

# WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

# KANSASWORKS.COM

In Partnership With AmericanJobCenter

2017



Annual  
Report

[www.workforce-ks.com](http://www.workforce-ks.com)

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# Letter from the chair



The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) establishes local workforce boards which connect employers and job seekers together to strengthen the local economy. The LWDB's role is to develop regional strategic plans that set funding priorities for their area.

Because of the tradition in South Central Kansas of going above and beyond WIOA to provide services and programs in the area, I am excited to lead this group of business leaders, economic development officials, education and training providers and community based organizations through the next two years. I also want to welcome new LWDB members who joined in 2017.

As Board Chair, I have big shoes to fill. I thank and congratulate Kathy Jewett for her leadership of the LWDB over the past two years.

Under her guidance there have been big changes with WIOA, new grant programs and the development of the Youth Employment Project (YEP). Kathy's leadership of the organization was outstanding and led for a smooth transition for me into this role.

In November, the Workforce Alliance began the strategic planning process for 2018 – 2020. Stakeholders attended planning sessions covering the topics of youth employment,

leveraging resources and aligning services with partners, skills, training and work-based learning models, and employment and training needs for today and tomorrow. The Strategic Plan for 2018-2020 will be completed and available on the Workforce website [www.workforce-ks.com](http://www.workforce-ks.com).

The past year has presented a number of opportunities for myself and other members of the LWDB to engage members of the Federal Delegation. In March, members of the Workforce Staff met with Senator Jerry Moran in Washington DC, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC with the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce to meet with policy makers and in August, the Workforce Center welcomed Rep. Ron Estes. These meetings allowed us the chance to explain the importance of Workforce Boards to the region and the need for continuous and adequate funding.

There are many exciting opportunities coming our way in the next few years thanks to the hard work of the Workforce staff and partners. Their efforts have allowed the advancement of the services we provide to job seekers and employers in the region.

I look forward to 2018.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Sab Schloer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a shadow effect behind the text.

# Grants / Financials

## 2017 Grant and Project Summary



WIOA	\$	3,166,162
SCSEP	\$	739,086
WIF	\$	39,969
Apprenticeship	\$	15,906
KAMP (H-1B)	\$	251,124
KHPOP	\$	388,935
CSBG	\$	50,816
REAP	\$	153,524
United Way PCA/PACES/ Youth Employment Project	\$	119,074
Disability Employment Initiative	\$	60,624
Other	\$	150,223
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<b>5,368,320</b>

Leveraging multiple funding streams makes it possible for the Workforce Alliance to meet the needs of employers and job seekers alike in South Central Kansas. In 2017, the Workforce Alliance led or partnered on the following grant projects and collaboratives.

## Leading:

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP)
- Preparation for Advanced Career Employment System (PACES)
  - Good Companies at Work
  - Patient Care Assistance Program
- Kansas Advanced Manufacturing Program (KAMP)
- Youth Employment Project (YEP)

## Partnering:

- Butler Community College TAACCT Grant
- Disability Employment Initiative (DEI)
- Face Forward
- Generating Opportunities to Attain Lifelong Success (GOALS)
- KanTrain
- Kansas Health Profession Opportunity Project (KHPOP)
- NexStep Alliance
- Registered Apprenticeship Accelerator
- Registered Apprenticeship Expansion Grant
- Robotics Equipment and Innovation Center
- Workforce Innovation Fund
- Youth Employment
  - AT&T Aspire
  - Bank of America Foundation
  - Vocational Rehabilitation PreETS

# Federal Workforce Funding



## Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act

The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the nation's primary workforce development legislation which provides funds to address the employment and training needs of dislocated workers and low-income adults and youth.

In program year 2016 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) Local Area IV received \$5.4 million WIOA and SCSEP allocations to provide employment and training services to employers and job seekers.

With that funding, 1,265 adults, 373 dislocated workers, 559 employers, 217 youth and 83 seniors received services. With WIOA and additional funding, the Workforce Center saw more than 46,000 customers in 2017.

# Outcomes for 2017

## WIOA Program Year 2016 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) Measurements

WIOA program year 2016 was a baseline year of data gathering. During this time, no performance measurements were produced or published. Performance measurements are anticipated to be released in program year 2018 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019).

## WIOA Certification

The Workforce Centers of South Central Kansas went through a certification process in the Fall of 2017, which included an intensive review of the Wichita Center and our three satellite centers in Butler, Cowley and Sumner Counties. Interviews were done with randomly chosen staff, who represented every area of the Center, to identify gaps in service and training needs. A team of Board members and volunteers received a tour, reviewed the results of the staff interviews and completed an intensive questionnaire that addressed the Center staff's effectiveness, administration, customer satisfaction, physical accessibility and continuous improvement plans for Wichita's comprehensive center as well as the three satellite centers. The team identified some areas for improvement but recommended approval of the Centers for certification, which was approved by the Kansas Department of Commerce.

## Workforce Center Partner Cost Sharing

WIOA requires the implementation of One-Stop infrastructure costs this includes co-located and non-co-located One-Stop partners. In 2017, meetings with all required WIOA partners took place and the Memorandum of Understanding Cost Sharing was approved by the LWDB in December 2017.

Partner cost sharing aligns with the requirements of WIOA and furthers the goal of the Workforce Alliance of leveraging resources and aligning services.

# Special Projects / Initiatives



## KHPOP

Kansas Health Profession Opportunity Project (KHPOP) continues to be a successful training program designed to serve the healthcare industry by providing training to eligible participants through a career pathways strategy. The overall goal is to provide quality care to the citizens of Kansas through a well trained workforce. At the end of

Year 2 (September 30, 2017) KHPOP participation grew from 114 participants to 198.

## SCSEP

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a program designed for older American's needing assistance updating work place skills to become competitive in today's job market. In Program Year 2016 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017), SCSEP worked with 79 low income seniors.

Through assignments at a local non-profit and government agencies they were given opportunities to work part-time in a job environment to gain experience and updated job skills. Through their training hours at their assignments they provided 65,477 hours of community service.

# OWDS

OWDS (Offender Workforce Development Specialist) certified employees have training in serving job seekers with felonies. This goes above and beyond normal job-seeker services and helps them address barriers ex-offenders face in an interview setting.

Wichita Workforce Center OWDS Report CY 2017											
Agency	Orientation / Workshop Attendees	Workshops	KANSASWORKS Registered	Direct Referrals	Provided Individual Employment Services	Entered Employment	Entered Employment Rate	Employment Retention - 6 Months	Employment Retention - 12 Months	Average Wage - 6 Months	Average Wage - 12 Months
SCCC	0	39	449	181	114	68	60%	76%	71%	\$10.00	\$9.85
WWRF	247	10	30	0	5	4	80%	77%	70%	\$9.95	\$9.50
WPO	89	37	113	87	67	41	61%	74%	70%	\$10.10	\$9.50

### Calendar Year 2017 OWDS Summary and Highlights

#### Sedgwick County Community Corrections

KANSASWORKS Registrations: 449  
 Provided one-on-one job search assistance: 114 (New Participants)  
 Entered Employment: 68  
 Percent Entered Employment: 60%

#### Highlights:

- Average wages for those who received one-on-one OWDS assistance increased to \$9.90 from \$10.00
- 60% of new clients receiving one-on-one OWDS assistance gained employment
- Provided assistance to an average of 26 job seekers per week in the Residential Facility's Employment Lab

#### Wichita Work Release Facility

Workshop/Workforce Orientation attendees: 247

#### Highlights:

Provided comprehensive overview of Workforce Center services to 247 newly arriving inmates  
 Provided weekly job leads to the facility for distribution to inmates

#### Wichita Parole Office

Workshop/Workforce Orientation attendees: 89  
 KANSASWORKS Registrations: 113  
 Provided one-on-one job search assistance: 67 (New Participants)  
 Entered Employment: 41  
 Percent Entered Employment: 61%

#### Highlights:

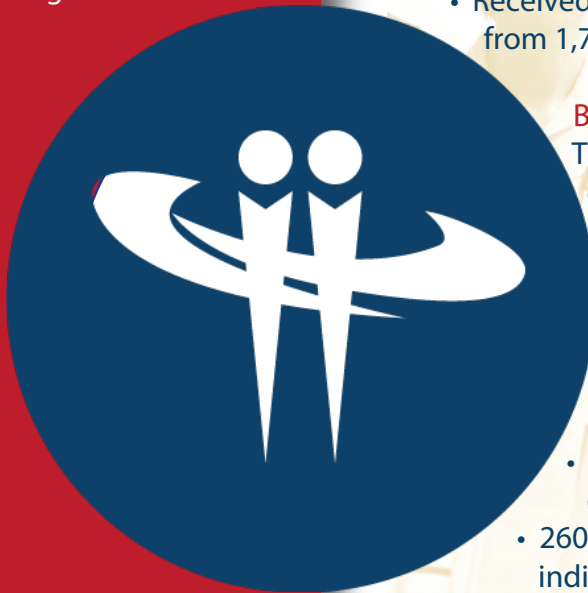
- 61% of new clients receiving one-on-one OWDS assistance obtained employment
- Average wages for those who received one-on-one OWDS assistance increased to 10.10 from \$10.00
- Provided job search assistance and job leads to a total of 207 participants in bi-weekly Job Clubs

#### Totals (all agencies)

Workshop/Workforce Orientation attendees: 336  
 KANSASWORKS Registrations: 592  
 Provided one-on-one job search assistance: 186 (New Participants)  
 Entered Employment: 113  
 Percent Entered Employment: 61%

# Business Services

The Workforce Center Business Services Division provides no-cost solutions to employers for workforce development needs, including services for recruitment and hiring, training, credits and bonding, and business closings and layoffs.



Hosted or Coordinated  
130 job fairs  
in 2017  
with 6,511  
attendees!

In 2017, the Workforce Centers provided 2,367 services and conducted 718 in-person visits to 559 employers in the region.

## Recruitment and Hiring

The Workforce Centers partners with employers to provide customized human resource strategies and programs designed to help local businesses succeed.

### 2017 Outcomes include:

- Listed 5,137 job postings on KANSASWORKS.com
- Received 2,403 applications/pre-employment screens from 1,792 customers

## Business Closures and Layoffs

The Workforce Center offers many services to assist companies who are considering mass layoffs or facility closing including, Layoff Aversion strategies, Rapid Response and Trade Adjustment Assistance.

### In 2017:

- Rapid Response layoff services were provided to 22 employers
- 4 on-site information sessions for 88 affected employees
- 260 informational packets were provided to affected individuals



[www.gethiredwichita.com](http://www.gethiredwichita.com)



LWDB past president Kathy Jewett with XLT Ovens talks with job seekers at the 2017 GET Hired! Job Fair

# Kansas WORKReady!

The Kansas WORKReady! Certificate utilizes the WorkKeys Assessments, developed by ACT, to validate critically important workplace skills in math, locating information and reading.

The Kansas WORKReady! Certificate has gained wide acceptance in the business and economic development communities statewide. The Kansas WORKReady! Certificate allows companies to understand and predict job candidates' potential, ensuring the right person for the right job.

## Work Ready Certificates Awarded

Bronze – 551

Silver – 1,559

Gold – 723

Platinum – 117

Total Certificates 2,950

## Registered Apprenticeship

Registered Apprenticeship (RA), an 'earn and learn' model, is a proven system for training employees in a variety of occupations that require a wide range of skills and knowledge. It is an ideal way for employers to build and maintain a skilled workforce. RA combines employment, on-the-job learning, mentorship and related technical instruction; to both educate and develop business and industries' workforce.

## Highlights for 2017

- Local Area IV added nine new RA programs, accounting for half of all new RA programs added statewide
- Currently there are 29 total apprenticeship programs in Local Area IV, with 528 active apprentices, including 157 new apprentices in 2017.

Total attendance at the Get Hired! Job Fair on September 7, 2017 at Intrust Bank Arena was 1,175 people including 184 veterans, 55 spouses of veterans, and 936 from the general public. We'd like to thank the 67 exhibitors, three organizing sponsors, and 43 corporate sponsors that helped make this a success.

The KANSASWORKS Mobile Workforce Center was inside the arena this year assisting job seekers with resumes, job search, applications, and connections to available training programs.

## STATISTICS:

- 68% of the employers rated the event as 'very good' or 'excellent'
- Out of the 33 employers that responded to the survey, 305 candidates were identified for interviews
- 100% of the employers said they would be attending next year's event

# Job Seeker Services



## Career Center Resources:

46,397 customers visited the  
Local Area IV Workforce  
Centers in 2017, an average  
of 178 per workday.



Keith Lawing and Thomas Hunsecker speak with Representative Ron Estes during his visit to the Wichita Workforce Center in August.

## Workshops

2,461 job seekers attended 174 Workshops in 2017

The Workforce Centers offer two workshop tracts for job seekers: Job Search and Computer Skills.

- Job Search Success Workshops offer training on how to find a job and the key skills employers are looking for while hiring.
- The Computer Skills Series is designed to provide customers with basic computer and Microsoft Office skills most commonly used in today's business world.

## Imagine Academy

Imagine Academy is a program offered by the Kansas Board of Regents. The Workforce Center was awarded 500 licenses to administer Microsoft Certifications to the public at no charge (normal charge through Microsoft is \$96 per test). The Wichita Workforce Center is the only location in Local Workforce Area IV that can administer the Certifications, however customers may self-study or practice at any Workforce Center in the region. The Workforce Center is currently offering testing for Word 2013, Excel 2013 and PowerPoint 2013.

In 2017, 52 Microsoft Certifications were awarded in Word, PowerPoint or Excel through the Imagine Academy.

# Workforce Center Partners



## Wichita Workforce Center

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 requires Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB's) to create One Stop Centers providing comprehensive job services to employers and job seekers. LWDB's implement policies, design programs, and monitor the quality of services to ensure they meet the unique needs of the local labor market. A number of partners and agencies provide a full range of services pertaining to employment, training and education, employer assistance, and guidance for obtaining available employment services. Led by the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, 21 organizations are now serving the public through the Wichita Workforce Center: nine are collocated at the Center and 12 agencies have access to services through the Center Partners.

## Workforce Centers in Local Area IV: South Central KS

### Wichita Workforce Center

2021 W. Amidon  
Wichita, KS 67202  
(316) 771 - 6800  
Hours: Mon -Thurs: 7 :00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.,  
Fri: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### Cowley Workforce Center

108 E. 12th  
Winfield, KS 67156  
(620) 221 - 7790  
Hours: Mon & Wed 8:00 a.m. - noon

### Butler Workforce Center

524 N. Main  
El Dorado, KS 67402  
(316) 321 - 2350  
Hours: Mon -Thurs: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### Sumner Workforce Center

314 N. Washington  
Wellington, KS 67152  
(620) 326 - 2659  
Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30 am - noon

### Administration

300 W. Douglas Ave., Suite 850  
Wichita, KS 67202

## Collocated Partners and Programs

- Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
  - Adult
  - Dislocated Worker (DW)
  - Youth
  - Senior
- Allied Health
- American Indian Council
  - Native American Program
- Butler Community College Adult Education
  - GED Preparation
- Eckerd Connects
- Flint Hills Job Corps
- Kansas Department of Commerce
  - Wagner -Peyser (WP)
  - Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
  - Veterans Services
- SER Corporation National SCSEP
- United States Department of Commerce
  - U.S. Commercial Services (International Trade - Imports/Exports)

*To schedule a tour of any of the Local Area IV Workforce Centers please contact:*

Katie Givens  
Vice President of Community Relations  
[kgivens@workforce-ks.com](mailto:kgivens@workforce-ks.com) 316-771-6636

## Affiliated Partners

- Butler Community College
- City of Wichita
- Cowley College
- Kansas Department for Children and Families Vocational Rehabilitation
- Kansas Department of Corrections
- Kansas Department of Labor
- NexStep Alliance
- Sedgwick County Corrections
- SER Corporation - National Farm Workers Program
- South Central Mental Health
- Wichita Area Technical College (WATC)
- Wichita Indochinese Center

# Young Adult Services



Halie received her high school diploma in spring 2017. Through WIOA she also completed a job experience at Exploration Place and was hired by Walmart. Halie also won a Kindle Paperwhite through National DollarWi\$e after completing the training modules.



Members of the Youth team meet with youth in the WIOA program at the Wichita Workforce Center.



Left: Halie received her 10 week certificate for sheet metal as a single mother. In addition, she completed her GED while in the WIOA program.



Right: Kaelen received his CDL license while enrolled in the WIOA program.

## 2017 Youth Outcomes

The WIOA Youth Program serves young adults age 14-24 that have barriers to reaching educational and employment goals. The youth program is offered in all Local Area IV counties, and mostly serves the "Out of School" population seeking assistance with earning GED/High School diploma or an in-demand short-term occupational skills training for increased employment opportunities.

### WIOA Work Experience

Workforce Alliance placed 60 WIOA Youth Program participants in subsidized work experiences with 34 Employer Partners at 38 work sites. 31 were male and 29 were female.

With the help of the Workforce Centers Business Team, there are currently 75 employer partnerships available for work experience placements for WIOA Youth Program participants.

### Success Story

Tyler came to the WIOA Youth Program as a referral from his Probation Officer with 6 months remaining before release. He was required to be enrolled in a GED program. He enrolled at KANSEL and obtained his GED in less than 2 months. Tyler was employed as a car wash attendant and paid minimum wage.

The workforce professional Tyler met with suggested he complete a work experience to boost his resume in the manufacturing field, his desired career. After attending a work readiness training class, he was placed at Cox Machine as a Deburr Operator. Once his 500 work experience hours were completed, Cox Machine liked him so much they hired him. Tyler is now completing an on-the-job training as a Deburr/Material Handler making \$12.02/hr. He is actively being trained to read schematics/blueprints and to operate a CNC machine. Tyler is very happy he was referred to the Youth program. He has stated that without the program he probably would not be successful in obtaining higher wage employment. He mentioned he is making more money per hour in this short time frame than his own father has in his career. Tyler will complete his on-the-job training in late February 2018.

# Youth Employment Project



The Youth Employment Project (YEP) is an opportunity to assist young adults in finding employment. Services to young adults through YEP include resume creation, job search, preparing for interview as well as additional education in soft skills, customer service and money management. YEP also provides youth opportunities to find employment through job fairs and paid job experiences.

## Participants

The 2017 YEP initiative served 1,420 young adults (unduplicated) from the Workforce Alliance, City of Wichita and the YMCA.

## Youth Essential Skills Certificate

- 727 participants attended YEP Workshops
- 401 participants earned Youth Essentials Skills Certificates

## YEP Job Fairs

- Two large job fairs
- 30 Employers
- 337 young adults attended

## Job Placements

- \* 166 employers supported 423 job placements
- \* Spirit AeroSystems placed 20 young adults in 2017

## DollarWi\$e

DollarWi\$e is a financial education initiative sponsored by the United States Conference of Mayors and Bank of America.

- 66 YEP participants completed the program in 2017
- 3 Prize Winners



Bank of America presented YEP a \$40,000 grant during a presentation in April at the Wichita Workforce Center. Pictured above: Keith Lawing and YEP participants Tyra and Courtney.



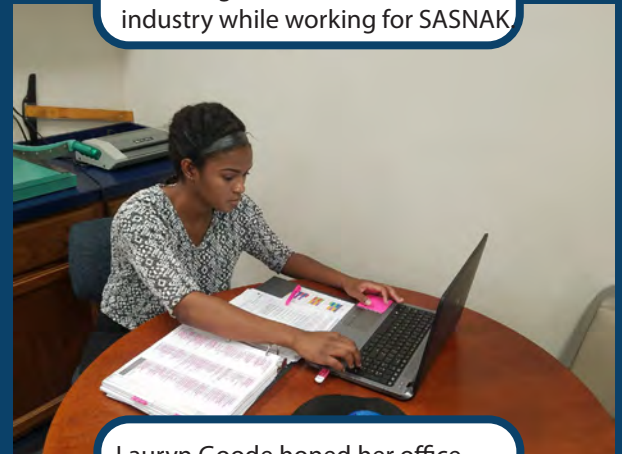
Wichita State University President John Bardo, Special Survey Drawing Winner Sammir Jabril, Wichita City Council member Lavonta Williams, Mayor Jeff Longwell, Workforce Alliance President and CEO Keith Lawing at Mayor Longwell's media briefing on September 14. During the briefing, Mayor Longwell highlighted YEP and the three local DollarWi\$e winners were presented prizes.



Participants in YEP attended the Real Men Real Heroes 2017 Annual Fundraiser and Recognition event featuring keynote speaker Dr. Guion Bluford, the first African-American in space.



Cesar spent the summer gaining knowledge about the restaurant industry while working for SASNAK.



Lauryn Goode honed her office skills as she helped out at WEJATC.

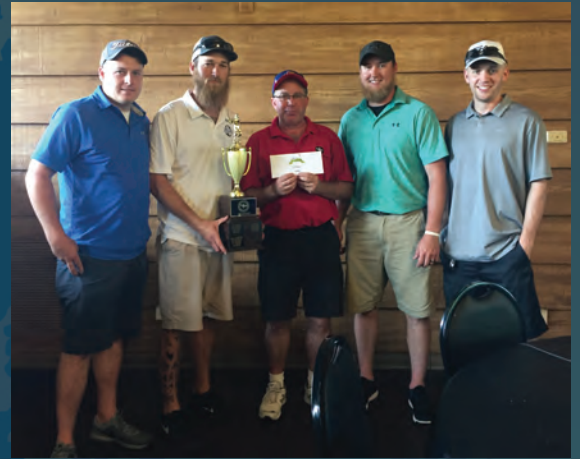


Lindsey Cowin spent time with the Greater Wichita Partnership.

# Jobs FORE Youth



**6 - 15 - 17**



Keith Lawing presents the first place prize to the 2017 Jobs FORE Youth winning team, IBEW Local 241

The 2017 Workforce Alliance Jobs Fore Youth golf tournament was held on Thursday, June 15th at Hidden Lakes Golf Course in Derby, KS. It was an extremely successful event with 25 teams and 100 players. Proceeds from Jobs Fore Youth are used to support the Youth Employment Project (YEP). Over \$15,000 was raised to offer youth internships and work experiences in South Central Kansas.

The winner of the tournament was the IBEW Local 241 team consisting of Trevor Cheek, Louis Guimond, Darius Semich, and Dustin Semisch. Team Longwell followed in second place and the Remediation Contractors team rounded out the top three.

#### 2017 Sponsors

##### Event Sponsors:



##### Prize Sponsors:

Black Hills Energy, BKD, Intrust Bank, Butler County

##### Beverage Cart Sponsors:

Brights Liquor, City of Derby, Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Morris Laing

##### Hole Sponsors:

Black Hills Energy, Foulston Siefkin, Ideal Tools, John Weber, Morrow & Company, RSM Marketing, WATC, WMA, WSU, WSU NIAR

# Local Workforce Development Board



The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) establishes Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) which connect employers and job seekers together to strengthen the local economy. The LWDB's role is to develop regional strategic plans that set funding priorities for their area.

LWDBs convene partnerships between businesses and community stakeholders; establishing sector strategies driven by high-growth industries.

## Business & Industry

### **Gabe Schlickau (Chair)**

CUSO Financial Services  
Meritrust Credit Union

### **Jennifer Hughes** (Vice Chair)

Global Partner Solutions

### **Rod Blackburn**

Blackburn Properties, LLC

### **Ebony Clemons-Ajibolade**

Westar Energy

### **Michele Gifford**

Textron Aviation

### **Robert Giesen**

B&B Electric Motor Co.

### **Laura Hands**

Koch Industries

### **Robin Heinz**

Vornado Air

### **Kathy Jewett**

(Immediate Past Chair)  
XLT Ovens

### **Patrick Jonas**

Cerebral Palsy Research  
Foundation and Center  
Industries

### **Gay Kimble**

Susan B. Allen Memorial  
Hospital

### **Matt Peterson**

Cargill

### **Gary Plummer**

Wichita Regional Chamber  
of Commerce

### **Ronald Ratzlaff**

Larksfeld Place

### **Suzanne Scott**

Spirit Aerosystems

### **John Weber**

Assisted Living Locators

## Economic Development

### **Dave Alfaro**

Economic Development

### **Kerri Falletti**

Cowley First

## Higher Education

### **Dr. Kimberly Krull**

Butler Community College

### **Dr. Sheree Utash**

Wichita Area Technical College

## Labor\*

### **Sean Anderson**

Sheet Metal Workers - LU #29

### **Dan Hink**

Painters District Council #3

### **B.J. Moore**

Society of Professional Engineering  
Employees (SPEEA)  
IFPTE Local 2001

### **Tony Naylor**

Wichita Electrical Apprenticeship  
IBEW, LU #271

## Adult Basic Education

### **Jennifer Anderson**

Cowley College - Adult Education  
Programs

## Vocational Rehabilitation

### **Michael Donnelly**

KS. Dept. of Children

## Wagner Peyser

### **Erica Ramos**

Kansas Dept. of Commerce

\*Two vacancies

# Letter from the CEO



The long held philosophy of the Workforce Alliance - to create community impact and produce outcomes above and beyond the annual Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allocations - was on full display in 2017. While WIOA funding continues to decrease, the funding for, and impact of, the Workforce Alliance continues to increase. Through targeted grants and special projects, the numbers of employers and job seekers served grew over the past year despite a \$700,000 reduction of WIOA funding.

As part of a continuous improvement process, the Workforce Alliance took its Board and partners through strategic planning in 2017 and established goals for the 2018-2020 work plan. The Board engaged a wide variety of community leaders, one-stop partners, employers and staff in a series of planning meetings. The conversations focused on youth employment strategies, how the Workforce Alliance can better leverage resources and align services, skills training, work-based learning models and employment and training needs for today and tomorrow.

These are the goals approved by the Workforce Alliance LWDB for 2018-2020:

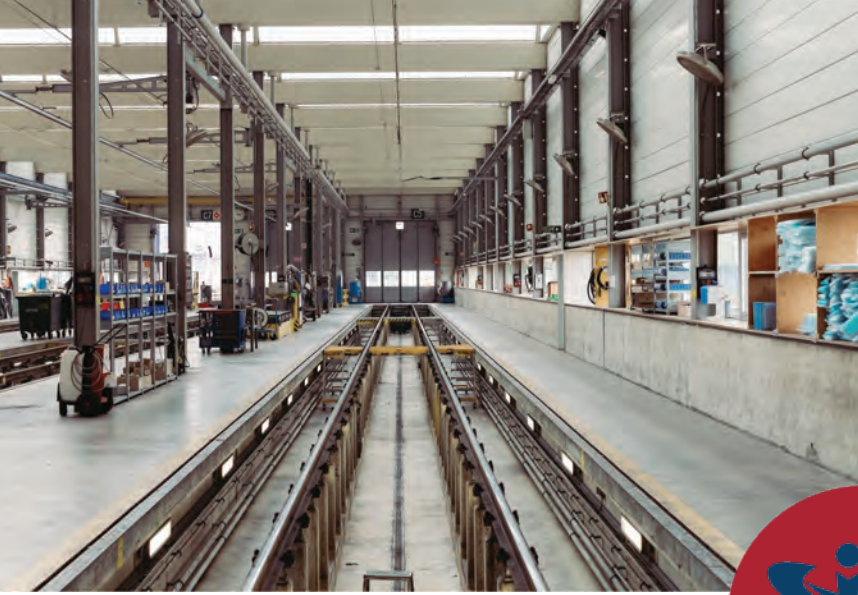
- Expand Youth employment opportunities to help develop the workforce of the future.
- Strengthen relationships with WIOA partners, community organizations and educational/training institutions to leverage resources and align services through the one-stop workforce centers (American Job Centers)

- Create and implement a more effective and comprehensive communication plan to increase public awareness about employment and training services, and skills needed for current and future careers in South Central Kansas
- Generate revenue to increase community impact of WIOA and Workforce Centers in South Central Kansas

Another area where the Workforce Alliance is serving as a catalyst to expanding community impact is the Youth Employment Project (YEP). Over the past year YEP is emerging as a community collaborative with Mayor Jeff Longwell, the YMCA, USD 259 and Wichita State University working together to create a sustainable model to help young people get a first job or a quality work experience opportunity. The business community really stepped up to support YEP led by the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Wichita Business Journal. This is obvious when comparing that in 2016 six YEP participants were placed in jobs where the employers paid the wages instead of taking a subsidy to support the placement. In 2017, this number jumped to 166!

As 2017 came to a close, Spirit AeroSystems announced it will be adding 1,000 jobs to its Wichita operations. This is great news and will be a driving factor for activities in 2018 by the Workforce Alliance. Not in only meeting the needs of Spirit, but we anticipate manufacturing companies and employers all across the region will have an increased need for skilled workers as the economy in South Central Kansas continues to expand.

On behalf of the Workforce Alliance Board, staff, and partners, all of us look forward to being part of these conversations in 2018. We are well positioned to continue having a significant impact for this community.



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