closer to revitalizing the heart of the city.”

The City’s Director of Community Development and Housing Becky Gray agrees.

“We’re working to tell the story of Pittsburg,” said Gray. “We’re working to write the story about our hard-working, tenacious community. This is a community that isn’t afraid of a challenge and lending a hand to those in need. We’re a community with grit and a desire to change how people see Pittsburg.”

With the many projects occurring right now, it’s no wonder they’ve branded their city with a new tag line: Forward Together. It will be interesting to see how Pittsburg progresses over the next few years. However, one thing is for certain, this is a community moving forward, together.

 **Megan Gilliland** is the Communications and Education Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at mgilliland@lkm.org.

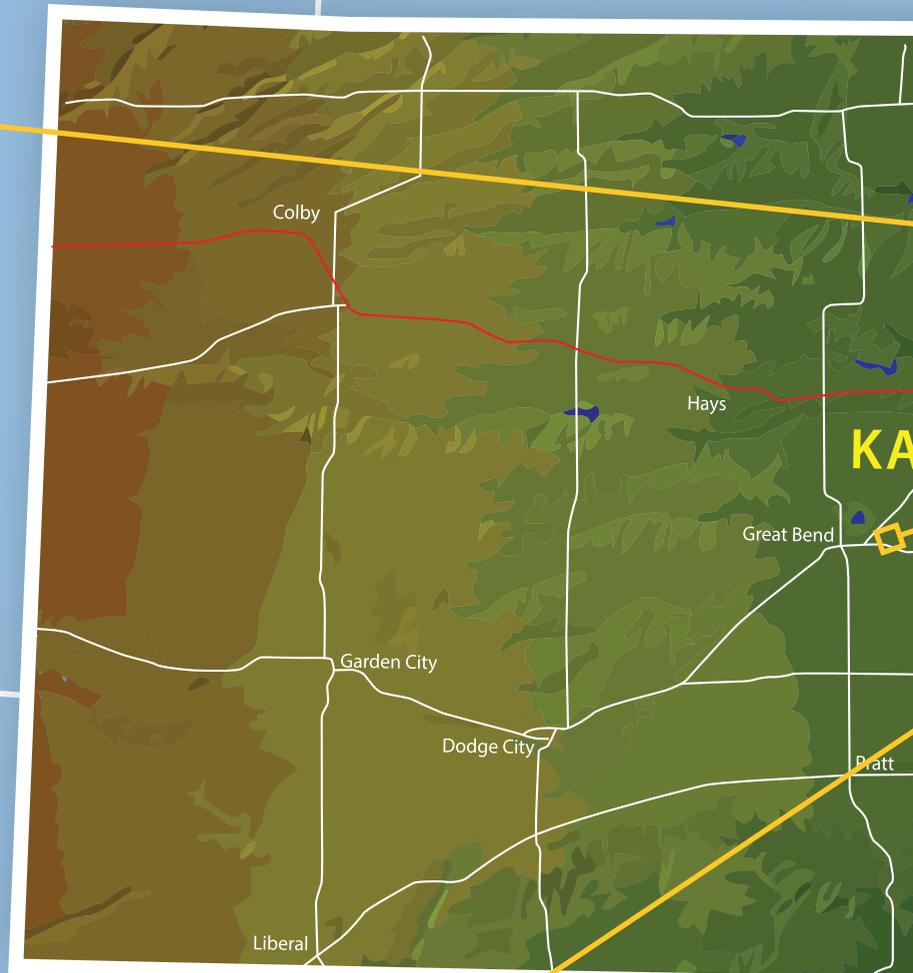
KANSAS GOVERNMENT

Cheyenne ★

Wakefield

City adding Disc Golf Course

The City of Wakefield received permission from the Clay County Commission to place a disc (frisbee) golf course on land owned by the Corps of Engineers. Wakefield is situated on the northwest side of Milford Lake. The disc golf course is a project organized by Wakefield PRIDE.



★ Santa Fe

Hutchinson

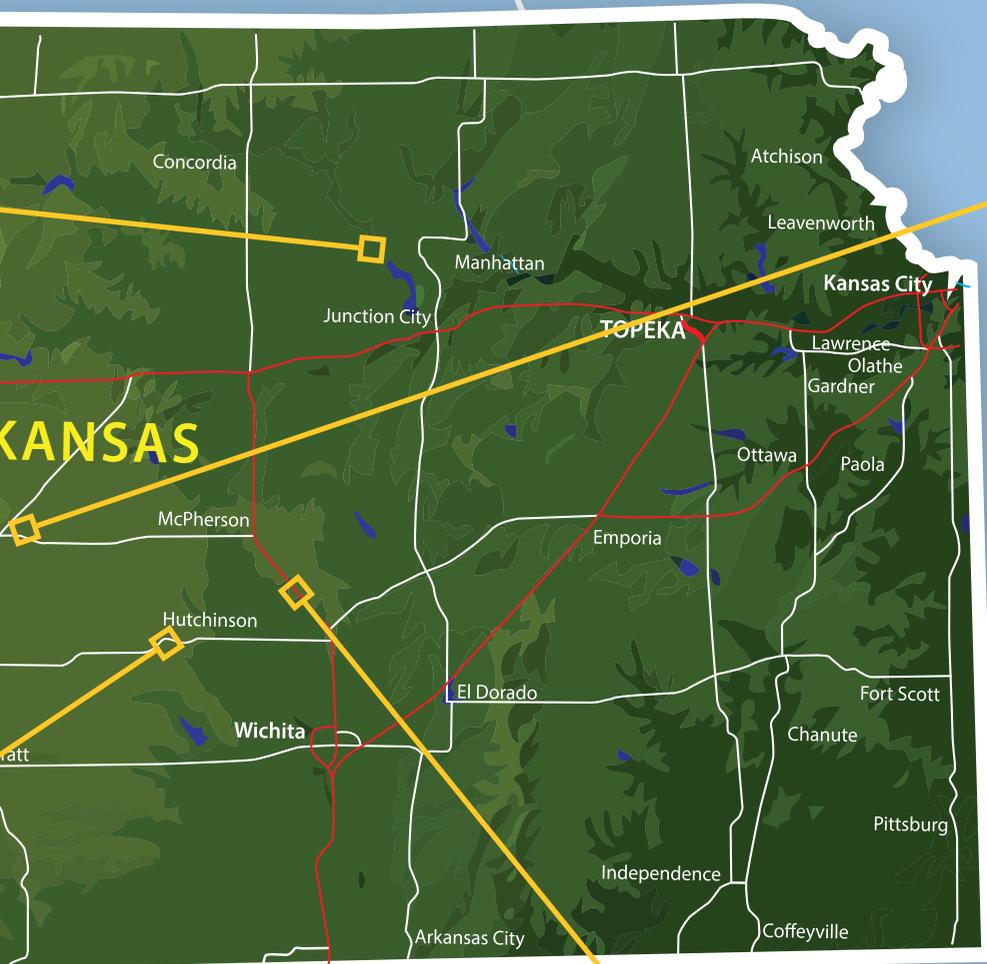
Evening Meeting Times Added

The Hutchinson City Council will try meeting in the evenings for the next six months. After much discussion, the council decided an evening meeting would allow more residents and interested parties to attend. The council will now meet at 9:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month and at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday each month.

VERNMENT NEWS

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Ellinwood

Fundraising Successful for Splash Pad

The Ellinwood City Council approved the addition of a splash pad and covered patio at Ellinwood City Park. The funding for the splash pad was raised by the local Rotary Club and included a grant from the Golden Belt Community Foundation. The Rotarians led a successful drive for funding in 2017.

Moundridge

Funds Received for Trail

The City of Moundridge was awarded a \$70,000 grant in March to implement a recreational trail that will surround the city's Wheatridge Park from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism. The state funding will cover 80% of costs with the City covering the remaining 20% through their annual park budget. The City didn't receive full funding of their request and will adjust plans accordingly to maximize available funding. The City would like to start construction this summer. The trail connects to other infrastructure and helps to continue to improve the quality of life in Moundridge.



We are always seeking content ideas for stories and briefs. Please send your ideas and thoughts for content or story ideas to Megan Gilliland at mgilliland@lkm.org

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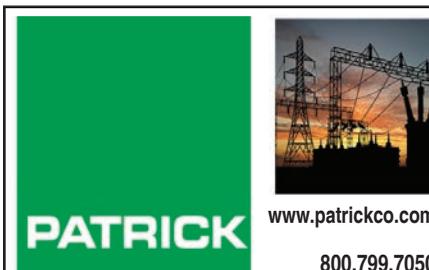
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City Engineer, Shawnee

The City is seeking a new City Engineer. This is a professional administrative position responsible for the oversight of all Capital Improvement Project (CIP) engineering activities of the City including managing City right-of-way and the design, preparation, and specification of plans; and the oversight of construction and maintenance work on CIP projects. This position will work cross departmentally with Private Development to define engineering standards. The City Engineer is responsible for all aspects of organizational management of the Engineering Division which includes Engineering Professionals and Technicians.

TherequirementsforthispositionareBachelor's Degree with course work in engineering, surveying, applied science, or a closely related field (Master's Degree preferred). A minimum of five years' experience in administration of engineering work including the inspection of public works projects. A minimum of three years' experience in the supervision and direction of staff. Professional Engineer in the State of Kansas or the ability to obtain within six months of hire.

How to Apply:

Apply online at: <http://bit.ly/SGRCcurrentSearches>. For more information contact Lissa Barker, Senior Vice President Strategic Government Resources LissaBarker@governmentresource.com (817) 266-0647.

Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor, Mission

Reporting to the Parks and Recreation Director, the position is responsible for the HVAC and mechanical system maintenance at all Parks and Recreation Department facilities, specifically the 80,000 sq. ft. Sylvester Powell, Jr. Community Center. Position is also responsible for the oversight of the cleaning, care, and maintenance of public buildings, both inside and out. Position supervises full and part-time employees. The position requires two to three years related experience

and/or training; or Associate's degree; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience in HVAC, mechanical, and electrical systems. Must possess valid driver's license.

The Facilities and Maintenance Supervisor supervises overall cleaning and supervision of community center, including staff scheduling, training, and orientation for maintenance and facility staff members. Oversees operation of all HVAC, mechanical, and electrical systems for all City facilities. Supervises annual fire inspection and other service inspections by outside agencies. Orders cleaning supplies, tools, and other materials. Manages snow removal for the community center parking lots and sidewalks, and other areas as assigned. Oversees maintenance of outdoor grounds. Coordinates set-up and take-down of rooms for classes, special events, and activities. Coordinates all preventive maintenance of HVAC, locker rooms, decks, wood, and other areas. Operates floor buffers, vacuums, carpet cleaners, and other mechanical sweepers. Monitors contracts with outside vendors. Conducts quarterly safety meeting for subordinates. Maintains work records and service records of all equipment.

How to Apply:

Send resume to Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor at City of Mission Parks and Recreation, 6200 Martway, Mission, KS 66202 or apply at www.missionks.org.

Executive Director, Ottawa

The Franklin County Development Council is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of Executive Director.

The Franklin County Development Council is a public-private, partially membership based non-profit organization serving as the primary economic development organization for Franklin County, Kansas.

Franklin County is a growing semi-rural county of approximately 26,000 people located on the Southwestern edge of the Kansas City metro region. The region is the home to a variety of economic development drivers including direct access to Interstate 35 and the

NAFTA trade corridor, an established large industrial and commercial base including large-scale warehouse and distribution and manufacturing businesses, close proximity to BNSF's newest rail-to-truck intermodal facility in Edgerton, Kansas, and access (within an hour) to the Kansas City International Airport and other Kansas City transportation corridors.

Franklin County is also home to Proximity Park, a 320-acre business and industrial park located immediately adjacent to Interstate 35 on the south side of Ottawa. Proximity Park is a publically owned property supported by a half-cent sales tax passed in 2015 to support utility build-out for the site.

An ideal candidate for this position would have at least five years Economic Development experience and management experience with the organizations they have served. Candidate should also have a bachelor's degree, preferably in a business related field, from an accredited university. Candidates with formal economic development training (OU EDI/IEDC) are preferred.

How to Apply:

Send cover letter with salary history, resume, and three professional references to: Economic Development Director Recruitment Attn: Lisa Johnson, Chief Legal Officer, Ransom Memorial Hospital, 1301 S Main St, Ottawa, Kansas 66067 or e-mail information to Tonya Simms, Executive Administrative Assistant at tsimms@ransom.org.

City Administrator, Fredonia

Fredonia seeks a new City Administrator to manage its municipal services and contribute leadership for local economic growth. Situated on the tallgrass prairie of southeast Kansas, the community is exceptional in its support for local business, community volunteerism, and family-friendly quality of life. The City's strategic location is at the junction of U.S. highways 47 and 400, and less than a two-hour drive to urban centers including Tulsa, Kansas City, Joplin, and Wichita. Responsibility for 33 FTEs, \$3.5 million total annual budget, management of all services, including three utilities, policy research, and recommendations

Classified Advertising

to governing body. Low range of salary: \$70,000.

How to Apply:

Send resume, recent salary history, and cover letter highlighting published preferred qualifications in single e-file, in confidence to recruitment advisor: mfslentje@austinpeters.com. Deadline is May 14. See qualifications in City Administrator Recruitment Profile: www.fredoniaks.org.

City Manager, Herington

Herington is seeking a City Manager with a strong background in financial knowledge and budgeting practices; public relations with interpersonal communication and problem-solving skills; infrastructure and project management skills; economic development; and the ability to work well with the governing body.

The highest priority local and regional issues include the local economy and business climate, unemployment and job creation, and downtown/neighborhood revitalization. Candidates should exhibit community commitment, a reliable work ethic, and professionalism. Candidates should have a minimum of one to three years of experience and hold a Bachelor degree in Public Administration or related field.

How to Apply:

Competitive benefits; Salary \$60,000 - \$86,000,

DOQ. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three work-related references to LEAPS-Herington@lkm.org or LEAPS-Herington, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Position will remain open until filled. Application review will begin May 21, 2018. EOE.

Internal City Auditor, Olathe

The City Auditor reports directly to the City Council. The position requires at least six years of increasingly responsible experience in governmental or internal auditing, and a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in accounting, finance, business or public administration is strongly desired. Possession of, or an ability to obtain, a Certified Public Accountant or Certified Internal Auditor Certification is preferred. The ideal candidate's background and experience should include a diverse exposure to all aspects of auditing, including internal and external audits, and compliance reviews. Key responsibilities include conducting complex performance reviews of municipal operations, programs, and policies to evaluate the accomplishments of desired program results, and then share, review, and discuss findings with the City Council, city management, representatives of external agencies, the Audit Committee, and the public. Evaluating the success of departmental goals, including staffing levels, the capacity

for departments to fulfill commitments and established requirements, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery methods and procedures. Developing an annual risk assessment, establishing an annual audit work plan, and providing the City Manager with consulting services to identify opportunities to enhance fiscal integrity, evaluate internal controls, and safeguard municipal assets are other key areas of responsibility. The position has no direct reports and must function as an "internal" consultant, able to work independently, be self-sufficient and adept at conducting research, prepare written reports, spreadsheets, graphics, and other presentation materials in a professional and accurate manner.

The City Council is seeking a highly motivated, independent, self-starter that possesses excellent skills in problem solving, process improvement, and the ability to think strategically using data, research, best practices, and good judgment. The selected candidate will be a team player and have a record of success based on collaboration and customer service. Candidates must exhibit strengths in both written and oral communication, and the ability to listen and be open to new ideas. The ability to work effectively with a variety of employees at all levels of the organization is essential.

How to Apply:

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter and resume online by visiting our website at <https://springsted-waters.recruitmenthome.com/postings/1798>. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply by the first review date of Monday, June 4, 2018; the position will remain open until filled. Applications will be screened against criteria provided in the brochure, and the City Council will consider offering interviews to those candidates named as finalists, with reference checks, background checks, and academic verifications conducted after receiving candidates' permission. For more information, please contact Art Davis at adavis@springsted.com, or by calling (816) 868-7042. Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).



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relationship. These individuals bring a range of skills to the table and often contribute in a very direct way through membership in a municipal committee or sub-committee, including the Town-and-Gown Committee. Here are just a few of the ways a community might engage direct university talent in their day-to-day operations:

- student housing strategies and demand analysis;
- shared facility planning between the university and the city (fire and ambulance services, water and sewage treatment, etc.);
- town-and-gown committee facilitation, indicators, standards and annual reporting of outcomes and baseline data/analysis;
- on-campus and off-campus housing committees and student accommodation strategies;
- by-law reviews, enforcement, and legal education;
- student activism, codes of behavior, Rights and Responsibility Charters, and community liaison, Ombuds-office and engaged learning programs and centers of study and internships;
- fire safety, health codes, inspections, by-law drafting and monitoring, public awareness campaigns, Making Neighborhoods work campaigns;
- integrated communications strategies –shared services and information and technology systems; and
- integrated university-community strategic planning and implementation and monitoring systems.

Innovative ideas, best practices, and highly successful university-community partnerships are alive and well in many places across the continent. The need for collaboration in the 21st century community requires that civic leaders reach out to the innovators and creative members that exist in their community and on the university campus. Public administration has an urgency attached to it in the early years of the new century, heightened by economic shocks that are causing communities enormous amounts of social upheaval. Many cities have more than one college or university and there is a need for a coordinated approach to tapping into these innovative and collaborative individuals and groups. Indeed, that is the very mandate of education and the surrounding community is a prime location to bring theory into practice. Municipal leaders may have to take the first step though – or perhaps renew the relationship that may have once existed. The relationship is too important to ignore.

 **Michael Fox** is a Professor of Geography & Environment at Mount Allison University and Member of the Board, International Town and Gown Association. He can be reached at mfox@mta.ca.

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KONZA PRAIRIE BIOLOGICAL STATION

The Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS) is a preserve jointly owned by The Nature Conservancy and Kansas State University and consists of 8,616 acres of native, tallgrass prairie. The KPBS is located in the Flint Hills of northeastern Kansas, a grassland region of steep-slopes overlain by shallow limestone soils unsuitable for cultivation. The Flint Hills region encompasses over four million acres extending throughout much of eastern Kansas from near the Kansas-Nebraska border south into northeastern Oklahoma, and contains the largest remaining area of unplowed tallgrass prairie in North America.



Hence, the vast majority of Konza Prairie, and the surrounding landscape, has not been plowed and retains its native characteristics.

KPBS is operated as a field research station by the KSU Division of Biology. The station is dedicated to a three-fold mission of long-term ecological research, education, and prairie conservation. It is

a unique outdoor laboratory that provides opportunities for the study of tallgrass prairie ecosystems and for basic biological research on a wide range of taxa and processes. The station is open to scientists and students from throughout the world. Over 80,000 Kansas students have visited Konza Prairie and participated in the Konza Environmental Education Program. Some students have the opportunity to collect data in activities that are designed to mimic those of the university researchers.

Most of Konza Prairie is closed to the general public, but there are three established nature trails on the north end of the Station that are open to hikers and runners. The trails are open from 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. daily and a donation of \$2/person is requested for the station to use in maintaining the trails.

KLINFELTER FARM, HIGHLAND

The 480-acre Klinefelter Farm was given to Highland Community College (HCC) as a working commercial farm to benefit Highland students pursuing a career in farming and for experimental purposes. HCC provides research plots to K-State Research and Extension, The Land Institute, and Quail Forever.

The historic Klinefelter Barn was renovated and operates as a conference center for agricultural and educational meetings. The barn also hosts the Arts at the Barn Cultural Series featuring concerts, art shows, theater productions, craft demonstrations, and lectures. The

farm has five miles of nature trails for public use and cross-country practice, primitive campgrounds for organized groups, a picnic ground, bee hives, an orchard, ponds, streams, and wildlife habitat. A research vineyard is associated with HCC's Enology and Viticulture degree program which produces award winning varieties of wine.

Many public and private school groups use the farm for outdoor learning activities and field trips. High school and college science classes often conduct water and plant studies on the farm. Local beekeepers meet monthly at the Klinefelter Barn for Bee Chat. In many ways the farm is known as "A Living Classroom" and is a Kansas Agritourism site.

Visitors are welcome and tours are available. The farm is located at 1774 230th

Street, two miles east of Hiawatha, off U.S. 36 Highway at the Mulberry Road exit. For more information, contact: Lindsey Koch, Farm Projects Manager, at (785) 336-1274 or lkoch@highlandcc.edu. To see farm project pictures, go to www.highlandcc.edu and "Klinefelter Farm" and "Arts at the Barn" on Facebook.



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